



**CUYAHOGA COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD
COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE**

Communications Committee Meeting Minutes

Date/Time: Wednesday, November 9, 2016

Location: Independence Fire Station
6305 Selig Road
Independence, Ohio 44131

Attendees (Voting Committee Members)

NAME	Present	ASSOCIATION	ALTERNATE	Present
Chief William Shaw	X	Chairman		
Steven Greene		Vice Chair – (Law Enforcement)	Craig Bollinger	X
Randy Kimbro	X	Brook Park	Lt. Tom Cramer	
Brad Handke		City of Cleveland Rep.	Courtney Newman	X
Laura Palinkas		City of Cleveland Rep.	Jack McCarthy	X
Debra Cavett	X	City of Cleveland Rep.	Lt. Reynaldo Oritz	
Supervisor Shawn Smith		CECOMS	Supervisor Jackie Costa	
Brandy Carney		Cuyahoga County	Nancy Kolcan	
Pete Greene	X	Cuyahoga County		
Chief Scott Gilman		Fire	Chief Rega	X
Chief Chris Lyons		Fire	Chief Turner	
Kevin Friis		Hospitals	Beth Gatlin	
Nick DiCicco		Law Enforcement	Carol Haddon	X
Chief Bruce Elliott	X	MARCS	Chief Tom Robinson	
Jim Heath	X	MARCS	Chief Freeman	
Jeff Scott		Law Enforcement		
George Balasko	X	PARMA	Capt. Ronald Heffern	
Mike Lasky		PARMA	T.J. Martin	x
Rob Jamieson	x	Public Works	Bob Girardi	
Tim Clapp	X	Regional Dispatch	Jack McCarthy	
Ron Barlow	x	Regional Dispatch	Kristina Eich	

Others in Attendance: J. Branic, J. Jarvis, B. Kloss, M. Flinn, D. Freeman, B. Mueller, M. Nickoson, S. Garwood, T. Cramer, J. Harraman, S. Greene

AGENDA ITEMS

- 1. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL / QUORUM DETERMINATION**
 - Called to order by Shaw at 9:37 AM.
 - Roll Call conducted, 16 voting members, quorum met.

- 2. PUBLIC COMMENT**
 - None

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3. APPROVAL OF OCTOBER MINUTES

- Two errors: #3-Should be APPROVAL OF OCTOBER MINUTES and #11-Rega is misspelled.
- Motion to pass as amended: motion by Balasko, seconded by Haddon. 6 abstentions due to not being present at last meeting, 10 yes votes therefore motion passed.

4. ARES PRESENTATION

- Mathew Nickoson, KC8NZJ presented the capabilities of the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) and the volunteer hours during the RNC plus other events.

5. RADIO ALLOCATION

- Jeff Haramen reported \$412 for FY16 UASI. March or April the bid will go out.
- Specs need to be drawn up by the end of the year.
- Rega called for a committee to review the specs.
- Pete Greene and Steve Greene will work with Rega.

6. COUNTYWIDE FIRE NOTIFICATION SYSTEM

- 75 units were programmed and returned to Chief Carroll.
- Chief Elliot expresses concern about the weather channel being programmed into them.
- Chief Shaw pointed out that the dispatch centers can share weather information.
- Heath suggested that the programming be shared within regions.
- Units to be re-collected and re-programmed, Pete Greene to contact Carroll to recover units.

7. EXERCISES/DRILLS FOR COM-L PARTICIPATION

- None

8. NPSPAC RADIO SYSTEM

- Peter Greene read the following statement:

The County has fully reviewed the current status of the NPSPAC radio system. It has been determined that with the reliable coverage of both the MARCS and the Great Cleveland Radio Communications Network plus the interoperability options available from both systems (xMTACS, xCUYCO's and Cleveland Regionals); along with the very limited use of the system (no request since 2014) the NPSPAC repeater system may no longer be worth the cost to sustain.

At this time, the County is paying a significant amount per year to keep the system operational. With the move of CECOMS, it will cost the County another approx. \$16K to move equipment around in order to have connectivity and control of the system. During the RNC, simplex channels were used but not the repeater channels.

The County is looking to shut down the repeater sites and sell the equipment unless there is a significant justification for its existence. Any and all comments are appreciated.

- Steve Greene reported that the NPSPAC repeaters were requested to be on during the Cavs play-offs. Steve Greene said that this is a needed system.

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- Garwood suggests that radios be re used in command vehicles so that a portable repeater can be set up.
- Steve Greene said that if the systems are set up in vehicles, then response and maintenance of the radios is still needed.
- Shaw asks that if the systems are sent out then will the county assist in maintenance and any cost sharing?
- Steve Greene said that another option is to co-locate the radios onto the Cleveland or MARCS system.
- Shaw recapped that the committee would like to see the system kept up in some form or in some way at a lower cost.
- Shaw asked Pete Greene to pass this onto the county for consideration.
- Jarvis from a national level, NPSPAC was used during national disasters with agencies that needed to communicate with other agencies not on the local system.

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS / OTHER BUSINESS

- Jarvis reported that 9-1-1 systems in multiple states (about 12) were affected by a Telephone Denial Service. Through apps and emails, a google site would cause the user's phone to dial 9-1-1 thus clogging up the PSAPS and 9-1-1.
- Garwood reports that the state wide code plug has been edited because of found errors. Many errors were found in the 700 MHz nationwide frequencies. Garwood also mentioned that there are future efforts to remove the X in front of the talkgroup names. The state will set a date so that all of the 3.5 system should be removed from radios to reduce the confusion.
- Balasko stated that if a monthly fee to MARCS is being paid then MARCS should provide program updates as a part of that fee. If MARCS makes the mandate, then they should be on the hook to make the changes.
- Pete Greene said as a COML, we spend the first hour of the event dialing in talkgroups so that each responder is able to communicate where they need to be. If the names are different, then as a COML will be lost.
- Clapp asked if the 9-1-1 system goes down, is it the individual dispatch center or community that puts out a news release or CECOMS? Clapp was told to contact Nancy Kolcan about this.
- Jarvis said that he is helping in setting up a COML train the trainer course and wants input.
- OEM will have a drill and exercise meeting to vet all stuff for the next three years.

10. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- No executive session conducted.

11. NEXT MEETING

- Next meeting will be held on Wednesday January 11, 2017 @09:30a. Location is Independence Fire Department.

12. ADJOURNMENT

- Motion to adjourn by Shaw, second by all.
- Adjourned at 11:04 AM