



# METCOM 9-1-1

## Governing Board Meeting Minutes

February 14, 2023

### Meeting held in person, conference call and via Zoom

#### Members in Attendance:

Sherry Bensema  
Mark Daniel  
Jordan Donate  
Damian Flowers  
Ed Grambusch  
Gwen Johns  
Michael Kahrmann  
Bill Miles  
William Nightingale  
Fred Patterson  
Martin Pilcher  
Dave Rash  
Don Taylor  
Jim Trierweiler  
Keith Veit

#### Other in Attendance

Brian Nicholas - MCPW

#### METCOM Staff:

Wendy Patterson  
Mark Spross  
John Thompson

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**METCOM regular Governing Board meeting called to order at 10:03 AM with a quorum met by members present, conference call and via Zoom.**

The board meeting was opened by Chief Mark Daniel.

- Ed Grambusch made the motion to accept the December 13, 2022 Board Meeting minutes.
- Second by Sherry Bensema
- Discussion: none Motion passed, no opposition

#### **Radio Project update:**

- Mark Spross addressed the Board prior to Brian Nicholas arrival with the following information: Currently the Marion County Board of Commissioners is indicating that users of the county radio system will have a \$30-\$60 per radio per month maintenance fee. METCOM is still at the table and is working to establish a meeting with the Commissioners and the METCOM TAC. The intent is to remind the Commissioners that we serve the same people and educate them on the diversity of our agencies. After the meeting, a report will be brought back to the METCOM Board.
- Brian Nicholas will be present later to discuss and provide further information the radio project.

### **Meeting with Senator Girod:**

METCOM will need to contribute approximately \$800,000 to join the MC Radio Project. Mark Spross met with Senator Girod and asked for \$1 million of the Christmas tree monies for this project. Mark felt this was a very positive conversation. Although early in the process and with no guarantees, Mark is hopeful for the funding. Senator Girod did inquire about the status of the county radio project.

### **General Updates:**

Audit Report – The annual audit is complete and the report feedback was good.

HB2757 (988 funding) - APCO is the only organization that has opposed the bill at this time. The bill's intent is to add an additional \$0.40 - \$0.50 tax to the 911 cell phone tax to fund 988. APCO's stance is that the current 911 tax should remain "pure" for 911. APCO, although not opposed to 988, is opposed to receiving funding for these types of additional projects through the established 911 tax mechanism. Mark Spross asked if it was ok for METCOM to show they also are in opposition of the 988 tax being collected in this manner. The METCOM board agreed it is ok to note their opposition as a Board. Mark also asked agencies to educate their boards on this bill.

Generator Project – Mark received notification that the generator shipping date has been moved to mid-July. This makes the projected delivery date to be late August of 2023.

Q: Will METCOM pay for the generator out of this year's budget or push to next year's budget?

A: METCOM will not pay until the project is complete. Funds have been carried forward to the next budget year and earmarked for the project.

Phone Refresh – METCOM is on track with a tentative "go live" date of week of May 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Backup Center – The Office of Emergency Management (OEM) has been in communication with Mark Spross regarding the possibility of using the backup center as a "call taking lab" location. Should this occur, OEM would possibly add enhancements to the facility such as a logging recorder and furniture. Communication between OEM and METCOM is ongoing.

Staffing – METCOM is still recruiting for full-time dispatcher positions. We are currently down to 12 fully certified dispatchers. We have 3 in training and another 3 currently in the pre-employment background process.

Dispatch Consoles – Mark is in the process of gathering quotes for the console replacement. He is anticipating receiving 2 quotes shortly and will review for pricing and possible install dates. Hoping to have an install for last quarter of this year or first quarter of next year.

Halls Ridge (Detroit Fire FEMA project) – This is still in process and is moving forward. A final plan has been set for both locations with paperwork submitted to Oregon Emergency Management for final approval. The cost is still within the limits of what was asked for. As soon as METCOM received the authorization to move forward, equipment will be ordered. The hope is to have both locations done before summer. This is dependent upon when we receive the approval from Emergency Management or FEMA.

