



Communications Board
Fire and Emergency Medical Services
Monroe County, New York

Maggie Brooks
County Executive

Laurence Vaughan
Chairman

MINUTES OF MEETING: April 20, 2006

- VOTING MEMBERS:** Brian Ball, Patty Bietry, Jay Coates, Jack DeLisio, Scott Lancaster, John Merklinger, Diana Pfersick, Jim Quinn, Larry Vaughan and Tim Warth
- NON-VOTING MEMBERS:** Tim Czapranski, Tom Link, Mike Lissow, Larry Mancine, Gary Perkins, Rich Verdouw and Hank Wehner
- OTHERS ATTENDING:** James Cary (Ridge Road FD), Jim Herbst (Radio Center), Bob Holmes (Perinton Ambulance), and Bill Rickman (Ridge Road FD)
- EXCUSED:** Steve Bowman, Ed Mager, Steve McClary, Ed Riley, Dave Timmons and Rick Zwaga
- ABSENT:** Tom Coyle

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Larry Vaughan at 5:02 p.m.

A quorum of voting members was present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by John Merklinger to approve the February meeting minutes, seconded by Tim Warth. **Carried.**

COMMUNICATIONS

Board Secretary Larry Mancine reported the Fire Bureau Office received a call from Red VerWeire today (4/20), and informed us that he has been discharged from Park Ridge Hospital and is now recuperating at home.

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

Refarming Committee – John Merklinger distributed 2 handouts to the board. The first one was a memo that went to all 911 agencies regarding station PC replacements and mapping upgrades. The second handout was a draft which was about channel numbering and resource typing. Much discussion ensued, and it was decided that the draft document will be revised to reflect requested changes. The primary issue of concern was to change the “500” frequency ID numbers to avoid confusion with the West Brighton Fire Department’s numbers that are currently assigned to their pumps.

Digital Paging Committee – Rich Verdouw reported the following. The “H-200” pagers arrived last week. A digital page was sent out to the battalion reps via their 2-way pagers, but was not responded to 100%. Rich would like to have the assigned sub-committee meet to help plan distribution and set-up of the new pagers which are due to arrive around the 2nd week of May. The new pagers have not been manufactured yet, but once completed should take little time from production to shipping. Any time that someone could volunteer once the pagers arrive would be greatly appreciated. Jim Herbst added that PSC is working with the County Legal Department to move forward with new site approvals. The 2nd window for ordering new pagers will be open until approximately the end of June. A series of “fail” tests will be done before system final acceptance. Much discussion ensued, and it was decided that this committee will meet and hopefully come up with a plan of attack that is specific and definite. This plan will be sent out to all departments so the battalion representatives know what to tell their respective departments.

Communications Rules & Regulations Committee – Diana Pfersick distributed a “second draft” which needs further review. She also mentioned that Steve Bowman has some questions regarding this handbook, and should have more information for us at our next meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Rich Verdouw informed the board that Narrowbanding is currently “on hold”. Regarding the City of Rochester Fire Department Channel 1, Rich will meet with Steve Bowman and Ed Riley on this issue, and the goal is to have a letter to all County Chiefs requesting their narrowband compliance status.

BATTALION REPORTS - Due to the length of various discussions, there was not enough time to give battalion reports at this meeting.

911 DIRECTOR’S REPORT – John Merklinger reported the following: They will be upgrading the network at the ECD during the month of May. The installation of the new digital phone switch is now complete. Year end reports have been mailed out.

ANYTHING FOR THE GOOD OF THE BOARD - Due to the length of various discussions, there was not enough time for any other business at this meeting.

A motion to adjourn was then made by Diana Pfersick, seconded by Chief Jack DeLisio. The meeting was adjourned at 6:27 p.m.

Larry Mancine, Secretary
Fire/EMS Communications Board

The next meeting of the Fire/EMS Communications Board is scheduled for Thursday, May 18th, 5:00 p.m. at the Public Safety Training Facility in the STEP Conference Room.