

## **COMMUNICATONS COMMITTEE**

Meeting Minutes of Monday, October 21, 2013.

Agenda Item #1: Call to order. The Chairman calls the Communications Committee Meeting to Order at 9:01 AM at the Vilas County Courthouse Conference Room 1 and 2, 330 Court St. Eagle River, Wisconsin. Chris Mayer recognized a quorum in present.

Committee Members Present: Chris Mayer, Chairman  
Ron DeBruyne  
Mark Rogacki  
Kathleen Rushlow

Others Present: Sheriff Joseph A. Fath  
James Galloway  
Ken Anderson  
Joe VanDeLaarschot  
Lt. Dale Soltow  
Jason Hilgers  
Adam Holroyd, SonicNet  
Bruce Rowell, Access Engineering  
Ogema Communications representatives  
Matt Gaulke, LDF Town Chairman

Agenda Item #2: Approve Agenda: **Motion by Mark Rogacki, seconded by Kathleen Rushlow, to approve the agenda in any order to be discussed by the Chair. All say Aye, motion carried.**

Agenda Item #3: Approval of the previous minutes: **Motion by Ron DeBruyne to accept the previous meeting minutes, seconded by Mark Rogacki, All say Aye, motion carried.**

Agenda Item #4: Discussion with possible action with Sonic Net representative about Weber Tower Lease: Sonic Net representative Adam Holroyd was looking for approval for renewal of the collocation lease for the Weber Tower. It was explained that Sonic Net was given a favorable rate of \$1.00 per month per customer for the first 5 year lease. Ron DeBruyne explained it was an incentive for economic development at the time of the original lease and it is time to talk about the going rates for the lease. Adam Holroyd explained that they are a small business and any increase in rates would be passed along to the customer. After further discussion the committee wanted to see the original lease before moving forward. **Motion by Mark Rogacki to lay over to the next meeting, seconded by Ron DeBruyne. All say Aye, motion carried.**

Agenda Item #5: Discussion with possible action on WRJO Contract, Land O' Lakes Tower. Chris Mayer explained that he has opened dialog with Jim Courselle. Courselle is not prepared to come to the committee yet. Chris is asking the committee to work with him. There was

general discussion on Courselle's previous visit to the committee. Chris feels that for some reason there is bad blood between Courselle and the county and he would like to resolve that. Ron DeBruyne explained to Chris Mayer that the Communications Committee has been working with the Land O' Lakes Tower issue for a while and wanted him to know that the committee felt that the next step was to start exploring other options and that was to look at building a new tower.

Agenda Item #6: Discussion with possible action on Ogema Communications accessing Vilas County owned towers: Ogema Communications is asking for access on the Vilas County owned tower in Lac Du Flambeau. There was general discussion of what information is needed to access the tower and who needs the information to give an idea of what the cost would be. Bruce Rowell explained that access to that tower would be beneficial to public safety by giving access to broadband. They need to come up with a cost to attach to the Lac Du Flambeau Tower for the application for federal funding. Mark Rogacki would like to get more information before making a decision. It was explained that we rely on the technical consultants to give the county information to assist with making decisions. There was a conflict in their schedules so they were not able to be at the meeting in person. Chris Mayer requested that Jeff Nelson from PSC Alliance be contacted by phone so the technical questions could be asked. Jeff Nelson was contacted by phone and it was determined that Bruce Rowell would be provided with a form to fill out for PSC to review to help make a decision on what the cost for collocation would be. There was more discussion comparing Sonic Net to Ogema Communications in regards to what should be charged. Bruce Rowell explained that he is looking at a model per township. Towns that have structure and cooperate would cause him less expense so those towns would look at getting lower rates than towns that do not. There was no set fee that could be attained in this meeting so Chris Mayer wanted to set a future meeting so there could be a cost discussed then.

Agenda Item #7: Fire/EMS Simulcast Project Report. James Galloway explained that the project is proceeding ahead of schedule and we are comfortably within our budget. Two towers have been erected and do not have the microwave equipment on them yet. He explained that the Arbor Vitae tower should be erected this week. Northway Communications has assembled the system and tested it.

Agenda Item #8: System operation report: Lt. Soltow explained that Motorola is still working on a problem that came up with the mobile radios in the squad cars. Everything else is working properly.

Agenda Item #9: Tower issues: James Galloway explained that the only issue is the easement issue with the Land O' Lakes Tower that has been discussed at length during other meetings.

Agenda Item #10. Communications Budget Report: Lt. Soltow explained there were some unexpected expenditures that include repairing microwave equipment at the Eagle River Water

Tank site. There is also concern that the professional services line is low and over half of it has been expended. Everything else is good with the communications budget.

Agenda Item #11 Communications Budget Report: James Galloway stated that we are well within the budget.

Agenda Item #12 Letters and Communications: None

Agenda Item #13 Set next meeting date and time: Then next Communications Committee Meeting date and time is set for November 18, 2013 at 9:00 a.m.

Agenda Item #14 Adjournment: At 10:54 a.m. the Communications Committee Meeting was adjourned.