



METCOM 9-1-1

Governing Board Meeting Minutes

June 4, 20224

Members in Attendance:

Jay Alley
Chris Anderson
Joe Budge
Mark Daniel
Damian Flowers
Danny Freitag
Alan Hume
Paul Iverson
Gwen Johns
Michael Kahrmann
Bill Miles
Dan Mullen
Jim Trierweiler

Other in Attendance

Dustin Heft - Motorola
Patrick Hoover – MC Radio Project Manager
Paul Braunstein – FirstNet
Amber Blackman - FirstNet

METCOM

Wendy Patterson
Mark Spross

In Attendance via Zoom

Jordan Donat	William Nightingale
Levi Eckhardt	Martin Pilcher
Brian Lee	Don Taylor

METCOM regular Governing Board meeting called to order at 10:00 AM with a quorum met by members present, absentee ballot and via Zoom.

Absentee Ballots received by: Sherry Bensema and Fred Patterson. Both absentee ballots voted “for” approval of: Board Meeting Minutes, March 19, 2024; Resolution 2024-01 2024/25 METCOM Budget Adoption; and Resolution 2024-02 to purchase dispatch console furniture.

The Board meeting was opened by Board Chair Mark Daniel.

The March 19, 2024, Board meeting minutes were provided to Board members via email and available in hard copy form or by request at the meeting. Members asked if there were any changes to the minutes provided. None were voiced. The motion to accept the minutes were made as follows:

- Michael Kahrmann made a motion to accept the March 19th, 2024, Board Meeting minutes.
- Second by Damian Flowers
- Discussion: None. Motion passed, no opposition.

2024/25 Budget Adoption:

The METCOM budget has been increased by \$25,000 since the time of the budget approval. This was due to the City of Hubbard entering into a contract with the City of Donald to provide law enforcement coverage. The \$25,000 is the dispatching fees associated with the increase of call volume to the City of Hubbard. The \$25,000 has been placed in GL# 9010, Operating Contingence, at this time. The call volume will be reviewed for possible adjustments when addressing the 2025-26 budget year. The population of the City of Donald is just over 1,000.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2024-01: a Resolution adopting a budget for fiscal year 2024-25 and making appropriations, made by Sgt. Chris Anderson.

Motion 2nd: Michael Kahrmann

No further discussion.

Motion passed, all in favor, no opposition

Dispatch Furniture RFP:

The RFP for console furniture replacement at the main dispatch facility in Woodburn was released on March 7th, 2024, and closed on May 14th, 2024. METCOM received one proposal from Evans Consoles Corporation. The proposal has been graded and has met the requirements of the RFP. As previously advised, funding for the consoles has already been identified and \$273,847.32 has been set aside in the budget. The timeline for installation is October to November of this year. However, the timeline for the install is tied to the phone system upgrade at the back up center. We are looking for approval from the board to enter into contract negotiations with Evans Consols through Resolution 2024-02.

Motion to approve Resolution 2024-02; A Resolution to purchase and install call-taking & dispatch console equipment with contractor Evans consoles Corporation: Joe Budge

Motin 2nd: Chris Anderson

No further discussion.

Motion passes, all in favor, no opposition.

Radio Project update:

Patrick Hoover, Marion County Radio Project Coordinator, attended via zoom.

Patrick advised interviews were in progress and he would have more information for METCOM by the end of next week once interviews were complete. Mark Spross told the Board that he has no idea where METCOM is with the County but is still he still hopeful for a partnership. Marion County is still planning on updating radio console equipment at METCOM through the county radio project.

Questions and discussion:

- Damian Flowers stated he is discouraged by the lack of communication from Marion County throughout the radio project and with the generator fire that occurred at House Mountain. Due to this, he is concerned about the working relationship for future projects. Patrick Hoover advised he understood and will make sure the message is heard at the County.
- Q – How much money was received from the federal government, how much from Senator Girod's office and what is the approximate cost of the dispatch radio console equipment?
- A – Approximately \$1.2 million from the federal government which is to be used for portable or mobile radios only, \$950,000 from Senator Girod's office (which had to flow through the County. The radio consoles have not been priced out for a while; guess would be somewhere around the \$300,000 - \$500,000 dollar range just on the console piece for METCOM with approximately \$50,000 - \$100,000 for the back up center. Patrick Hoover stated he could not speak to specific dollar amounts until after the RFP is awarded but the prices they have seen have been significantly higher than that. He will have a lot of information to share when the RFP is wrapped up.

