

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 1:02 P.M. by Chairman Ron De Bruyne in the Vilas County Justice Center basement training room with the following committee members present: Ed Bluthardt, Jim Galloway, John Niebuhr, Gary Peske, Kathleen Rushlow and David Alleman. Also present were Dave Leack representing PSC Alliance, Todd Morgan representing the Arbor Vitae Fire Department, Jeff Collins representing Sonic Net, Peggy Shauer representing Technology Management, Vilas County IT Director Chris Kamps and Vilas County Sheriff's Department Chief Deputy Joe Fath. The Chair verified both proper open meeting notice and quorum present.

Approve the agenda; discuss in any order at the discretion of the Chair:

Motion by E. Bluthardt, 2nd by K. Rushlow 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 E. Bluthardt, 2nd by K. Rushlow to approve the March 4, 2010 minutes as presented. All voted aye. Carried.

Sonic Net new LDF Tribal Tower Lease:

G. Peske reported that Sonic Net requested space on the soon to be completed new Lac du Flambeau tower. Sonic Net will wish to provide wireless internet service to that area. K. Rushlow asked if the contract language was identical to the current co-location contract in force between Sonic Net and Vilas County. Peske replied that it was. There was discussion involving the fact that the Weber tower lease agreement provided Sonic Net with up to one year's free rent, as a concession to help the company become established. J. Collins stated that he was willing to waive the free rent provision. G. Peske will strike that language from the lease. E. Bluthardt questioned if Sonic Net's co-location request was in any way connected to or contingent upon their previous request for a conduit loan through Vilas County. J. Collins replied that it was not. This request is part of a Sonic Net service expansion previously begun in the Minocqua area. E. Bluthardt then recalled that the current Weber lease offered Sonic Net a reduced rental rate. He asked if that reduced rate was negotiable. G. Peske noted that the Weber tower lease could be renegotiated at the time of the first 5-year lease renewal period. The same terms apply for the Lac du Flambeau tower lease. J. Collins stated that Sonic Net's service rates were predicated upon those reduced rates; any increases may cause Sonic Net to increase their rates to the public. He also stated that if the lease was granted, he would not be installing equipment until all of the County's equipment was in place.

Motion by K. Rushlow, 2nd by E. Bluthardt to approve the co-location lease with Sonic Net on the new Lac du Flambeau tower, with the rental period to begin when Sonic Net has their equipment installed. All voted aye. Carried.

Project budget and financial update:

Financial data concerning the LDF tower project was presented and discussed.

Town of Lac du Flambeau tower project:

G. Peske reported that it would be necessary to reposition antennas and equipment at the Musky Mountain tower site, as part of connecting the microwave link to the new LDF

tower. Because of this, Musky Mt. tower owner WE Energies is requesting that Vilas County conduct an inventory of all equipment located at that site. D. Leack estimates the cost at \$3,000.00. G. Peske also reported that upon completion of the microwave system, the system would need comprehensive testing and tuning by a microwave engineer, at a cost of \$11,000.00. **Motion by E. Bluthardt, 2nd by R. De Bruyne to approve both expenses. All voted aye. Carried.**

J. Leack and G. Peske presented the following reports:

Microwave equipment for LDF tower:

Microwave equipment is ordered and an attempt is being made to expedite delivery. Installation and testing is scheduled for July 21st.

Antennas and lines for LDF tower:

Microwave antennas and lines will soon be installed. Radio antennas cannot be moved from the Tribal tower until after the installation of the microwave equipment. G. Peske reported the need to purchase the radio antennas and lines from Northway Communications at a cost of \$12,500.00. **Motion by E. Bluthardt, 2nd by K. Rushlow to approve the purchase. All voted aye. Carried.**

Tower status:

The tower has been erected and grounding is nearly complete. The road to the site is being improved.

Fence quotes:

G. Peske presented the following bids for site fencing. Bids are for a chain link fence to enclose a 75' x 75' area, including one 12' wide entry gate and installation.

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|----------------|------------|
| American Fence | \$6,750.00 |
| Frontier Fence | \$6,979.00 |

Motion by E. Bluthardt, 2nd by J. Niebuhr to accept the low bid of \$6,750.00 from American Fence. All voted aye. Carried. D. Leack stated that the fence would be installed upon completion of the grounding work.

