

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. John Niebuhr was excused. Also present were Dave Leack and Jeff Nelson representing PSC Alliance, Vilas County Sheriff's Department Chief Deputy Joe Fath, Town of Lac du Flambeau Supervisor Matt Gaulke, Steve Beil representing Northway Communications, Gary Ledin and BJ Buss representing Motorola, Vilas County Corporation Counsel Martha Milanowski and Lakeland Times reporter Laurel Carlson. 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 G. Peske, 2nd by K. Rushlow to approve the July 30, 2010 minutes as presented. All voted aye. Carried.

Project budget and financial update:

G. Peske presented a project budget synopsis indicating that \$579,375.00 in funds remained at the close of August, 2010.

Fire and EMS Simulcast system:

G. Peske presented a proposed use for remaining project funds. Although not planned for in the original project, there is a need to update and improve the fire paging system that is in use. The current systems only allows fire pages to be sent out by department and tower site. A simulcast system would allow cross county paging of all fire/EMS services. E. Bluthardt asked if any approval was previously given for this project to move forward. G. Peske replied that this project is still in the discussion stages. The funds may also be used to update the radio units used by the Sheriff's Dept. The current units are at the very end of their service and support life and are experiencing operational issues that, as of yet, cannot be solved. E. Bluthardt felt that a choice needed to be made between the fire paging system and new radios. G. Peske agreed that both needs should be part of discussions. Costs of both proposals will be presented at a future meeting.

Line item transfer Code Red:

A line item transfer request was presented that would transfer \$5,000.00 from the Communication maintenance budget into the Code Red services expense line. This action is needed to pay for additional unbudgeted Code Red services. **Motion by E. Bluthardt, 2nd by K. Rushlow to approve the line item transfer. All voted aye. Carried.** The Finance & Budget Committee has already approved the transfer.

SonicNet LDF-Weber leases:

G. Peske reported that SonicNet has a number of outstanding equipment and operational issues remaining to be resolved regarding that company's co-location lease agreements with Vilas County, at the Weber and Eagle River tower sites. G. Peske indicated that

SonicNet has not responded to his correspondences regarding these issues. He would like to delay entering into a co-location lease agreement with SonicNet at the new LDF tower site until this issue is rectified. M. Gaulke objected to the possible delay to the proposed wireless internet service, to be provided by SonicNet, which such action could cause in the Lac du Flambeau community. He pointed out that Lac du Flambeau's financial partnership with Vilas County regarding that tower was primarily as a means to secure a local site and a tower of sufficient height to co-locate wireless internet service. The Committee discussed their options. **Motion by E. Bluthardt, 2nd by K. Rushlow to ask the Corporation Counsel to draft a letter to SonicNet demanding that these issues be resolved in the next 7-10 days. G. Peske is to provide Counsel the specific items needing attention. All voted aye. Carried.**

Lac du Flambeau tower project update:

J. Nelson reported that microwave equipment was delivered and installed last week. The link is up and operational. Transfer of other County equipment from the LDF Tribal tower will occur in October. Vilas County's use of the Tribal LDF tower should be finished by November 1, 2010.

Arbor Vitae interference issue:

G. Peske reported that fire repeater antenna locations were changed on the Musky Mt. tower. Current reports indicate that fire paging interference issues have ceased in Arbor Vitae.

Wireless tower issues:

Nothing presented.

Mobile data project:

G. Peske reported that the project was virtually complete and operating as planned.

American Tower lease request:

American Tower Co. is proposing the following lease amendments regarding the tower site that they lease from the County on lands adjacent to Wilderness Trail, near Snipe Lake:

1. Proposed lease term buy-out of \$30,805.00.
 2. Proposed easement over County lands into the tower site.
 3. Proposed option to purchase the property at the conclusion of the lease term for \$1.00.
- The Committee discussed the proposals. **Motion by K. Rushlow, 2nd by E. Bluthardt to inform American Tower Co. that the County will not consider any amendments to the current tower site lease at this time. All voting aye. Carried.**

Oneida – Vilas interoperability project:

J. Nelson reported that the Vilas County portion is complete and operational. Antennas at the Oneida County site are being installed, with equipment to follow.

2011 Communication Committee budget:

G. Peske presented a 2011 Communications Operations budget totaling \$113,710.00. After discussions, \$15,000.00 for Code Red Services were removed, to be placed into a

separate budget line, and \$5,500.00 for a fire repeater was removed, to be placed into an Outlay account as per previous practice. \$1,000.00 was added to the site utility budget line. The modified budget request totaled \$94,210.00. **Motion by E. Bluthardt, 2nd by R. De Bruyne to approve the 2011 budget request and to send it to the Finance & Budget Committee for their approval. All voted aye. Carried.**

Approve Bills and Requisitions:

The following bills were presented by the Clerk for approval:

Cummins NPower LLC \$1,960.85

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

Correspondence:

Nothing presented.

Set Next Meeting Date:

The next meeting date will be determined.

Adjournment:

Motion by E. Bluthardt, 2nd by K. Rushlow to adjourn. All voting aye. Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 2:51 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by:

David R. Alleman, Vilas County Clerk