

Minutes of the
Communication Up-Grade Committee
July 16, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm by Sgt. Mike Moser, Jo Daviess County Sheriff Department.

Present were;

Mike Moser, Sheriff Department
Bill Cooper, County Board
Marv Schultz, County Board
Tom Winter, JDSO/Galena EMS
Ben Petitgout, JDSO
Dan Schleicher, Elizabeth Fire/EMS
Bill Moser, (representing Jerry Westemeier) Galena Police
Kevin Turner
John Duerr, Scales Mound Fire
Tim Taylor, Comelec Services
Ron Amundson, Comelec Services
Joe Heim, East Dubuque Fire Chief

The committee was formed as a sub-committee of the Law & Courts Committee. The committee was charged to investigate, evaluate and to make recommendations to the communication system that the Sheriff's department currently uses.

Those present selected Sgt. Mike Moser as the chairperson of the committee and Bill Cooper was selected as the vice-chair and secretary. The members present also have designated that the 3rd Thursday of the month, at 5:30 pm would be the meeting night and time.

Some of the points that were discussed were as follows;

Equipment

1. Communications Center equipment is approximately 20-25 years old. (2 positions).
 - i. The electronic cards that are used to make the needed calls to the outer towns are outdated and there are no replacements because they are not made anymore. Other parts that are needed to keep the consoles working are hard to get. Currently parts
 - ii. are being cannibalized from other like equipment that has been retired. The last card has been used and if it goes out there will be only one position in operation.
2. Repeaters that serve the county are approximately 15 years old.
 - i. Repeaters are served by local phone lines and when they go down there is a long wait time as the line go through many different telephone companies. There is no continuity between phone companies. They do not treat the down line with any priority. Currently Comelec works to get the telephone lines up and running. This operation is inefficient and time consuming.

3. Mobile Radios are old and will soon be obsolete.
 - i. Many of the radios in the county are old and will have to be replaced when the county switches to "Narrow-Band". Some of the newer radios will be compatible with the new bandwidths.
4. Paging Equipment is also is antiquated and will need to be replaced somewhere along the line.

Other points discussed were as follows;

- A. Most present equipment will have to be replaced or upgraded by the time "Narrow-Band" goes into effect. This date has been determined as January of 2013.
- B. Communication grants must be found to fund most of these upgrades. It was suggested that we set up a regional communication center to include surrounding counties. This would make for a better chance of getting grants approved.
- C. Local 911 boards would have to review any projects before they would contribute any funding.
- D. Any new towers constructed in the county would have to have space provided for any future county connections.
- E. Phone lines need to be replaced with microwave technology. Cost of the existing line is getting cost prohibitive.
- F. An engineering study should be initiated to determine what equipment will need to be replaced first. The consultant should have a communication engineering background. Also have some knowledge of the workings of Fire, Police and EMS departments.
- G. Starecom was discussed and could be a source of information.
- H. The committee will need a list of all the equipment from all police, fire, security and EMS departments in the county with a notation of which piece of equipment will need to be replaced first. Sgt. Moser will see that all departments are notified.

It was determined that;

1. IP (computers) is the future and the system should be evaluated. More stations can be added without difficulty
2. Tri-County or Regional cooperation should be investigated.
3. Text paging is also a future item.
4. Phone lines should be replaced with micro-wave towers.
5. Cost study should be enacted.
6. A list of all county equipment should be submitted.
7. Grants should be found.
8. Replacement costs by insurance should be investigated.

9. What will be the impact of the new "Narrow-Band" be on the county.
10. Replacement of equipment should be prioritized on a cost basis.

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 pm. The next meeting will be on August 20, 2009 at 5:30 pm