

**Meeting of the STARCOMM Executive Board  
with Technical Committee  
July 8, 2020**

**STARCOMM Executive Board Members Present**

Dave Drew, Sheriff, Woodbury County  
Tom Everett, Fire Chief, Sioux City  
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  
Rocky De Witt, Supervisor, Woodbury County Board of Supervisors  
Richard Headid, Police Chief, North Sioux City, South Dakota  
Chris Kleinberg, Sheriff, Dakota County  
Dan Limoges, Sheriff, Union County  
Ed Mahon, Police Chief, South Sioux City, Nebraska

**STARCOMM Technical Committee Members Present**

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  
Gary Brown, Director, Woodbury County Disaster & Emergency Services  
Tony Carpenter, Calhoun Communications  
Stacy Geesaman, Electronic Engineering  
Don Groves, Jail, Woodbury County Sheriff's Department  
Paul Hansen, Electronic Engineering  
Wendi Hess, Communications Center Manager, Woodbury County  
Greg Koinzan, Police Officer, South Sioux City Police Department  
Eric Larson, Electronic Engineering  
Scott Main, Electronic Engineering  
John Malloy, Information Services Director, WCICC-IT  
Terry McElroy, Electronic Engineering  
John Obermeyer, Communications Technician, Sioux City Police Department  
Andrew Pattison, Electronic Engineering  
Eric Wieling, Calhoun Communications

### Item 1 Meeting Called to Order

The July 8, 2020 STARComm Executive Board Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Tom Everett at 1003.

### Item 2 Approve Minutes of January 8, 2020 Meeting (April 8 Meeting Canceled due to COVID-19 Pandemic)

**Rex Mueller made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 8, 2020 meeting, seconded by Scott Pack. All voting aye, motion carried.**

### Item 3 Police Radio Encryption – Letter to Editor

Clayton Milner MD submitted a Letter to the Editor titled: Police Should Unencrypt General Radio Traffic. Mr. Milner later forwarded his letter to the City Council. Mr. Milner sent the letter via email to police department members in Community Police and Telecommunications, as well as Police Chief Mueller on June 5, 2020; Chief Mueller responded to Mr. Milner's email and has not received a return response.

Chief Mueller felt the reasons for encrypting were very valid at the time and are valid still. An alternative would be a transmission delay, or streaming traffic on PD's website which is also delayed. Information will be gathered and reviewed from other police departments who use delayed transmission and other measures. Have other STARComm law enforcement agencies received similar requests? Rex will poll them. Primary consideration is for officer safety

Chief Everett felt there are positives to unencrypting, it would permit citizens to hear the level of PD professionalism and demonstrate call volume.

Mayor Scott was opposed to unencrypting.

Much of transmitting sensitive information like driver's license numbers and social security numbers is done through the Mobile Data Books (MDB's), which is not broadcast, but for officers needing to run information while out of their car, the PD's primary Channel 1 is used. Officers could be retrained to use a tactical channel if Channel 2 is preoccupied, rather than Channel 1. Sensitive incidents require use of an encrypted tactical channel.

### 4. Update – Motorola Coverage Testing

Motorola drove around Woodbury County, Sioux City, Sergeant Bluff, Dakota and Union Counties testing radio coverage. Immediately upon leaving the WIT tower, receive coverage vanished. Electronics were connected to the tower top amp which is connected to the receive antenna; the tower top amp appeared to be working but the top part of the tower top antenna wasn't detectable. The issue was either the tower top amp or the antenna. Both items were available from the STARComm spare parts inventory and Calhoun Communications installed the parts. Glenn and Calhoun tested coverage around the city; coverage existed in areas and buildings where it had not existed since the system was installed. Police and Fire are discovering coverage in areas where coverage had not existed. Preventative maintenance (PM) is performed every year by Motorola; Glenn is waiting for Motorola Rep Dave Gordon to obtain a report from Motorola engineers as to why previous PM's did not detect this and will report the findings to CIC members.

Because the antenna and amp were removed from inventory, Glenn ordered replacements at roughly \$4,000 which is an expense out of the current budget. Glenn keeps enough inventory to replace coax, antenna and tower top amps at any of the sites.

#### TSI Construction

Construction on The Security Institute is progressing; contractors are now backfilling.

#### Item 5 Open Items

##### Comm Center

##### STARComm Budget FY20

Budgeted \$397,823, expenditures \$395,386.75, under budget by \$2,436.25. Total revenue \$413,079.31. Leaving \$17,692.56 in reserve for future CIP projects. Glenn will confer with Michelle Skaff to determine where the \$17,692 in revenue is recorded and report to the Board. STARComm previously billed on actuals, now on what is budgeted.

An update of the STARComm security server to Windows 10 was necessary and required replacement of the server and software. This was performed at the end of the FY20 Budget, at roughly \$7,000.

##### Tower Space Rent

Senet rents space on East Tower and would like to add additional hardware and a shelter. Glenn requested a drawing and informed them a lease amendment would be required; he is waiting for a response. After Board approval the amendment would go to Woodbury County. Approval from the City pertaining to the East site is not required.

##### Bird Balls

Tower sites built with Federal funds require orange bird balls installed on guide wires. The balls prevent birds from flying into the guide wires and fatally wounding themselves. The balls have gradually slid down to the anchors and require a tower crew to restore them to their appropriate place. Glenn will schedule that this summer.

##### Radio Manager Training

Mark Aesoph and Ryan Collins from Fire and John Obermeyer from PD are taking a prerequisite class for radio management software training in Schaumburg this summer. This program will allow WIFI capable portables to be managed and programmed under a specific WIFI network. The encryption piece will require hands on, but minor updates and alias changes can be pushed out over the WIFI and will eliminate days of work. The 911 Board purchased the Radio Manager software and licenses for users.

##### Sergeant Bluff

Sergeant Bluff had a radio which repeatedly powered down after battery changes. The radio was sent to Electronic Engineering for diagnosis. Glenn suggested asking John Obermeyer, Ryan Collins or Mark Aesoph if they've experienced similar issues.

##### Item 6 Adjourn

**Rex Mueller made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Scott Pack. All voting aye, motioned carried; meeting adjourned at 1023 hours.**