

Eaton County Emergency Communications Law Enforcement Subcommittee

Minutes

Wednesday, January 15, 2020 at 1100 hrs

Call to Order and Roll Call – Chairman Weeks called the meeting to order at 11:02 a.m.

Present:

Paul Brentar, CPD
Jeff Cook, ECSO
Larry Weeks, ERPD
Chris Blievernicht, GLPD
Pete Smith, MSP Post 11
Richard Barry, PPD
Luke Betts, PPD
Michael Armitage, ECCD
Kelley Flynn, ECCD
Ryan Wilkinson, Emergency Management

Introduction of New Members and Guests – Introductions were made.

Reading and Approval of Minutes – Motion to approve the minutes from the July 2019 was made by Chris Blievernicht and seconded by Richard Barry. The October meeting did not have a quorum so there were no minutes to approve from that meeting.

Old Business

Report from Central Dispatch Committee – Paul Brentar reviewed minutes to the December 2019 meeting.

Central Dispatch Operational Report –

- Two are in training and they are doing well. One trainee recently resigned.
- There is a posting for the Public Safety Telecommunicator position until the end of January for two openings.
- Michael is working on the 2019 annual report. Our call is volume up and incidents are down.

Central Dispatch Project Updates –

Car installations for new car radios started yesterday. Chrouch ran into an issue that they are getting resolved and they will work to be caught up on the installs. Michael is trying to communicate between agencies and crew regarding scheduling times.

Michael is working with Grand Ledge schools on radio issues inside of their buildings such as an amplified repeater system or another tower site in Grand Ledge. If we need another tower, we will look at using the old tower here at dispatch and moving it to Grand Ledge. There are microwave links from 2014 on it that we could reuse and we could use the Mt Hope shelter as well. Michael is getting price estimates. However, over the next five years Grand Ledge is making a significant investment upgrade in their schools so our equipment may be obsolete by then. We just don't know at this time.

Radio testing has occurred at the hospitals and schools, but if your officers/deputies find areas that the radio isn't working let Michael know now and moving forward. We need to address coverage issues.

If your agency needs additional equipment because they were overlooked the first time, let Michael know before March for the 2020/2021 budget request.

Michael reminded the group to have units put in their vehicle number. Vehicle numbers can be displayed in CAD now. There was some discussion if the setting can be saved or if you have to enter the vehicle number every time.

Michael cautioned about changing the dynamic zone on the new radios.

Larry Weeks wondered why GPS units were being installed in the radios when we already have AVL. Michael explained that MPSCS does not support GPS right now but could be used in the future. Radios and portables have GPS capability but we're not using them right now. Allegan County is beta testing them for MPSCS right now. Michael feels it will be a valuable feature once it is available.

Larry explained the installation process for his cars and the need for another speaker. He told the agencies present that it's something to be thinking about if you need an extra speaker and where would you install it. Richard Barry stated that his radio speaker is on the passenger side and it's loud for the passenger but not the driver. He suggested maybe a different design idea next time. Michael said he would look into it.

Updates, status checks and officer messages were added under new business.

New Business

Elections for the LEC Subcommittee – The current Chair is Larry Weeks, Jeff Cook is the Vice Chairman, and Shane Bartlett was the secretary. Chairman Weeks asked for new nominations. Paul Brentar nominated Chief Weeks to remain as Chairman. Chief Weeks agreed to stay on. Undersheriff Cook agreed to stay on as Vice Chairman. Paul Brentar nominated Richard Barry as the secretary and Chris Blievernicht seconded. Motion carried.

Elections for ECEC Subcommittee – The representatives from this committee for the Eaton County Emergency Communication Subcommittee (Central Dispatch Committee) are Paul Brentar and Chris Blievernicht. The Alternates are Shawn Garcia and was Lisa Sherman. Both Paul Brentar and Christ Blievernicht agree to stay on as the representatives. Larry Weeks nominated Richard Barry and it was seconded. Jeff Cook nominated Shawn Garcia and Paul Brentar seconded. Motion carried.

Status checks and tones – Michael received unanimous feedback that some status checks were too long. Michael sent out an email on the changes. If you have any other suggestions let him know. If the nature code is a B&E, it will be a three-minute status check after arrival. If it's not in progress, then the dispatcher will use their discretion. There's no way to differentiate the two for nature codes.

A three-page policy was distributed in regards to dispatching police calls for service that addresses toning. The policy was issued in 1990 and updated in 1995. Michael would like to narrow down a list of call types. There was discussion. Chairman Weeks asked Michael if this committee could do anything today regarding the policy. Michael stated that he would like it reviewed and maybe at the next meeting we could decide if we want alarms toned and if so, which ones.

Officer messaging – Kelley explained that dispatch takes many messages for the officers. Sometimes citizens cannot read the officer's name on the business cards and it takes time for the dispatcher to figure out who the officer is and transfer the caller to their voicemail. If officers would write their badge number on a business card as well as their name it would help. Kelley explained that ECSD Delta has a mailbox for the sergeants and the out county deputies have their own individual voicemail box. Dispatch cannot keep the list updated especially when a deputy moves between out county and Delta. She stated that dispatch is spending a lot of time and energy trying to get messages to officers and she would like suggestion on how to do it more efficient. Sending CAD messages was suggested as well as utilizing the private call or private paging on the new radios. Email was another suggestion. Kelley thanked the group and will follow up with Technology Services and with other dispatch centers for suggestions.

Emergency Manager – Ryan gave an update on the projects he is working on. The SUAS was not wrapped up by the end of the year, but he hopes to have it wrapped up soon. FEMA had some additional questions and Ryan hasn't heard back from them.

Ryan would like to send as many officers to the North American Active Assailant Conference May 27-29 in Troy. He has 15 interested so far. The grant would be able to cover lodging and the general conference. He will complete the grant when he gets an agenda for the conference.

Best practice documents were distributed to the schools. The school safety committee is interested in creating something similar. Ryan asked this committee if they thought it was a good idea and if it should be distributed at the start of the school year in the fall. Everyone thought it was a good idea especially for schools that don't have a school liaison officer. Ryan will start putting drafts together and take to school safety committee meeting in March.

Adjournment – Motion to adjourn was made at 11:59 a.m. by Richard Barry and Chris Blievernicht. Motion carried. The next meeting is Wednesday, April 15, 2020 at 1100 hrs

DRAFT