

**Meeting of the STARCOMM Executive Board
with Technical Committee
July 11, 2018**

STARCOMM Executive Board Members Present

Rocky De Witt, Supervisor, Woodbury County Board of Supervisors
Ed Mahon, Police Chief, South Sioux City, Nebraska
Rex Mueller, Police Chief, Sioux City
Scott Pack, Police Chief, Sergeant Bluff
Bob Scott, Mayor, Sioux City

Absent

Sara Beatty, Communications Center Director, Union County
Dave Drew, Sheriff, Woodbury County
Tom Everett, Fire Chief, Sioux City
Richard Headid, Police Chief, North Sioux City, South Dakota
Chris Kleinberg, Sheriff, Dakota County
Dan Limoges, Sheriff, Union County

STARCOMM Technical Committee Members Present

Gary Brown, Director, Woodbury County Disaster & Emergency Services
Tony Carpenter, Calhoun Communications
Wendi Hess, Communications Center Ops Supervisor, Woodbury County
Terry McElroy, Electronic Engineering
Scott Pack, Police Chief, Sergeant Bluff
Glenn Sedivy, Director, Woodbury County Communications Center

Absent

Mark Aesoph, Fire Marshal, Sioux City Fire Rescue
Doug Bock, Network Manager, WCICC-IT
Stacy Geesaman, Electronic Engineering
Don Groves, Jail, Woodbury County Sheriff's Department
Paul Hansen, Electronic Engineering
Greg Koinzan, Police Officer, South Sioux City Police Department
Roger Kriesler, Calhoun Communications
Eric Larson, Electronic Engineering
Scott Main, Electronic Engineering
John Malloy, Information Services Director, WCICC-IT
John Obermeyer, Communications Technician, Sioux City Police Department
Andrew Pattison, Electronic Engineering
Ray Roggow, Emergency Manager, Union County
Greg Stallman, Deputy, Woodbury County Sheriff's Department

Item 1 Meeting Called to Order

The July 11, 2018 STARComm Executive Board Meeting was called to order by Acting Chairperson Rex Mueller at 1009 hours.

Item 2 Approve Minutes of January 10, 2018 Meeting (April 11, 2018 meeting was canceled).

Rocky De Witt made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 10, 2018 meeting, seconded by Ed Mahon. All voting aye, motion carried.

Item 3 Update on Radio Programming

The Technical Committee, during their July 10 meeting, determined the system wide radio reprogramming would take place in October and will require up to two days. This had been delayed until all issues, coverage and otherwise, were resolved with Motorola. Also, the encryption code in every radio must be updated to comply with new State requirements; it is practical to coordinate all changes at once. A Motorola representative familiar with the state program requirements will review the STARComm code plug to determine everything is in order prior to beginning the process.

Wireless Radio Programming

Rex Mueller inquired about wireless radio programming. Glenn explained Radio Manager is a program being considered as a part of a purchase of an additional tower site near Danbury, which would also include Radio Manager licenses. This would affect the new portables which have Wi-Fi capabilities and require a Wi-Fi network between Police, Fire Stations, and Sheriff's. Currently the Wi-Fi is not activated on radios. Glenn would like to incorporate this in with new programming so that future programming may be done via Radio Manager. Once a radio enters the Wi-Fi network, the user will be notified the radio is due for an update; if the user consents, the software upgrade is then dumped into that radio. The user is notified when the radio has been updated. The program tracks all upgrades.

Over-the-Air Programming and Radio Manager operate differently. Over-the-Air Programming uses the radio system to send data out, but may only be used for small upgrades, not a complete reload of code. Wi-Fi uses the network but not the radio system.

Sergeant Bluff officers could use the same Wi-Fi site used for camera download.

New access lines were installed in the Police Department which could be used as a secure line back to STARComm.

What if the network is down? Glenn will contact Sherry with Motorola about arranging a Radio Manager webinar.

Item 4 AT&T Tower Lease Amendment on the STARComm West Tower – Update

Glenn has been working with City and County Legal on an amendment to the STARComm West Tower. Additional equipment/hardware has been added. The amendment has been before the County Board of Supervisors and City Attorney's office and approved; now waiting for School Board approval since it resides on school property, then City Council for final approval.

Wendi indicated AT&T has not increased their payment to reflect the additional \$475 per month which was agreed on. Glenn will contact an AT&T representative.

Item 5 Senet Inc. Tower Lease Amendment on STARComm AT&T Tower – Update
Renewal options had not been included in the original lease. Glenn had consulted with the County Attorney and the lease was amended to reflect renewal options and automatic renewal terms. The amendment went to the County Board of Supervisors, a public hearing has been set.

Item 6 Information on New FAA Tower Lighting Requirements – Update
A new FAA rule requires a change to lighting on towers; solid beacons should now blink or be turned off. A study indicates birds are flying into solid beacon lights. Glenn prepared an amendment through the FAA; documents have been filed and approved by FAA. Glenn is working with Calhoun to complete modifications to each of the tower sites. Depending on tower height, some lights may be turned off rather than changed out to flash.

