

COMMUNICATONS COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes of Monday, February 19, 2014

Agenda Item #1: Call to order. The Chairman calls the Communications Committee Meeting to Order at 10:30 AM at the Vilas County Courthouse Conference Rooms 2 & 3, 330 Court St. Eagle River, Wisconsin. Chris Mayer recognizes that a quorum is present.

Committee Members Present: Chris Mayer, Chairman
Ron DeBruyne, Vice-Chairman
Sig Hjermvick
Mark Rogacki (Arrived at 10:55 AM)

Others Present: Sheriff Joseph A. Fath
Chief Deputy Mark Collins
Lt. Dale Soltow
Jason Hilgers
Ken Anderson
Bruce Rowell
Martha Milanowski
John (Heartland Business Systems)

Agenda Item #2, Approve Agenda: **Motion by Ron DeBruyne to approve the agenda in any order to be discussed by the Chair, seconded by Sig Hjermvick; All say Aye, motion carried.**

Agenda Item #3, Approval of the previous minutes: **Motion by Ron DeBruyne to accept the previous meeting minutes as presented, seconded by Sig Hjermvick, All say Aye, motion carried.**

Agenda Item #4, Request for Proposals for Outside Legal Counsel: Chris Mayer updated Sig Hjermvick of what was discussed and decided at the previous meeting. Martha Milanowski distributed a Request for Proposals for Outside Legal Counsel Draft to the committee members. The proposal was to seek bids from outside legal counsel to represent Vilas County in its interest in an easement in regards to Vilas County Case 2012CV000222, Heartland Communications Group, LLC v. Thomas A. Rohloff. **Motion by Sig Hjermvick to proceed with the posting of the Request for Proposals, seconded by Ron DeBruyne, All say Aye, motion carried.**

Agenda Item #5, Connecting Northland Pines School District with Vilas County Public Safety: Bruce Rowell from Access Engineering gave a presentation in regards to running fiber optics to the Northland Pines School District to live stream communications to the Vilas County Dispatch Center. He discussed the options of using COPS Grants to run fiber optics from the schools. John from Heartland Business Systems presented that they do business with about 200 of the

400 school districts in regards to Information Technology. Heartland Business works with Northland Pines and Bruce Rowell wants to bring Ogema Communications, if Ogema Communications happens, into the picture to help with achieving grants to upgrade the school's technology for public safety. Rowell states that the state will be mandated to move to 700 MHz for bandwidth making Vilas County's current communications system obsolete in the next few years. Chris Mayer would like the Vilas County Sheriff and the Vilas County Finance Director to work together and get involved.

Agenda Item #6, Letters and communications: Nothing discussed.

Agenda Item #7, Set next meeting date and time: The next meeting date was set for April 9, 2014.

Agenda Item #8, Adjournment: **The meeting of the Communications Committee was adjourned at 11:18 am.**

Agenda Item #6, Committee may take action on matters discussed in closed session: **Motion by Ron DeBruyne to provide written notice to Heartland Communications to negotiate a new contract for lease of the Heartland Communications Tower, Land O' Lakes, seconded by Mark Rogacki, all say Aye, motion carried. Motion by Mark Rogacki to draft an RFP for outside legal services for representing Vilas County's interest in Vilas County Case #2012CV000222 and tower access, seconded by Ron DeBruyne, all say Aye, motion carried.**

Agenda Item #7, Fire/EMS Simulcast Project report: James Galloway reports the system has now been up and operating for about 2 weeks and it is working well. Chris Mayer advised the committee that the firefighters and EMT's that he has talked to have given him good reports on the new system.

Agenda Item #8, Expansion of County Wide channel to Lac du Flambeau and Weber Towers: James Galloway explained that expanding the County Wide channel to Lac du Flambeau and Weber Towers will give departments equal access to the County Wide channels. The departments have been trained to limit their use of the Vilas Fire channel because it is the emergency channel for all of the Vilas County Departments. This will allow the Eagle River Fire/EMS departments and Lac du Flambeau Fire/EMS to have an alternate repeated channel to use. **Motion by Ron DeBruyne to repurpose two repeaters for the County Wide channel at a cost not to exceed \$27,500.00, seconded by Mark Rogacki, all say Aye, motion carried.**

Agenda Item #9, System Operation Report: Still working with Motorola to fix the issue with the Sheriff's Office mobile radios.

Agenda Item #10, Tower Issues: Lt. Soltow reported that some lights were replaced at the Weber Tower and they are waiting to be invoiced. Ron DeBruyne asked if the alarm and monitoring systems are adequate. Lt. Soltow explained that they are exploring options to upgrade the system as part of the Fire/EMS Simulcast project.

Agenda Item #11, 2013 Communications Budget report: Lt. Soltow reports that the 2013 Communications Budget should be complete with approximately \$6,845.00 left unexpended. Jason Hilgers commented that the revenues are up too.

Agenda Item #12, Communications Project Budget: James Galloway reported that there are some items left to pay for under the budget but it is still under budget.

Agenda Item #13, Letters and communications: Chris Mayer has had members of fire departments and ambulance departments ask about getting help with paying for the reprogramming of their radios. James Galloway explained that Northway has agreed to a lower price for reprogramming the radios.

Agenda Item #14, Set next meeting date and time: The next meeting is set for February 19, 2014 at 9:00 AM.

Agenda Item #15, Adjournment: **The meeting of the Communications Committee was adjourned at 12:55 PM**