

Eaton County Emergency Communications Subcommittee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 18, 2021 @ 1000 hrs

Call to Order and Roll Call – 10:00 hrs

Phillip Miller, WTES
Chris Anderson, Prosecutor's Office
William Fabijancic, WTES
Aric Dowling, MSP
Kelley Cunningham, ECCD
Michael Armitage, ECCD
Richard Barry, PPD
Mike Roman, DFD
Rodney VanDeCastele, GLFD
Jeff Cook, ECSO
Chris Blievernicht, GLPD

Others in Attendance -

Ryan Wilkinson, Emergency Manager
Gregg Ginebaugh, DFD

Introduction of New Members and Guests – None.

Reading and Approval of Minutes of the September 2020 Meeting – Motion to approve the December 2020 meeting was made by William Fabijancic and seconded by Jeff Cook. Motion carried.

Old Business

Law Enforcement Subcommittee Report – Chris Blievernicht gave an update of the January 2021 meeting. Michael had discussed an App called CurbsideSOS that works between dispatch and wrecker services that he is interested in.

Fire/EMS Subcommittee Report – William Fabijancic gave an update on the February 2021 meeting. MABAS began for several Eaton County fire departments on 2/1/2021. Michael added that the script dispatchers use when dispatching departments was changed because of the Fire/EMS Subcommittee's recommendation to move the address to the front of the script rather than towards the end.

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Central Dispatch Operational Report – (Michael)

Dispatch is down two dispatcher positions due to the new hire resigning due to personal reasons and a dispatcher who resigned. Michael noted that this round of the hiring process produced 34 applicants and half of them took the first step in the hiring process, which is better than past openings. Oral board interviews will be next week.

Michael stated that a captain at the sheriff's office requested dispatch change their policy regarding alerting. The example given was an alert put out at 4 a.m. for a secondary road. Michael stated that there are times when dispatch will miss the mark on alerts but sometimes there are reasons why they put them out. He noted that alerts regarding MDOT roads go out immediately. He encouraged feedback about this policy.

Central Dispatch Project Updates – (Michael)

The amount to purchase radio equipment this budget year for all of the agencies was narrowed down to the budgeted amount and ordered. Michael is expecting equipment to arrive in the next few weeks. Some of the requested equipment that was cut will be moved to next year's budget.

Ingham County's new radio system will have a different encryption than ours so John Imeson is working on templates.

Meraki WIFI hotspots are being installed around the county to push updates out. Eventually they will be at all fire departments. Chris Anderson said that they are currently being used at the courthouse and asked if the hotspots around the county could be used for employees working remotely to log on. Michael stated that he believes they will be able to do that.

The ASAP to PSAP project between alarm companies and dispatch is moving along.

Dispatch received a grant last year to pay 97% of the cost to refresh the phone equipment hardware, which is now six years old. The new phone system is expected to be installed in May. AT&T lines will be removed at that time. No one outside of dispatch should notice the change.

Phil Miller asked Michael if John Imeson has put out updates yet for the radios. Michael stated that there hasn't been a wide-scale update for portables yet.

Mike Roman asked Michael when Clinton County was going live with their new radio system. Michael thought they were hoping for the end of the year, but stated they are currently working on their talk groups.

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Phil Miller stated that he was at the fire in Leslie recently and felt our radio patch worked seamlessly and the radios worked great. Michael thank him for the feedback.

New Business

Elections – Philip Miller is currently the Chairman of this committee, Mike Roman is the Vice Chair and Chris Blievernicht is the secretary. Mike Roman announced that he would need to be replaced because he is retiring April 23, 2021.

Phil and Chris indicated they are willing to remain in their respective positions. William Fabijancic made the motion to keep Philip as Chairman and Chris as secretary. Michael seconded. Motion approved.

William Fabijancic offered to be the Vice Chairman. Philip made the motion to have William Fabijancic as the Vice Chairman of this committee and it was seconded and approved.

Mike Roman stated that he would continue working on the AVI committee after retirement. The committee is working with Eaton County's Technology Services to develop an App for reunification sites. They will be testing it at the Grand Ledge High School.

Kelley stated that April 11-17, 2021 is National Public Safety Telecommunicator week. A Survey Monkey link has been created as a place to thank the dispatchers by leaving your words of appreciation on the link. She will send the link out to agencies.

Motion to adjourn was made by William Fabijancic and seconded by Rodney VanDeCastele at 10:20 a.m. Motion carried.

Next Meeting Notice – Thursday, June 17, 2021, 10 a.m.