

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT MTG
Radio Sub-Committee
May 31, 2012
Town Street Fire House
7:00 PM
Special Meeting Minutes

Present: Craig Mansfield, Jennifer Spencer, Joe Szczech, Ray Swol (arrived 745 PM), Rich Toolan, Dean Anderson, Kevin Cavallo, Bob Bennett

Meeting was called to order at 7:04 PM

PRESENTATION FROM CT DPS RADIO DIVISION:

A presentation was done by Paul Zito from the State of CT. Paul is the Director of Telecommunications for the Department of Public Safety.

Paul provided the group with an overview of the Statewide 700 MHz Radio System. Currently the way the system is setup, it could not be used by East Haddam as a primary system for town wide communications. 10 + years down the road this may be possible. Paul did note that the system could be used as a backup / supplement to any system that East Haddam was to put into place. For example, may be an option as a way for EMS to communicate with KX when transporting to Hospitals outside of the area.

Paul was asked as the expert in the field, what he saw as the challenges to our project. Paul noted that finding frequencies would be the biggest. He noted that you need to have someone constantly watching the FCC data base for frequencies to open up and be ready to apply for them immediately before someone else does. Paul noted to be very cautious around what type of frequencies we look to use. He recommends looking to Public Safety frequencies only for the Public Safety groups and not using a business frequency for these agencies. Could look at Business freq.'s for Town Government, schools, PW, etc.....

Additionally Paul noted that East Haddam is a large geographical area that is not easy to cover. They have seen this with the State System.

Paul noted that he though the steps our committee was taking were good and that we were doing the right thing by looking at all options. Paul said with the limited frequencies we need to "look outside the box" for options. This could include working with other towns in the area, creating a regional system, etc.

REVIEW OF PRESENTATIONS / VENDOR SELECTION:

The group reviewed all of the companies that did presentations.

The group initially narrowed it down between Tactical and Marcus Communications. Both groups were similar in price and had similar experiences with Public safety agencies.

The group felt that both of these companies had the experience to complete the project and their prices were almost equal. The group had concerns about the Marcus presentation and using there frequencies that the town would lease monthly. Additionally, it was noted that this did not meet the RFP with noted that the town need to be able to license all frequencies needed to support the system.

The committee also discussed the need to be actively looking for frequencies and ready to apply for one should it become available. Joe will do some research on the cost of coordination so we can discuss with the BOF.

After review of the presentations, a motion was made by Ray Swol, seconded by Kevin Cavallo to select Tactical Communication as the committee's vendor of choice and to request from the Board of Finance the monies necessary to cover the cost of Phase 1 /2 and the anticipated coordination cost of two frequencies. MOTION PASSED unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion by Rich Toolan, seconded by Jennifer Spencer to approve the minutes from the April 26, 2012 meeting minutes as written. Motion passed.

NEXT MEETING:

Craig will contact BOF to get us on the agenda for the next meeting which is June 11, 2012.

The next meeting will be scheduled once we receive funding approval from the BOF to move forward.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn by Rich Toolan, second by Kevin Cavallo. Motion passed unanimously.
Meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM

Submitted
Craig Mansfield
Emergency Management Director
06/06/2012