

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 P.M. by Chairman Ron De Bruyne in the Vilas County Justice Center conference room with the following committee members present: Ed Bluthardt, Jim Galloway, Gary Peske, Kathleen Rushlow and David Alleman. Frank Tomlanovich arrived while the meeting was in progress. Also present was Dave Leack representing PSC Alliance, Joe Fath and Dawn Schmidt. The Chair verified both proper open meeting notice and quorum present.

Approve agenda to be discussed in any order by the Chair:

Motion by K. Rushlow, 2nd by E. Bluthardt to approve the agenda with the order of discussion to be at the discretion of the chair. All voted aye. Carried.

Approval of the previous minutes:

Motion by K. Rushlow, 2nd by E. Bluthardt to approve the December 8, 2010 minutes as presented. All voted aye. Carried.

Tower issues:

G. Peske reported that the project was essentially completed. D. Leack reported replacement by the vendor of equipment damaged in transit to the LDF tower site. An alarm unit at that site has been replaced under warranty. The system continues to function as planned.

Squad mobile radio upgrade:

G. Peske reported the purchase of sufficient radio units to upgrade Sheriff squads. All radios are operating fine. The existing units were traded in for credit towards the purchase of the new units. Four of the older units were retained for use in the EOC. K. Rushlow asked about any interference issues with local fire and EMS channels. G. Peske reported no problems. He also reported that the new radios were programmed at installation for wide and narrow band frequencies, eliminating the need for additional programming fees when the switch over from wide band to narrow band occurs.

Grant radios:

G. Peske reported the ordering of five radios enhanced with additional features for use by command officers. These radios were purchased using grant dollars.

Sonic Net Land O' Lakes tower:

G. Peske reported that Sonic Net is proposing to construct a communication tower in Land O' Lakes for wireless internet transmissions. That firm has offered to allow the county to co-locate on that tower. D. Leack reported that the proposed tower would not be adequate for use by Vilas County for communication purposes.

County property in Land O' Lakes for tower suitability:

G. Peske reported that PSC Alliance investigated county owned tax deed parcels in Land O' Lakes for tower site suitability. D. Leack reported that none of the sites were suitable. Locating a tower farther to the west would be more advantageous, but no other available sites have been identified. The current WRJO tower site remains the best location in that area for a communication tower.

Wireless and tower zoning ordinance proposed changes:

G. Peske reported that the Zoning Committee continued to work on proposed tower site ordinance changes. He handed out copies of a draft ordinance containing comments provided by Jeff Nelson of PSC Alliance. D. Schmidt said that the Zoning Committee would consider all of the suggestions.

Financial update and budget:

G. Peske handed out copies of four communications related budgets. The Communication Project budget is projected to close with a \$400,000.00 surplus. J. Galloway suggested that the funds be used to install a fire/EMS simulcast system for Vilas County. E. Bluthardt recalled that unspent funds from that project were, by resolution, to be used towards reducing the debt incurred in bonding for the project in 2003. G. Peske reported that the current fire/EMS radio system, although not perfect, was performing adequately. K. Rushlow felt that any remaining project funds could only be used within the scope of the original project, which was to construct a viable county-wide police/fire/EMS radio and wireless communication system covering the entirety of Vilas County. The committee felt that the funds could be used to construct a county owned tower in Land O' Lakes, thus completing the planned communication loop within the county. G. Peske reported that tower costs would exceed the budget surplus. One possibility would be for the county to partner with the owners of the WRJO tower on the development of a taller tower engineered to carry the county's microwave antennas. **Motion by E. Bluthardt, 2nd by K. Rushlow to state that the first priority regarding remaining Communication Project funds is the completion of the current project. Any remaining project funds could then be considered towards the construction of a county owned tower in Land O' Lakes, once the feasibility of that project is determined. All voted aye. Carried.**

The LDF Tower Project budget is over budget by \$8,843.04. The Vilas/Oneida Interoperability outlay has a budget surplus of \$7,744.85. The committee suggested transferring the budget surplus to the account with the budget deficit, thus eliminating most of the overage.

Dispatch console speaker replacement:

G. Peske asked the committee to consider using the Vilas/Oneida Interoperability outlay budget surplus to fund the relocation of the audio speakers on the dispatch console. Refitting four consoles would cost about \$11,200.00. E. Bluthardt suggested finding extra funds in the Sheriff's Dept. budget for that purpose.

Narrow banding:

G. Peske reported that the recently purchased radios were set up for conversion to narrow band frequencies.

Approve bills and requisitions:

The following bills were presented for payment:

Northway Communications – radio installation	\$9,620.00
PSC Alliance – consulting services	\$3,887.70
Northway Communications – radio maintenance contract	\$1,980.00

APCO – FCC licensing services \$ 620.00
Motion by K. Rushlow, 2nd by E. Bluthardt to approve the bills as presented. All voted aye. Carried.

Fire and EMS radio system:

Nothing presented.

OJA IFERN Grant resolution to County Board:

J. Galloway presented a matching fund grant resolution to allow for the purchase of updated fire/EMS channel radios. County funds will not be used to provide the required matching funds. **Motion by K. Rushlow, 2nd by E. Bluthardt to approve the grant request and to send the resolution onto the Law Enforcement Committee for their approval. All voted aye. Carried.**

Letters and communications:

G. Peske referred to a recent letter sent to the Forestry Director by American Tower, regarding their current lease of county lands near Snipe Lake for their tower site. American Tower is proposing to buy out the current lease.

R. De Bruyne described his recent ride-a-long with an on duty Sheriff's Deputy.

Set Next Meeting Date:

The next meeting date will be determined.

Adjournment:

Motion by G. Peske, 2nd by K. Rushlow to adjourn. All voting aye. Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 2:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by:

David R. Alleman, Vilas County Clerk

Minutes reflect the recorder's notations and are subject to approval by the appropriate board or committee.