Item 7 Damaged Antenna and Line Recommended Replacement for AT&T East and Homer Tower Sites
Damaged antenna lines were recommended to be replaced at AT&T, East and Homer sites. Motorola had the antennas and lines disconnected and swept to determine tower issues. All antenna lines were damaged at the AT&T site due to a tornado, which lifted roof and dented coax. Antenna lines were damaged at East and Homer sites as well. Now bidding through Calhoun and Electronic Engineering. Repair expenses will be covered via the operating budget; insurance deductible is \$50,000. Glenn has replacement coax for the AT&T site but would like to bid the work with both new material and no material as he would like to keep an emergency spare spool due to lengthy lead time on receiving antennas and cable

Item 8 Proposed Danbury 800 Mhz Site
In-building coverage issues emerged when County fire paging was turned up in Danbury and Smithland. Glenn was directed by the 911 Board to obtain a price from Motorola to add equipment to the Danbury site; Motorola quoted about \$757,000 to build a site. Glenn will address the 911 Board July 11 to secure funding for that site, which will most likely be a lease purchase project to be stretched out over several years. A shelter from the Climbing Hills site, which had been taken out of service, and generator were relocated to the Danbury Tower site. Rural fire departments funded fence work for which 911 funds were not available. The electrical work is nearly complete. Calhoun has been contracted to complete the grounding work for lighting protection.

Item 9 Update on Proposed First Amendment to the Public Service Radio System Governance Agreement

The first amendment had been distributed to each member to take to their governing bodies for review and input. Glenn reminded members to respond. The Sioux City Attorney and Woodbury County Attorney are waiting on input from outside agencies so

please approve or disapprove. This has been on-going for two years. Glenn will resend.

STARComm Billing

Wendi assumed the County had the same financial software modules as the City. Wendi manually creates invoices for all agencies, the same amount, every month and wondered if the County still needed to manage the Financial side; not to interfere with the County Auditor's involvement, but merely so she could create recurring invoices and eliminate creating a bill every month. Bob Scott suggested Quick Books as an option.

Another option would be to bill twice a year or quarterly. Varying fiscal years have prevented this in the past.

Currently, checks are being sent to Wendi and are delivered to the Treasurer's office.

Bob Scott mentioned another option would be to have a City deposit transferred to the County.

Michelle with the County Auditor's office is currently working on obtaining new financial software. Wendi will wait until new County software is up and running.

Gary suggested conversing with the Treasurer's office about STARComm receiving the interest. On the 911 side the County transfers interest to the City; Bob Scott indicated that is required by State law.

Revenue/Expenditure Report

Wendi referred to the Revenue/Expenditure report she disseminated. Expenditures increased substantially in the 4th quarter after Motorola billed; billed \$248,738.

Out of State Taxes

Cummins charges tax on generator work at the tower site in Homer, Nebraska. Cummins explained that an Iowa government entity is not tax exempt in Nebraska; Motorola indicated the same.

Bob Scott mentioned the Inter-State Compact under which STARComm is governed should cover taxes. Bob recommended writing the Department of Revenue in Nebraska and South Dakota explaining the intergovernmental compact approved by Iowa, Nebraska, and South Dakota Attorney Generals, and request a refund for taxes invoiced.

Gary will forward Wendi the Inter-State Compact information from Chris Gates, Iowa Attorney General's office.

Open Items

Text to 911

Rocky De Witt asked about the status of Text to 911. Thus far, Text to 911 has resulted in domestic assault arrests. The Comm Center does not see a lot of use and receives more in the line of prank calls. It is wonderful for the hearing-impaired community. Anthony Gaul, Fire Chief of Sergeant Bluff, had a hearing-impaired resident test it. Woodbury County has been reluctant to issue a press release due to the surrounding counties not utilizing it. The program was tested in areas on the West side of Sioux City; the text was hitting a tower in Nebraska and a kick back message was received advising to make a voice call. Parts of Riverside hit a tower in South Dakota. Monona County is not active rendering the south part of Woodbury County ineffective.

The State put out public information on their Facebook page - Call if you can, text if you can't.

Wendi and Glenn continue to work with the recording and phone vendor to determine where the Text to 911 are stored and how to retrieve them. Just like a 911 call, the County Attorney's office may use the Text to 911 for prosecution in a case and must be able to be retrieved.

Emergency Medical Dispatch

Gary spoke very positively concerning the Emergency Medical Dispatch program. The pre-arrival instructions make a difference and EMD has revolutionized EMS in the rural areas. He added that Woodbury County Comm Center operators are the best.

Wendi received a dire EMS call recently which ended positively. Members iterated other instances.

Lucas 2 Chest Compression System

The Lucas 2 is very effective for resuscitation and handy in instances where little to no room to administer CPR is available. It would be helpful for the Comm Center and Mercy Air Care to know in which communities Lucas devices reside. Gary will determine and make her aware.

Alerting Software

Ed Mahon asked about Code Red alerting software. Gary indicated Woodbury utilizes Alert Iowa, which is State-wide and managed by Rebecca Socknat, Emergency Manager. Most Counties have implemented it.

South Sioux discontinued Code Red Alerting and is now previewing alerting system software and reconsidering after the grain bin explosion. It became apparent, had this event been of any larger magnitude, it would have been taxing to get boots on the ground to evacuate residents.

Wendi explained the software functions like a reverse calling system which sends out calls to a geographic area, and may also be used to notify groups, like SWAT teams, etc.

Gary indicated the State funds the program and grants the County access. The system connects with Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS). Users designate a

geographical area and everyone within that area receives an alert via cell phones, text messaging, land lines. Anyone driving into the designated area will receive the message, like Amber Alerts.

Rebecca used it to notify the Emergency Management Team of a canceled meeting.

GovDeals.com

Glenn created an account with GovDeals.com to advertise surplus STARComm equipment. The City now uses GovDeals.com instead of an annual auction. Glenn listed 48-volt rectifiers and batteries. He will add T-1 cards out of the Jumbo equipment and other items. Glenn will create a separate account for Woodbury 911 for items purchased with 911 funds. Items which do not sell will be scrapped.

The buyer pays a percentage to GovDeals.com. There is no shipping; the bidder picks up the items.

Item 11 Adjourn

Bob Scott made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Rocky De Witt. All voting aye, meeting adjourned at 1053.