

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: Jim Galloway, Gary Peske and David Alleman. Vilas County Board Chair Stephen Favorite took part in discussion and action as an ex-officio member. Ed Bluthardt and Frank Tomlanovich were both excused and Kathleen Rushlow was absent. Also present were Dave Leack representing PSC Alliance; Steve Beil representing Northway Communications; Joe Spair representing Motorola; Rich Martinson representing the Conover Fire Dept. and Jim Hanson representing the Boulder Junction Fire Dept. The Chair verified both proper open meeting notice and quorum present.

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

Motion by S. Favorite, 2nd by D. Alleman 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 R. De Bruyne to approve the July 20, 2011 minutes as presented. All voted aye. Carried.

Tower issues:

G. Peske has been contacted by a firm wishing to co-locate on the LDF tower. This co-location initially would be non-operable; it would initially be obtained to continue the current FCC licensing for that company's frequency. A lease amount needs to be negotiated and there remains space for additional co-locators. PSC Alliance inspected all tower sites and radio installations. Any problems found were corrected.

Proposed AT&T equipment upgrade and lease amendment Weber Tower:

G. Peske reported that AT&T has yet to commence negotiations.

Conover fire & EMS paging problems:

G. Peske reported that federally mandated narrow banding of radio transmission frequencies resulted in reduced radio coverage in the Conover area. Fire and EMS paging is adversely affected. The immediate fix has been to use the Code Red system, which is not cost effective. A long-term solution is to install a simulcast system for all fire and EMS transmissions. R. De Bruyne reported that after attending a recent Fire Chief's meeting, four area fire departments are experiencing paging problems, apparently due to narrow banding. J. Spair recommends allowing Motorola to help engineer a solution.

Conover tower proposal:

A portion of the proposed simulcast system involves the installation of a relatively small tower in Conover.

Financial update and budget:

G. Peske handed out copies of four communications related budgets. The Communication Project is now projected to finish with a \$350,000.00 budget surplus. The Clerk reported that the Capital Projects – LDF Tower Project budget was overspent by \$9,710.64. This

budget deficit needs to be zeroed out. The Clerk recommends transferring \$7,744.85 in surplus funds from the Vilas/Oneida Interoperability outlay and \$1,965.79 in surplus Capital Projects-Communications Project funds into that account. **Motion by R. De Bruyne, 2nd by S. Favorite to request that the Finance & Budget Committee approve a line item transfer of funds into the Capital Projects – LDF Tower Project expense line. All voted aye. Carried.**

Fire and EMS system, simulcast – discussion and possible action:

G. Peske presented a cost proposal for a countywide fire and EMS simulcast system and this was discussed. The system is projected to cost \$797,200.00. It is estimated that \$350,000.00 in unspent funds remains in the Communications Project budget. The remainder would need to be newly levied funds. J. Spair stated that Motorola offered lease-purchase financing for this type of installation. He can provide a cost proposal for a five to six year term lease-purchase. The Clerk recommended that a resolution to the County Board be submitted by the Communication Committee, requesting that the funds remaining in the Capital Projects – Communications Project budget be used to help fund a capital Projects – Fire & EMS Simulcast System Project budget. A simulcast project will also require County Board approval. **Motion by G. Peske, 2nd by J. Galloway that a resolution be prepared for committee approval, requesting that the County Board approve a Fire & EMS Simulcast Project and the transfer of remaining unspent funds from the Capital Projects – Communications Project budget. All voted aye. Carried. Motion by G. Peske, 2nd by D. Alleman that Motorola be requested to provide a simulcast system equipment list, including costs, and that Motorola also provide leasing expense and terms information. All voted aye. Carried. D. Leack reported that the simulcast system cost estimate prepared by PSC Alliance needed to be refined and formalized. Motion by J. Galloway, 2nd by G. Peske to authorize PSC Alliance to prepare a formalized simulcast project cost estimate and construction proposal. All voted aye. Carried.**

WISCOM System access:

J. Galloway reported that eight radios were purchased using recently received grant funds. These command radios will also allow access to the statewide WISCOM communication network. Vilas County can access that system at no cost, but an application needs to be approved and filed. **Motion by G. Peske, 2nd by J. Galloway to authorize the filing of an application for Vilas County to access the WISCOM system. All voted aye. Carried.**

Dispatch console speaker replacement:

G. Peske reported that this project has been put on hold.

Narrow banding:

G. Peske reported that the conversion to FCC mandated narrow band frequencies was complete.

OJA IFERN Grant:

J. Galloway reported that IFERN grant funds were received. The grant funds allowed the purchase of two radios installed at Musky Mt.

Land O' Lakes tower project:

G. Peske reported no further communication from the tower owner.

2012 Communication Committee budget approval:

G. Peske submitted a proposed Communications budget for 2012. The budget totals \$125,446.00, indicating an increase of \$11,236.00 over the 2011 approved budget. The increase is due primarily to increased utility and maintenance contract costs. **Motion by R. De Bruyne, 2nd by S. Favorite to submit the 2012 budget proposal to the Finance & Budget Committee for their approval. All voted aye. Carried.**

Approve bills and requisitions:

The following bill was presented for payment:

Town of Land O' Lakes – snow plowing \$610.00

Motion by G. Peske, 2nd by S. Favorite to approve the bill as presented. All voted aye. Carried.

Letters and communications:

J. Galloway reported that the local Fire Chiefs & EMS Association was requesting that a member of that organization be given a seat on the Vilas County Communication Committee. S. Favorite recommended sending that request to the Legislative & Judicial Committee for discussion.

Set Next Meeting Date:

The next meeting was set for 1:00 P.M. Friday, October 14, 2011.

Adjournment:

Motion by S. Favorite, 2nd by D. Alleman to adjourn. All voting aye. Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 3:06 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.