Shelter status:

The shelter has been delivered and installed. G. Peske reported a \$3,250.00 change order from Sabre Towers for additional shelter installation tasks and crane rental. **Motion by E. Bluthardt, 2nd by D. Alleman to approve the change order. All voted aye. Carried.**

Electrical work:

Electric service to the site and into the shelter has been installed and is operational.

Co-locators:

G. Peske reported that he had contacted all area wireless providers. There is interest, but no action should be expected in 2010 as wireless company co-location project budgets are set for the year.

Arbor Vitae interference issue:

T. Morgan reported continued interference issues with Town of Arbor Vitae fire pagers. The situation has not improved with the purchase of upgraded pagers. Dispatches are not being received by some personnel, or are so garbled as to be intelligible. Location appears to play some role in the problem, although personnel residing closer to the Musky Mt. tower site also experience the problem. E. Bluthardt questioned the County's responsibility regarding the dispatches and the equipment. G. Peske answered that Vilas County had always provided the fire dispatch network, and the local departments

provided their own radio equipment. He added that from a public safety standpoint, the responsibility is shared between the County and the local fire departments. E. Bluthardt concurred with that opinion. R. De Bruyne asked if there was any contractual obligation, and G. Peske replied that there was no contract in force. R. De Bruyne expressed a loss of patience concerning this problem and the lack of a solution. D. Leack stated that much testing and trouble shooting had been conducted, both onsite in Arbor Vitae and at the Musky Mt. tower site. He believes that there could still be signal interference and configuration issues undiscovered. He recommends that the Motorola Co. engineer, who will be onsite upon the start up of the Musky Mt. to LDF tower microwave and radio link, test the entire system. G. Peske also stated that upon completion of the new LDF tower, a fire repeater would be installed and programmed to also dispatch Arbor Vitae. An additional fire repeater for Arbor Vitae was also discussed, but deemed problematic due to the possibility of additional dispatch errors. This issue is to be kept on the agenda until resolved.

Termination of LDF tower lease:

G. Peske reported the need to give the Tribe 180 days notice that Vilas County wished to terminate the current co-location lease regarding the Tribal tower site. **Motion by E. Bluthardt, 2nd by K. Rushlow to authorize that lease termination notice be given to the Tribe. All voted aye. Carried.**

Oneida – Vilas interoperability project:

G. Peske reported the need to purchase and install the tower components needed by Vilas County as part of the shared Oneida – Vilas interoperability project. Northway Communications will provide the antenna and line installation for \$12,000.00. **Motion by E. Bluthardt, 2nd by K. Rushlow to approve the purchase. All voted aye. Carried.**

Mobile data project:

Project update:

G. Peske reported that recent improvements in wireless modem technologies would allow Vilas County to upgrade the mobile data project from a radio based to a wireless based data delivery system. The new technology has been tested throughout the county, and will provide for far better reception coverage than the previously planned for radio system. System equipment costs can also be reduced by over \$125,000.00. D. Alleman asked about the earlier purchase of used radio equipment earmarked for this project. G. Peske replied that the equipment would be surplus and put up for sale, but that the move to wireless mobile data delivery would limit interest by potential buyers. P. Shauer stated that this particular type of wireless system was not yet available when plans for this project were being formulated. She also stated that wireless technology is far superior to radio technology and would see widespread implementation and use.

Budget:

The mobile data project portion of the communication budget contains sufficient funds for the upgrade to a wireless system.

Equipment purchases:

Motion by E. Bluthardt, 2nd by K. Rushlow to approve the purchase of the wireless mobile data equipment at the budgeted price of \$257,988.00. All voted aye. Carried.

Approve bills and requisitions:

The following bills were presented by the Clerk for approval:

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|-----------------------|--------------|
| Technology Management | \$ 3,450.00 |
| Eagle Electric | \$ 9,717.81 |
| PSC Alliance | \$ 18,768.00 |
| Sabre Tower & Poles | \$ 44,294.00 |

Motion by G. Peske, 2nd by E. Bluthardt to approve the bills as presented. All voted aye. Carried.

Correspondence:

Nothing presented.

Set next meeting date:

The next meeting date will be determined as needed.

Adjournment:

Motion by K. Rushlow, 2nd by D. Alleman to adjourn. All voting aye. Carried.
Meeting adjourned at 2:54 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by:
David R. Alleman, Vilas County Clerk