First Net:

Mark was asked to reach out to FirstNet and set up a presentation for the Board. This would be regarding their LTE overlay and how it would work with our system to provide enhanced coverage.

Amber Blackman, FirstNet Consultant am8877@att.com provided a presentation to the Board. A copy of the presentation has been attached to the board minutes.

After the presentation, it was supported to explore this at the METCOM console level and to have interested agencies start testing at an individual level. This item will remain on the agenda for future meeting discussions.

Existing Radio Infrastructure Ownership/Maintenance:

The history of the radios for METCOM users is that primarily north county agencies the radio systems were maintained by the individual agencies. In the south, these systems were maintained through Santiam Canyon Communications Center. When the consolidation

between NORCOM and Santiam Canyon occurred, this was left this way in the ORS190 Agreement. Over the years, Mark has been asked if the radio systems can be brought in under the umbrella of METCOM. The short answer is no due to the language in the ORS190 agreement. The long answer is yes, we can look at doing that, but what does that look like and how can we manage that.

Jay Alley advised there is still some confusion on who owns what. We are still out 3-5 years for the county radio project to be online if METCOM chooses to partner with the County. The radios in the south county are old and failing and we need to start looking at how to maintain what we have and the cost of the maintenance. Where do we go from here; do we form a committee or establish a maintenance fee? Looking for discussion at the board level.

Joe Budge stated the consensus from the North County meeting was to wait and see what happens with the county radio project but maintain our current equipment. It was suggested to use some of the funds currently saved in the radio project account for maintenance needs.

Other discussion:

- We need to remember to look at everyone's system as a whole.
- What is the harm of building out a VHF system?
- If a partnership with the County on their radio system does not work for METCOM users, how do we go back?
- Q - Is a simulcast system still on the table.
- A - Yes, however the noise ceiling is a problem as well as finding radio frequencies. As far as a back up system, he did not think it made sense to build your back up on a different system. A "pop-up" communications trailer under the same system makes the most sense.
- Q - Do we invest more in our current system?
- A - We do need to maintain our current equipment, but Director Spross is not sure what that may look like. It would be helpful to have it all under one service contract.
- Support for a committee to further discuss current equipment maintenance and what that may look like.
- Board Chair Mark Daniel advised that currently nothing has been established that states the saved radio funds are for "METCOM" as an agency. Currently the funds belong to the individual agencies who have paid the dollars into the budget.
- The ORS190 agreement needs to be re-opened as this is an outdated agreement for our agency at this time.
- Director Mark Spross would like to have all owners of a radio system to meet and discuss what "we" have and bring information back to the full board for further discussion.
- Chief Budge suggested the option to pool all the radio funds together that have collected to date to maintain the current systems. The ORS190 should be updated to allow for this option.
- Patrick Hoover (Marion County Radio Project Manager) should have an inventory of equipment owned by METCOM agencies.

METCOM Staff Updates:

Mark Spross acknowledges the dispatch staff continue to do phenomenal work through our short staffing and training of new employees. Currently METCOM has 10 fully certified dispatchers, 4 in training, 3 scheduled for pre-employment psychological visits and 1 more in the pre-employment background process. We hope to have two more FT dispatchers hired by July.

CAD Updates:

On June 12, 2024, METCOM will have a large CAD version update. CAD will be down for several hours starting at 0300 hours. The update will allow for police to have more capabilities to enter information into different fields, particularly the person's side.

Open Discussion:

- Jim Trierweiler – Do we need to retain the Stayton building or is it possible to share the WVCC building as METCOM's back up facility. Mark Spross advised that he does not think WVCC would be open to this as an option. In addition, with the investments and upgrades invested by the State of Oregon this would cause some issues.

Future Meeting Dates:

All meetings will start at 1000 hours.

September 17, 2024 @ METCOM

November 19, 2024 @ TBA

Chair Mark Daniel Closed the meeting and adjourned @ 1216.