

**Meeting of the STARCOMM Executive Board
with Technical Committee
October 14, 2020**

STARCOMM Executive Board Members Present

Dave Drew, Sheriff, Woodbury County
Tom Everett, Fire Chief, Sioux City
Ed Mahon, Police Chief, South Sioux City, Nebraska
Rex Mueller, Police Chief, Sioux City
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
Scott Pack, Police Chief, Sergeant Bluff

STARCOMM Technical Committee Members Present

Gary Brown, Director, Woodbury County Disaster & Emergency Services
Stacy Geesaman, Electronic Engineering
Wendi Hess, Communications Center Manager, Woodbury County
Terry McElroy, Electronic Engineering
Glenn Sedivy, Director, Woodbury County Communications Center

Absent

Mark Aesoph, Fire Marshal, Sioux City Fire Rescue
Doug Bock, Network Manager, WCICC-IT
Tony Carpenter, Calhoun Communications
Don Groves, Jail, Woodbury County Sheriff's Department
Paul Hansen, Electronic Engineering
Greg Koinzan, Police Officer, South Sioux City Police Department
Eric Larson, Electronic Engineering
Scott Main, Electronic Engineering
John Malloy, Information Services Director, WCICC-IT
John Obermeyer, Communications Technician, Sioux City Police Department
Scott Pack, Police Chief, Sergeant Bluff
Andrew Pattison, Electronic Engineering
Eric Wieling, Calhoun Communications

Also Present

Bob Bendixen, Representative, Nextlink

Item 1 Meeting Called to Order

The October 14, 2020 STARComm Executive Board Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Tom Everett at 1007.

Item 2 Approve Minutes of July 8, 2020 Meeting

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

Item 3 Current Operating Budget Update

FY20 budget year balance \$97,448 with \$45,102 in revenue and expenses \$49,661, ending balance \$92,889 which carried over into FY21, July 1, 2020. Revenue of \$136,758 includes the City's payments, all the user agreements, and revenue from tower site fiberoptic leases. Expenses of \$122,172, which includes Calhoun Communications maintenance contract \$53,332 and Motorola contract \$55,401. Balance as of September 1 is \$107,476.

Item 4 Next Link Homer Tower Lease Agreement

Next Link and the County Attorney are collectively preparing a draft lease agreement concerning colocation on the Homer Tower; a lease rate must be determined and approved by the STARComm Board. Glenn would then take it to Dakota County for sub-lease approval, followed by a Public Hearing scheduled with Woodbury County Supervisors and final approval.

Bob Bendixen, Site Acquisition Specialist for Next Link, is working with the Homer school system for improved internet access to the school and home-schooled students. NextLink has received Connect America Funding (CAF) from the government due to a large part of Nebraska being underserved and therefore qualified for funding. The Homer Tower site would provide coverage to the area and tie two of Next Link's networks together to provide redundancy to the connection.

Next Link requires an array of antennas, as well as four microwave antennas and radome covers and has proposed \$400 per month for use of the Homer Tower.

Tower sites with similar equipment are the WIT Tower, which is currently equipped with an array of antennas to provide wireless internet service to the Sioux City community and for which Siouxlan Communications is charged \$1,512 per month, and the Homer Tower, for which AT&T is charged \$2,700 a month for cellular equipment but no microwave due to fiber optics connection.

The Homer Site is valuable for Dakota County and surrounding rural areas as internet service is awful. A wireless subscription through FiberComm is expensive.

When the STARComm system became operational, roughly 15 years ago, pricing was established based on tower loading and cellular carrier fees in other parts of the state. A typical single transmitter antenna was charged \$1 per foot per month. A full cellular carrier started at \$1,500 a month with a lease renewal increase.

Rex Mueller suggested establishing a sub committee to establish tower pricing to provide consistency moving forward. Considerations would be, for profit, site desirability, shelters, and landscaping, among others. Most of the current leases are 15

years with renewal every 5 years. The current leases would stay in place until expiration. It was determined Glenn, Wendi, a STARComm Board member and Technical Committee member would comprise the sub-committee. Glenn and Wendi will select the other two members, schedule meetings, and report back to the Board.

