

**Meeting of the Starcomm Executime Board
with Technical Committee
April 12, 2023**

Starcomm **Executive Board** Members Present

Tom Everett, Fire Chief, Sioux City, Board Chair
Ed Mahon, Police Chief, South Sioux City, NE
Rex Mueller, Police Chief, Sioux City
Mark Nelsen, Woodbury County Board of Supervisors'
Scott Pack, Police Chief, Sergeant Bluff

Executive Board Absent

Sara Beatty, 911 Coordinator, Union County, SD
Richard Headid, Police Chief, North Sioux City, SD
Chris Kleinberg, Sheriff, Dakota County, NE
Dan Limoges, Sheriff, Union County, SD
Bob Scott, Mayor, Sioux City
Chad Sheehan, Sheriff, Woodbury County

STARComm **Technical Committee** Members Present

Tony Carpenter, Calhoun Communications
Travis Cipperley, Communications Center Operations Supervisor
Stacy Geesaman, Electronic Engineering
Wendi Hess, Communications Center Manager, Woodbury County
Greg Koinzan, Police Officer, South Sioux City Police Department
Terry McElroy, Electronic Engineering
Mike Montino, Emergency Management Coordinator, Woodbury County
Eric Wieling, Calhoun Communications

Tech Committee Absent

Mark Aesoph, Fire Marshal, Sioux City Fire Rescue
Doug Bock, Network Manager, WCICC-IT
Steve Heide, South Sioux City Police Department
Eric Larson, Electronic Engineering
Scott Main, Electronic Engineering
John Malloy, Information Services Director, WCICC-IT
Scott Mitchell, Woodbury County Emergency and Disaster Services
Bob Welte, Woodbury County Disaster Services

Also Present

Pat Stazek, Motorola

Item 1 Meeting Called to Order

The April 12, 2023, STARComm Executive Board meeting was called to order by Chairperson Tom Everett at 1000 hours.

Item 2 Approve Minutes of January 11, 2023 Meeting

Rex Mueller made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 11, 2023, meeting, seconded by Ed Mahon. All voting aye, motion carried.

Item 3 FY23 Budget Report: Jan, Feb, March

Wendi reviewed the 3rd Quarter Revenue and Expenditure report covering January, February, and March 2023.

Item 4 Transfer of STARComm Mobile to SCPD (Approved by FEMA)

FEMA authorized the transfer of the 2005 Winnebago STARComm Mobile unit to the SCPD, which will replace PD's current mobile command. The unit will be updated, maintained and available as an area resource. Wendi will locate the title for transfer once City Council has approved. This will reduce the STARComm budget by roughly \$11,000, which covered insurance, routine maintenance, and annual generator preventative maintenance. Greg Koinzen, South Sioux City PD, is familiar with the unit's capabilities and is a resource if needed.

Item 4 Motion

Tom Everett made a motion to transfer ownership of STARComm Mobile to the Sioux City Police Department. Seconded by Ed Mahon. All voting aye, motion carried.

Item 5 Tower Leases/Charges

FiberComm Siouxlan sent a termination of lease letter to relinquish space on the WIT tower, effective July 2023. The lease amounts to lost revenue of roughly \$1,500 a month or over \$18,000 a year.

Siouxlan would like to relocate their existing tower cabinet to a ten-by-ten space for \$100 a month or \$1,200 lump sum annually.

Genwatch3 Monitoring Software Cancellation

Travis reported the Genwatch3 radio monitoring and reporting software subscription was canceled saving roughly \$4,000. The software disables lost, stolen or damaged radios, which may also be performed on a computer in the Comm Center with the core or through the State.

Some of the lost revenue from FiberComm Siouxlan will be offset by canceling the software coupled with a budget reduction for the transfer of STARComm Mobile to SCPD, leaving a budget shortfall of roughly \$3,300. A budget amendment would impact user agencies by their respective percentages. Sioux City 53%, Woodbury County 23%, Sergeant Bluff 3%, North Sioux City 2%, Union County 4%, and Dakota County 15%. Tom Everett suggested waiting until the Technical Committee meets and determines Siouxlan's monthly cabinet space fee and include the Comm Center's television connection.

It was decided that representatives from FiberComm Siouxlan be invited to the next STARComm Technical Committee meeting to determine a reasonable cost for a cabinet space. The Tech Committee will report back to the STARComm Board.

Item 6 Discussion – Tower Vulnerability to Possible Acts of Domestic Terrorism

A cell phone tower in Furnas County, Nebraska was downed and appeared to be intentional. It is being investigated as possible domestic terrorism. Rex Mueller passed the information along for informational purposes and to raise awareness.

Tower Site Cameras and Security

Cameras are located inside the tower buildings, with Homer and Danbury having outside cameras as well. Travis receives the camera feed in his office. The tower buildings are alarmed.

Open Items

Comm Center

Wendi emailed documents to members regarding the radio system outage which occurred Monday, April 3. Included was a STARComm Radio System Backup Plan detailing the channels on which agencies should operate in the event of system failure. The plan was created by the Technical Committee a few years ago. County Fire volunteers should be made aware of their backup channel and location in their radio.

Calhoun and Motorola responded to questions regarding redundancy, system monitoring, microwave link failure, and recommendations going forward.

Wendi was present during the failure. The dispatch console displayed no errors and the dispatchers had no indication anything was amiss. Fire county agencies called to report that pagers were showing out of range; SCPD, South Sioux City, and Union County called to report not being able to communicate with the Comm Center, even though Wendi could hear traffic coming through. County deputy radio transmissions were operational. It was determined the link between the WIT and AT&T towers failed, however, if the towers are not linked they should still operate independently.

Notification emails were received by Calhoun indicating the microwave was dropping. An email distribution list will be created to include multiple technicians are notified going forward. Comm Center Operations Supervisor receives notifications as well. Greg Koinzen was designated to begin receiving notification emails. Congratulations, Greg!

Pat Stazek, Motorola, noted changes that occurred at different points in time, changes to the simulcast. The Motorola engineering team will glean perspective from the changes and from a Motorola perspective determine what is necessary. Motorola and Calhoun will agree on what network changes are necessary and then have their teams "break" the system to troubleshoot. Depending on changes, roughly 30 to 60 days to complete and report back.

It would be beneficial to set up simulated microwave and/or fiber link failures to verify everything is working on a regular basis for agencies to practice back up plans.

Agencies such as 185th ANG and hospitals should be notified of system failure. Unity Point has EMS 155.220 and 155.340 VHF capability; Mercy did not but could be reached by ER telephone. Mercy's VHF capability will be reestablished.

Wendi iterated how important it is for user agencies to have representatives on the Technical Committee and attend meetings.

New Board Member

New STARComm Board representative, Woodbury County Supervisor Mark Nelson, introduced himself to the group.

Item 7 Adjourn

Scott Pack made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Ed Mahon; all voting aye, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 1049 hours.