

# **Eaton County Emergency Communications**

Fire/EMS Subcommittee Meeting

Thursday, May 14, 2020 at 8:00 p.m.

## **MINUTES**

### **PRESENT:**

Tom Owen, OFD  
John Collins, OFD  
Rodney VanDeCastele, GLFD  
Michael Roman, DFD  
William Fabijancic, WTES  
Phillip Miller, WTES  
James Ivy, ERTFD  
Francis D'Huyvetter, HTFD  
Tim James, BTFD & SFD  
Jason Freer, ERFD  
Roger McNutt, ERFD  
Jeremy Milam, ERFD  
Wes Waldo, RFD  
Mark Jordan, BFD  
Tyger Fullerton, CFD

Michael Armitage, ECCD  
Kelley Flynn, ECCD  
Ryan Wilkinson, ECEM

Call to Order and Roll Call – Chairman McNutt called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m.

Introduction of New Members and Guests – None

Reading and Approval of Minutes of the November 2019 Meeting - Motion to approve the minutes was made by Phillip Miller and seconded by William Fabijancic. Motion carried.

### **Old Business**

Report from Emergency Communications Subcommittee (Miller) – Chief Miller reported there wasn't a quorum for the March meeting.

## Central Dispatch Operational Report (Michael)

- There is reduced staffing due to COVID-19 including Admin staff.
- Shifts stay together with no overtime.
- Call volumes are currently down for all police, fire & EMS.
- Precautions have been taken in the Center including plexi-glass, assigned consoles and the Center is closed to outside agencies.
- One dispatcher has completed her training, one is close to completing and two have just started.
- The two dispatchers that just completed and is close to completing are taking their EMD training on line.
- We have been authorized by the Board of Commissioners to hire one more now to replace Robert Stahelin when he retires probably in October 2020.
- Testing and interviews was put on hold at the beginning of the pandemic, but now we are continuing with online testing and interviews.

## Central Dispatch Project Updates (Michael)

- Priority 5 screening questions continue to be reviewed and updated. There was discussion.
- ASAP to PSAP alarm monitoring project continues. We are almost ready for test calls.
- The Board of Commissioners voted to reduce the 911 surcharge on cell phones from \$1.75 to \$1.65 effective 7/1/2020. Michael does have some concerns this this including projecting a 20% decline.
- Michael recently sent an email out about department pagers. Two agencies have lost pagers so far.
- Our cache of radio equipment is stocked right now.
- We are waiting on agreements from the Grand Ledge school board for the BDAs in Grand Ledge.
- We will be adding a repeater in Grand Ledge.
- In June, we will have to take the tower in Delta down to move the microwave.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Calling enroute on fire ground was the initial idea but it is not happening. Acknowledge the call on the main channel and then move off to the fire ground for structure fire and PIs.

Topics for the next meeting will include automatic fire/EMS dispatching for rollovers and accidents involving buses.

Michael stated that he did visit Ionia County Central Dispatch after the last meeting to see how they tone and it isn't like how he thought it could be done. Basically, if you're quick enough pressing the buttons, it can be one tone.

New CAD system – CentralSquare, our current CAD vendor, will not support One Solution anymore. We will be looking at a new CAD system and would like multiple counties involved in the purchase. The timeframe is 3-5 years.

## **ROUND TABLE**

Fullerton – Discussion began on COVID-19 questions. The verbiage dispatch has to give comes from the State protocol. Michael stated that the Barry/Eaton Health Department gives us the addresses where there is a positive case of COVID-19 and we enter it as a premise alert and then look in the call history to see what agency, if any, was recently at that address. Jeremy Milam noted that the verbiage is mundane and monotonous.

There was discussion on the pagers and the problems some are experiencing with the pagers. There is no warranty on the pagers. Mark Jordan noted that old recordings on the pagers need to be deleted and the batteries kept charged.

Tyger also requested that when they are on fire ground, dispatch needs to let the incident commander know when another incident happens.

Miller – He asked Kelley to double-check a semi rollover that Shroyers was at the scene of on Tuesday, 5/12/20 between 1000-1200.

Chief Miller suggested dispatch let everyone know when they're leaving dispatch to sanitize it. Michael said it is every Monday at 6pm and there was another time two weeks ago that was unscheduled. This will happen at least through the end of this month.

Motion to adjourn was made at 2047 hrs. by William Fabijancic and Mike Roman. Motion carried.

The next meeting is Thursday, August 13, 2020 after the ECFCA meeting, which begins at 1900 hrs.