

**Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 PM by Chairman Ronald De Bruyne in the Vilas County Justice Center conference room with the following committee members present:

Frank Tomlanovich

Gary Peske

Jim Galloway

Steve Favorite, County Board Chair, ex-officio member

Excused:

Edward Bluthardt, member

Kathleen Rushlow, member

Dave Alleman, member

Other Attendees:

Jim Behling, County Board member

Dave Leack, PSC Alliance

Steve Beil, Northway Communications

James Hanson, Vilas County Fire Chief's and Emergency Services Association

The Chair verified both proper open meeting notice and quorum present.

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

**Motion by Steve Favorite, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jim Galloway to approve the agenda with the order of discussion to be determined by the Chair. All voting aye. Carried.**

**Approval of the previous minutes:**

**Motion by Gary Peske, 2<sup>nd</sup> by frank Tomlanovich to approve the September 28, 2011 minutes as presented. All voting aye. Carried.**

**Tower Issues:**

Land O Lakes Tower:

Gary Peske reported that he received a call from Connie Sparks, Town of Land O Lakes, concerning the plowing of the road accessing the Land O Lakes tower site. Connie reported the road is presently overgrown with underbrush and cannot be effectively plowed in its current condition. The situation is further complicated by the road being an easement road controlled by a private landowner. Gary Peske has contacted Heartland Communications and requested a representative of that organization to contact the landowner controlling the easement to negotiate the clearing of the road.

**King Street wireless application for LDF tower:**

King Street Communication Co. has indicated a desire to place an antenna on the Lac du Flambeau tower. They have indicated their intent in placing this antenna is to serve as a placeholder for their licensing requirements. They have proposed a monthly rental rate of \$2.00 per foot of antenna elevation and desire to be placed at the 220 foot level. It must be noted that the Lac du Flambeau tower was funded by both the Town of Lac du Flambeau and Vilas County therefore requiring all revenues produced by the tower to be divided with 60% going to Vilas County and 40% going to the Town of Lac du Flambeau. Additionally a question was raised concerning the tower having the structural capability to accommodate an additional antenna. Gary Peske answered the tower structure was designed to accommodate 2 additional co-locators. No action was taken on this proposal.

**Conover fire and EMS paging:**

To be included in the discussion of agenda item 10 'Fire and EMS simulcast radio system'.

**Conover tower proposal:**

To be included in the discussion of agenda item 10 'Fire and EMS simulcast radio system'.

**2012 Communication Committee Budget:**

The 2012 Communication Committee Budget was previously approve by this committee and has been forwarded to the Finance Committee for their consideration.

**Financial update and budget:**

To be included in the discussion of agenda item 10 'Fire and EMS simulcast radio system'.

**Fire and EMS simulcast radio system:**

A lengthy discussion took place within the committee that addressed many points including, but not limited to the following:

- A brief chronology of the Communications Capital Project to date.
- Why this project was focused primarily on law enforcement and the improvements it provided.
- A description of the characteristics of and differences between the current law enforcement and fire & EMS communication systems.
- Current operational deficiencies in the fire & EMS communication system due to the federally mandated conversion to narrowband radio infrastructure.
- Current operational inefficiencies within the municipal emergency response community due to the present configuration of the fire & EMS communication system.
- Current operational inefficiencies within the communications center due to the present configuration of the fire & EMS communication system.
- What actions were taken by the Communications Committee to mitigate the effect of the narrowband conversion in anticipation of the conversion being completed.

- Possible system infrastructure changes to be made to the current fire & EMS communication system including the anticipated cost of these changes and possible funding strategies to accomplish these changes.
- The anticipated length of operational service expected from the infrastructure changes discussed.

**A motion was made by Ronald De Bruyne, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Steve Favorite to draft a resolution to the Vilas County Board of Supervisors that includes the following points:**

- **Extend the Communications Capital Project.**
- **Select an equipment leasing option and determine the 1<sup>st</sup> year payment.**
- **Carry over the remaining funds within the Communications Capital Project.**

**All voting aye. Carried.**

**Land O Lakes Tower project:**

No discussion or action was taken.

**Approve bills and requisitions:**

No bills or requisitions were presented.

**Letters and communications:**

Ron De Bruyne stated the Vilas County Fire Chief's and Emergency Services Association had requested representation on the Communication Committee and James Hanson was in attendance to fill that role. Steve Favorite stated that Mr. Hanson's appointment was currently being considered by the Legislative and Judicial Committee.

**Set next meeting date and time:**

The next meeting will be scheduled as needed.

**Adjournment:**

**Motion by Ronald De Bruyne, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Gary Peske to adjourn. All voting aye. Carried.**

Respectfully submitted by:

James Galloway, Vilas County Emergency Management