

# Eaton County Emergency Communications Subcommittee

## Minutes

Thursday, March, 17, 2022 @ 1000 hrs  
In Person & Zoom

### **Call to Order and Roll Call – 10:02 a.m.**

### **Introduction of New Members and Guests:**

#### Representatives:

Kelley Cunningham, ECCD  
Paul Brentar, CPD  
Chris Blievernicht, GLPD  
William Fabijancic, WTES  
Philip Miller, WTES

#### Alternates & Others:

Chris Anderson, Prosecutor's Office  
Gregg Ginebaugh, DFD  
Mike Roman, GLFD  
Tim James, BTFD/SFD  
Ryan Wilkinson, ECEM

### **Reading and Approval of Minutes:**

There was no quorum at the December 2021 meeting. Only notes were taken.

William Fabijancic made the motion to approve the minutes from the September 2021 meeting and it was supported. Motion carried.

### **Old Business**

Law Enforcement Subcommittee Report (January 2022 meeting) – no report was given.

Fire/EMS Subcommittee Report – William Fabijancic reviewed the minutes of the February 2022 meeting.

Central Dispatch Operational Report (Francis)

- PST Jess Nunham was promoted to supervisor and will begin her duties effective 4/25/22.
- Francis gave an update on the hiring process. Cassandra Yarger, who left last fall after 10+ years as a dispatcher, will return to dispatch in April.
- Francis gave an update on one in training.

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- A meeting was held recently with school districts and superintendents on how to use RAVE panic.
- The annual report went out. Kelley and Francis will attend meetings around the county to discuss the report and answer any questions.
- The millage renewal will be on the August 2022 ballot. Kelley, Francis and supervisors will attend meetings around the county to answer questions.
- Kelley is working on the budget. She received radio requests from agencies and she is getting quotes from Motorola on current costs to determine what can be purchased. Kelley requested additional dispatchers for the next budget, but she is not sure she will get them.
- The statewide tornado drill is March 23 at 1pm. Feel free to share it on your social media page.
- There will be a short cut to our public resource page on MCTs. Kelley sent out the link in an email during this meeting.
- We implemented using TAC 2 for felony and priority incidents.
- Kelley explained the issue with holding calls for smaller departments.
- Francis gave an update on Fire/EMS MABAS box cards.

### Central Dispatch Project Updates

- John continues PM and installing encryption keys in remaining police agencies. He will then move to fire/EMS for PM starting next week through end of April. It takes about 15 minutes per radio. Chrouch is making sure the radios are in tune and operating correctly.
- If you have a radio issue or need a radio, use the email on the sticker on the radio to email your request. Using that email creates a support ticket and keeps you updated with the progress.
- Make sure you update the aliases on the radios. If they hit their emergency button we need to have the correct user. You can email the updates to the email on the sticker.
- Clinton County went live on their new radio system recently.
- Work continues on the tornado siren at Crandell Lake.

Kelley is looking into purchasing a data channel for our radio system. It was not available to purchase when we purchased our towers with the radio project. Kelley explained that a data channel allows us to get data from the radio and send it to CAD. Ingham County is going live with their data channel and it allows the portable radios' GPS location to be sent to CAD. For example, if you were going to a rescue in the woods, we can see where your GPS location in your radio and compare it to the phone location and guide you to the person who needs rescue. It would also give a location of where the emergency button was hit.

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A data channel costs one million. Kelley explained that our surcharge revenue is over performing and we could possibly pay for it that way if we keep the surcharge rate at \$1.65.

Chris Blievernicht asked if police supervisors on scene would have the ability to see the GPS. Kelley stated yes, John Merrick, the Technology Services GIS administrator, could put it on a secure website and maybe on a future CAD. Our current CAD is not capable of this feature.

Kelley asked the group if there were any objections with her going forward to the public safety committee to keep surcharge the same to pay for a data channel. She stated that the surcharge projections are good and once the radio project and data channel are paid off, the surcharge could drop dramatically. There were no objections brought up at this meeting.

New CAD – Kelley stated that she would be shopping for a new CAD in 2023 and purchasing one in 2024. She hopes to have a committee in place this fall to choose a new CAD.

### **New Business**

Elections – William Fabijancic made the motion to keep them all the same and Chris Blievernicht supported. Motion carried. Phillip Miller remains the Chairman, William Fabijancic, Vice Chairman and Chris Blievernicht, Secretary.

Communication with Law Enforcement - Phil Miller and Tim James brought up the concern of not having communication with law enforcement on some of the scenes when the Fire/EMS are assigned an ops channel or a fire ground channel. They feel there are times when Fire/EMS need to have communication with law enforcement.

Tim James felt unified command teams are needed at times to go to one of the operation channels to discuss certain parts of the incident. He stated that he requested it at a highway scene recently and it was denied. He felt it would have been nice to have a unified command team on the same channel at that scene. Incidentally, he stated that this is the scene where their fire truck was hit. It will probably take eight months to fix.

Chris Blievernicht stated that he has no problem switching over to an ops channel but he cannot think of an incident big enough where one would be needed.

Kelley asked Tim if he was denied an operations channel by dispatch or by a law enforcement agency. Tim was not sure. Francis said it was the law enforcement agency who denied it, but Francis added that dispatch should not use the word “patch”. He stated that dispatch definitely did not deny it but dispatch asked police if fire could “patch” in

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with them to talk and they said no. Tim feels having a channel to directly talk to police at the scene would take the load off dispatch.

Francis felt that this is a training/learning moment and a reason why a dynamic zone in a radio is not a good thing. All police/fire and EMS have Ops 9, 10 and 11. The dispatchers will be trained on using Ops channels 9, 10 and 11 and the purpose of them.

Kelly suggested a Fire/EMS representative attend the next Law Enforcement Subcommittee meeting on Wednesday, April 20 at 11 a.m. to discuss. William Fabijancic offered to attend.

**Next Meeting Notice** – Thursday, June 16, 2022, 10 a.m.

**Adjournment** – Motion to adjourn at 10:40 a.m. was made by Mike Roman and seconded by William Fabijancic. Motion carried.