

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 P.M. by Chairman Ron De Bruyne at the Vilas Justice Center conference room with the following committee members present: Ed Bluthardt, Jim Galloway, Gary Peske, Kathleen Rushlow and David Alleman. Sheriff John Niebuhr was excused. Also present were Dave Leack, Jeff Nelson and Brian Kyllonen of PSC Alliance, Steve Beil and John Heisel of Northway Communications and Chief Deputy Joe Fath.

Proper open meeting notice and quorum present were both verified.

Agenda:

Motion by K. Rushlow, 2nd by D. Alleman to approve the agenda with the order of discussion to be at the discretion of the chair. All voting aye. Carried.

Approval of previous minutes:

Motion by E. Bluthardt, 2nd by G. Peske to approve the August 21, 2008, minutes as presented. All voting aye. Carried.

Project Budget and Financial Update:

D. Leack reported no substantial changes since last month. The project is currently \$77,000.00 under budget, and is expected to finish on budget.

Communication Project tower work updates:

J. Nelson reported a small punch list of items to be addressed. The Boulder Junction tower site has some grounding and graveling issues to be determined. Discussions will be held with Alltel regarding antenna mount location issues. The punch list at the Eagle River water tower site is small with all items being easy to correct. G. Peske reported that an enclosure fence needed to be purchased and installed at the Eagle River site. Two bids were received:

Fortress Fence -	\$7,830.00
American Fence-	\$8,495.00

Motion by E. Bluthardt, 2nd by K. Rushlow to accept the low bid from Fortress Fence at \$7,830.00 with the funds to be expended from the Project Fund. All voting aye. Carried.

D. Leack reported that \$7,300.00 was originally budgeted for that fence.

Motorola project status:

J. Nelson reported that digital channel 1, known as Law 1, is operational and reception in remote areas has been found to excellent, even while using portable radios. The police departments of Eagle River, Boulder Junction and Lac du Flambeau are still operating in analog mode on the Law 2 channel due to equipment issues.

Town of Lac du Flambeau tower project:

G. Peske reported that all local permit applications have been filed. There will be a Vilas County Zoning hearing held in the Town of Winchester on October 2, 2008 and a Town of Lac du Flambeau Zoning hearing held on October 7, 2008. J. Nelson reported that the NEPA site investigation should be done in two weeks. As soon as that investigation has

been concluded and the local permits issued, project costs and contracts can be finalized and construction can begin.

Portable radios and console work:

G. Peske stated that the portable radios were onsite. One remaining issue is proper programming. The portables have the capability of automatically identifying the user to the dispatcher and also contain an emergency response call button. Both features need to be programmed.

Vilas-Oneida backup plan:

G. Peske thanked the County Board for passing the funding resolution at the September board meeting. This will allow completion of this project in 2009.

Mobile data project:

J. Nelson reported that all equipment was on site with the exception of the used equipment purchased in Minnesota. Spillman may travel onsite to perform operational testing prior to configuring all of the mobile data units for operation with their system.

Radio system maintenance contract:

G. Peske reported that the current system would be under warranty until August 31, 2009. He recommended that a one year maintenance contract be purchased through Motorola at a cost of \$77,245.00, to be put into effect on that date. E. Bluthardt asked if that amount was due in one payment, or if the fee could be paid monthly or quarterly, allowing the County to budget a lesser amount for the last 4 months of 2009, with the larger remaining amount budgeted in 2010. G. Peske felt that issue could be negotiated. J. Nelson recommended that conversation include the necessity of 24/7 versus business day maintenance coverage. He felt that system redundancy made 24/7 coverage unnecessary. A business day maintenance mode might save some costs. S. Beil stated that the maintenance contract would cover all consoles and repeaters and Law 1 and 2 digital transmission equipment. Radio units are already warranted by Motorola for the next 4 years. Harris-Stratex warranties apply to the microwave system, but a maintenance contract will also be needed when that warranty expires.

Equipment purchases:

Nothing presented.

2009 committee budget:

The Clerk presented a proposed 2009 budget totaling \$124,814.00. He explained that he had created a stand alone budget for communication expenses purposes, as these expenses would now re-occur on an annual basis. K. Rushlow felt that the Digital Radio Maintenance Contract expense of \$77,245.00 should be deleted until a figure representing the actual costs that will be incurred during the last 4 months of 2009 can be computed. J. Nelson recommended adding costs for tower maintenance at \$1,500.00 covering two towers. Motion by E. Bluthardt 2nd by K. Rushlow to remove \$77,245.00 from the Maintenance of Equipment line item and to add \$1,500.00 to that line item, and

to re-present the budget when the revised Digital Radio Maintenance Contract costs are determined. All voting aye. Carried.

K. Rushlow recommended that a letter be sent to the Town of Phelps requesting maintenance records regarding their tower. This will be sent by the Clerk.

Motion by K. Rushlow, 2nd by R. De Bruyne to request that the County Board Chairman allow the creation of a stand alone Communication System Maintenance budget, to be overseen by the Communication Committee. All voting aye. Carried.

Approve Bills and Requisitions:

Motion by K. Rushlow, 2nd by E. Bluthardt to approve a bill from Northway Communications Inc. totalling \$31,761.00 for console upgrades and programming All voting aye. Carried.

Correspondence:

Nothing presented.

Set Next Meeting Date:

Next meeting was set for 1:00 P.M. on Wednesday, October 15, 2008, in the Justice Center conference room.

Adjournment:

Motion by G, Peske, 2nd by E. Bluthardt to adjourn. All voting aye. Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 2:18 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted By:

David R. Alleman
Vilas County Clerk