Mayor Bob Scott suggested a year at \$2,100 a month with a definitive price set before years end. He suggested an annual CPI adjustment be included which would amount to more than the 10% increases for lease renewal every 5 years.

Motion Item 4 Next Link Homer Tower Lease Agreement

Bob Scott made a motion to charge Next Link \$2,100 a month for the first year. The sub-committee will determine the cost for years 2 through 5 with a maximum of \$2,500 a month, and increases for 5 years. Seconded by Rex Mueller, all voting aye, motion carried.

Bob Bendixen will iterate the Board's determination to Next Link officials.

Item 5 King Street Wireless East Tower Lease Amendment

King Street has one antenna on the East Tower and a one rack wireless modem located inside the building. They would like backup battery equipment to reside in the shelter, which would take up space. If approved, Glenn informed them the additional equipment would reside outside the building. King Street is considering cement pad construction, installing their equipment on the pad and would provide their own meter socket and electric; STARComm has been providing electric for the small wireless modem. Other than the equipment going on the cement pad, the antenna would stay the same. Fiber optics would replace some CAT5. The current 5-year lease does not include any type of outside structure or hardware. King Street is paying \$400 per month for a single antenna at \$1 per month per antenna per foot. The renewal term is every 5 years with a 3% increase and has been intact for quite a while.

AT&T brought in a shelter at the West Tower Site and expanded the fence at their cost as part of the lease.

King Street would be required to complete a structural analysis due to changing the cabling going up the tower and prefer not to spend money on the analysis until a determination has been made on a lease amendment.

Tom Everett recommended not renewing any leases until the subcommittee has established cost structure. The King Street lease should be reevaluated as well.

Item 6 East Tower Site Weed Barrier and Rock Replacement Project

The East Tower white rock and weed barrier is 15 years old and no longer an effective weed deterrent; the site has become an eye sore and a fire hazard. Glenn had obtained a \$6,500 quote from Mitchell Contracting, who completed work at the Danbury Site and for WC Disaster Services at Climbing Hill. Funds weren't available for the project at the time. Mitchell submitted a recent quote for the same amount which includes removing fencing and white rock, laying a heavy commercial layer of weed barrier, and installing granite stone rock to mimic the WIT site. Glenn would like to complete one site a year.

If the King Street Lease is amended, Mitchell Contracting could remove fence, King Street install concrete pad, and then Mitchell may proceed with barrier and rock around the pad.

Motion Item 6 East Tower Site Weed Barrier and Rock Replacement Project

A motion was made by Bob Scott to authorize Glenn to spend \$6,500 to start the East Tower weed barrier project, per quote with Mitchell Contracting, seconded by Ed Mahon. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Item 7 STARCom Mobile Bus Radio Upgrade Project

The STARComm mobile bus is equipped with outdated FDMA radios which do not work on the state system. The 911 Board authorized the purchase of six new Motorola APEX 8500 radios. Glenn, in coordination with City IT, replaced the data switch and the bus and is now capable of plugging into the network of City fire stations, most other city facilities, and signal lights, which will allow connection to the CAD system anywhere throughout the City. The bus is currently housed inside the SC Fire Rescue Training Center and is looking for a new residence. The bus requires full time 250-amp service and must be stored inside. Sheriff Dave Drew suggested a building at the Prairie Hills site and indicated there is room. Glenn will determine accommodation.

For backup purposes, Tom Everett indicated the further away from The Security Institute, within the County, the better.

Item 8 Open Items

Weed, Insect, and Rodent Control

The City's new Safety Manager indicated Glenn would require training to continue to spray for weeds and insects and manage rodents at the tower sites. After discussion, Chairperson Tom Everett instructed Glenn to bid out pest control and weed service and report back.

Radio Use During Woodbury County Field Fire

Gary Brown remarked about the phenomenal use of the radio system at a recent field fire where all but one fire department in the rural area were dispatched; he praised Comm Center personnel.

Item 9 Adjourn

Dave Drew made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Rex Mueller; all voting aye, motion carried, meeting adjourned at 1047.