

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, Frank Tomlanovich and David Alleman. Also present were Dave Leack and Jeff Nelson representing PSC Alliance; Jim Hanson representing the Boulder Junction Fire Dept.; Marcus Nesemann representing the Lakeland Times. The Chair verified both proper open meeting notice and quorum present.

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

Motion by F. Tomlanovich, 2nd by G. Peske 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 F. Tomlanovich to approve the October 14, 2011 minutes as presented. All voted aye. Carried.

Weber tower lights:

G. Peske reported on the recent failure of the warning lights system at the Weber tower. The failure was the result of lightning damage. Repairs cost \$8,638.97. An insurance claim will be submitted.

Winchester tower generator tune up:

G. Peske reported that the firm that inspects the tower site emergency generators recommends that the Winchester generator be tuned up, at a cost of \$1,137.74. A local electrical contractor is willing to do the job for no more than \$400.00. **Motion by R. De Bruyne, 2nd by F. Tomlanovich that Karl's Electrical Service is contracted to tune up the Winchester tower site emergency generator. All voted aye. Carried.**

Land O' Lakes snowplowing:

G. Peske reported on snowplowing issues at the Land O' Lakes tower site. The county lease with WRJO specifies that the county provide snow plowing for the tower site access road. The county has been contracting annually with the Town of Land O' Lakes for that service at a cost of \$610.00. The access road, upon which WRJO has an easement, has become overgrown to the point that town snowplowing equipment can no longer access the site. The owner of the road will not agree to have the road brushed back. G. Peske has found a private plow operator with smaller equipment, who will provide snow plowing services, also for \$610.00 per season.

Fire and EMS simulcast radio system:

J. Nelson reported on fire and EMS simulcast issues. Problems with fire and EMS pages and radio communications remain at three sites. Solutions are being discussed with Motorola, and projected costs for that company's services range from \$488,620.00 to \$657,329.00. J. Nelson cautioned that Motorola's costs were only one part of a four part "bucket" of expenses that will need to be incurred to install a simulcast system. The current microwave system will continue to be utilized. Possible expansions to Arbor Vitae, Conover and Presque Isle will be constructed using microwave links of lesser

capacity than currently used in the county's communication trunk system. Each site may also require a 100 to 120 foot tower. Existing local towers will be considered. E. Bluthardt asked if there was any formal agreement in existence that stipulated that the county provide this service. G. Peske replied that past practice dictated that the local fire departments, meaning the towns, provided their own radios, pagers and other communication devices; the county provides the overall communication infrastructure. E. Bluthardt also asked about completing the microwave link circling the county by constructing a tower in Land O' Lakes. Issues regarding that tower and location were discussed. E. Bluthardt favors combining the fire and EMS simulcast project with the construction of a tower in Land O' Lakes, as a means of bringing the seven-year communication project to completion. G. Peske wants to move this issue forward to County Board as soon as final project scope and costs can be identified. R. De Bruyne will inform the County Board on January 24, 2012 regarding this issue. **Motion by E. Bluthardt, 2nd by K. Rushlow to proceed with the determination of project scope and costs, and to bring said project by resolution to the County Board in March 2012, or sooner if a special County Board meeting is scheduled for February 2012. All voted aye. Carried.**

K. Rushlow excused herself from the meeting at 1:45 P.M.

Tower issues:

G. Peske reported that King Street Wireless is utilizing the Lac du Flambeau tower, per the lease agreement.

Financial update and budget:

G. Peske reported that the 2011 Communication operating budget remains in the black. Remaining Communication Project funds will be used to make the 2012 Communication loan payment.

Approve bills and requisitions:

Motion by D. Alleman, 2nd by E. Bluthardt to approve all bills as presented. All voted aye. Carried.

Letters and communications: R. De Bruyne discussed the future of the Communication Committee. Current committee makeup is not in accordance with the Standing Rules, which require that the committee consist of a majority of elected county board members. This will be rectified no later than April 2012.

Set next meeting date and time: The next meeting will be held on a date to be determined.

Adjournment: **Motion by E. Bluthardt, 2nd by F. Tomlanovich to adjourn. All voting aye. Carried.** Meeting adjourned at 2:07 P.M.

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