

Eaton County Emergency Communications Law Enforcement Subcommittee

Minutes

Wednesday, January 19, 2022
At 1100 hrs, in person & Zoom meeting

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

Members Present:

Chief Larry Weeks, ERPD
Chief Paul Brentar, CPD
Lt. Detrich Speights, MSP
Chief Shawn Garcia, OPD
Lt. Chris Blievernicht, GLPD

Non-Members Present:

Kelley Cunningham, ECCD
Francis D’Huyvetter, ECCD
Rod Sadler, ECEM

Introduction of New Members and Guests

Reading and Approval of Minutes – Paul Brentar made the motion to approve the minutes to the October meeting and Chris Blievernicht seconded. Motion carried.

Old Business

Report from Central Dispatch Committee – Chris Blievernicht gave a summary of the December meeting.

Central Dispatch Operational Report (Kelley)

- Dispatchers Jones & Riley completed the training program early. Both have experience at other dispatch centers and both are doing well.
- Megan March began as a dispatcher on January 4. She has paramedic experience with Windsor Twp.
- Oral board interviews were held January 4 and one was selected to go forward with background investigations and was given a conditional offer. Another applicant is on the hiring list for a future opening.
- There is a supervisor position open due to Francis moving to Deputy Director, which will create another telecommunicator opening.

Central Dispatch Project Updates (Kelley)

- Preventative maintenance on radios - John Imeson, Chrouch and MPSCS plan to go to each department for preventative maintenance on all radios. Some will need to be physically touched to update templates for surrounding counties. For those getting Calhoun County's template, we are still waiting for an encryption key. Calhoun has seven different encryption keys so it is tricky.
- Tornado siren at Crandell Lake Park - Work continues on the tornado siren at Crandell Lake Park. The easement needs to be approved at the board of commissioner's meeting in order for Tri County Electric to install the pole and electricity.
- ASAP to PSAP – nothing new to report on this. LEIN is still an issue.
- New CAD - We will begin forming a committee to look at a new CAD. Kelley would like several police, fire & EMS representatives involved in the selection including Clinton County because we currently have CAD to CAD with them.
- Clinton County is going live with law enforcement side of their new radio system on February 9, 2022.
- Ingham County units at the scene of the incident on Five Point Hwy a few weeks ago did not have TAC 2. It was on their radio templates but was apparently missed at the radio lab. Ingham County outsourced their radio programming and have had issues.
- RAVE alerts have been sent out a lot lately. Kelley put an ad in the Charlotte paper with instructions for citizens on how to sign up.

Larry Weeks wondered if we were still interested in the towing app that Curbside SOS gave a presentation to this committee last year. Kelley stated that she is interested in Curbside SOS. They had given a presentation at the emergency technology conference and she asked them to give a presentation to ECSO, but she has not heard if they did or not. Kelley explained that Curbside SOS is an App that is similar to Uber and Lyft only it is for tow companies. Citizens can use it as well as public safety. Chief Garcia wondered what issues there have been with towing companies. There was discussion.

Dynamic Talk Groups – (Francis)

Francis stated that when the radios were built and programmed, a lot of thought and time was spent creating the home zone and zone A so it would be user-friendly for all. It was intended that people would use these zones most of the time. However, even though everyone got the same training, some people are not using these zones but instead have set up a dynamic zone, which is a template you can create and customize in a radio. Some are trying to set up their dynamic zone template like their old UHF radios.

Francis stated that the problem with dynamic zones is that they are deleted when the radios are updated and then the user thinks that their radio doesn't work because they don't know how to get to other zones outside of their dynamic zone. Dispatchers could

help someone get to a certain channel, but if they created their own dynamic zone, dispatch wouldn't be able to help them.

Francis stated that dispatch does have ability to take out dynamic zones in radios and that could be an option as well as retrain users to start using the home zone as intended.

No one present at the meeting is using the dynamic zones. Lt Speights stated that his agency does have them but their own radio lab programs their radios and Francis believes they are getting the proper training on how to use them. Kelley stated that she will schedule a meeting with Francis, John and the agency(ies) using dynamic zones since it doesn't apply to any agency present.

Chris Blievernicht suggested adding a radio cheat sheet in cars or in MCTs for quick instructions. Kelley stated that she would make sure she has the most up to date instructions including out of county agencies coming on and she will ask Nathan to put it on the MCTs.

Larry Weeks stated that he believes the use of dynamic zones has caused significant issues on scene with communication and safety. He feels that the idea of having TAC 2 as an encrypted talk group makes the scene and the people at the scene safer. He agreed that we should get rid of dynamic zones or retrain to understand them.

Kelley reached out to other central dispatch centers for their radio policies and Lapeer County and Ingham County responded back to her. She provided their radio policies to the law enforcement agencies ahead of this meeting.

Kelley stated that we do have a TAC 2 policy but it is not in operation right now. It went live when we went live with the new radio system but there was concern with officers trying to change the radio on the way to a scene and changing a radio while they're involved with a critical incident.

A part of that policy did say that if it's a dispatched call or a hold up alarm that we knew it had the potential to be something big, require multiple units, require holding the air, we would assign TAC 2 on the dispatch. Right now if there is a critical incident it stays on the main channel and everyone else goes to LEIN, which is the way it was done for the UHF radio system. Our initial intent was tell everyone to go to TAC 2 when we drop a tone. She asked this committee for their thoughts and suggestions.

Shawn Garcia suggested narrowing down the policy to certain incidents. He requested a copy of the TAC 2 policy to review.

Paul Brentar agreed with Shawn and was in favor of if it is a dispatched call, then to switch to TAC 2 right then and there. If it's something that's already dispatched, already started, then it would be up to the on scene commander.

Kelley and Francis will work to narrow down what types of incidents would be moved to TAC 2 upon dispatching. It would obviously be incidents that get a tone, felonies in progress, but if there are others you would like to include, let Kelley and Francis know.

Larry Weeks asked Francis and Kelley what they would like this committee to do. Francis stated that this discussion today is to determine if we can move forward to start using the policy. Larry Weeks asked if anyone had any objection to looking into activating the policy and there was none. Larry suggested moving forward with the policy as is but be open for adjustments and having more conversations. After some discussion it was determined the go live date to start using the TAC 2 policy again would be February 1, 2022 in order to give everyone notice.

New Business

Elections – Paul Brentar made the motion to keep it all the same and Chris Blievernicht seconded. Motion carried. Larry Weeks remains Chairman, Jeff Cook as Vice Chair and Richard Barry as Secretary. The representatives to the Central Dispatch Subcommittee are Paul Brentar and Chris Blievernicht and the alternates are Richard Barry and Shawn Garcia.

Emergency Manager Grant Project – Rod Sadler stated that the Homeland Security FY-19 grant closed out with a gunshot box for ECSO. It is an audio device that creates gunshots used for training purposes. Rod stated that the only money used out of the FY-20 grant so far was for the NAAA conference registration last fall. There is still law enforcement terrorism prevention money available in the FY-20 grant.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 11:54 a.m. by Paul Brentar and Chris Blievernicht seconded. Motion carried.

The next meeting is Wednesday, 4/20/22 at 11 a.m.