### **Marion County Radio Project:**

Brian Nicholas addressed the METCOM Board regarding the current status of the MC radio project. An email was sent stating that the radio project was moving forward. The email unintentionally caused some confusion; the intent was to advise the need of the project to

move forward and push forward with the build. It was not intended to convey the “dumping of” the partnership with METCOM. This is more about the Board of Commissioners (BOC) not giving Brian the financial commitments that he needs to take the TAC and everyone to agree on how the system will operate, how it will be funded and all of those pieces. The County has a million dollars in ARPA funds that need to be used on the project before the deadline for the funding passes. In addition, the Sheriff's office is unstable and in danger of going down. Brian's proposal was to move forward with building the system with the capacity for everyone to participate. Now seems like the time due to the tax level. Although there has not yet been an agreement signed that says here how this will function, here is how the system will be build, etc. we have consensus on a county wide 700/800 system and a fairly good level of comfort in regards to coverage that the system will be able to achieve. We are aware that there will be some pockets in the foothills with coverage issues and once the system is up and running we will need to go out and perform coverage testing and figure out how we are going to fill those holes. Areas already identified trouble areas are up Crooked Finger and a stretch on HWY 22 between the two dams; coverage maps show it is good, just not great coverage, and also right in the middle of North Fork Road. Brian advised he is going to propose to the TAC to build the system and work to see what else should be accounted for, i.e. what else do we need to make sure is included in this project? We are setting the stage to bring all of METCOM members onboard to the system. The County has money to build a 5 channel trunk system that will have all the capacity that we have spoken about in the TAC meetings I just won't have the money to purchase all of the subscriber units to bring all of the METCOM users on board. Mark and Brian are talking about where we can reach out to receive some additional funding to fill that last bit of capitalization. The county has to get the ARPA funds spent on time and we need to get a system done for the Sheriff to migrate to before their system collapses. Once that system is in place the capacity will be large enough for all agencies to operate on. The system was designed with input from the TAC members to ensure everyone would have a good level of confidence in the system. The ongoing challenge is where do we get the, what could be, additional \$3 million dollars upfront funding to purchase all of the subscriber units to bring METCOM agencies on board and how are we going to pay for the continued operations and maintenance of the system. The funding for the ongoing maintenance is where the BOC have not come through with direction. Brian has presented 5 different options for the continued funding to the BOC. As of now the BOC has not indicated that they would consider creating some other source of revenue (other than the users) to help pay for the operations. Brian feels this part will take some time to work through with the BOC.

Q: Clarification – The BOC has an issue with the ongoing maintenance, not necessarily the upfront costs; correct?

A: Correct. The big issue for the BOC is the cost of the operations year over year.

Q: Will this be a multi-phase system or will all sites be built out? What will the time frame be?

A: Brian stated he does not have an answer for that as of yet.

Q: Can you share with the board the monies from Schrader's office and the intent to the county?

A: We received \$1.2 million dollars. It is the federal department of justice grant. The funds request was specific to needing funds to bring METCOM on board. This is the express purpose for these funds.

There will be a work session between the BOC, key members from TAC, Jim Trierweiler for the Fire Defense Board and the Chief from Marion County Fire. The outcome of the meeting will be reported back to the METCOM board.

### **2023/24 Budget Presentation:**

Michael Kahrman reviewed the 2023-24 METCOM proposed budget. See attached documents. Total proposed budget \$5,043,348. User fees needed to make up budget \$2,241,139. This is an increase of 3.48%. Almost all area of the budget saw a 3-10% increase in fees. This budget also includes collection of \$128,000 for the radio project.

No questions were brought forward regarding the proposed budget. The March 14, 2023 board meeting will discuss any questions regarding the proposed budget and bring it forward for a vote of approval or changes.

**Radio Project Discussion:**

Mark advised that the METCOM TAC would be meeting with the BOC and after receiving feedback, the TAC may request an education campaign with your Boards, Councils and elected officials. We may need their support by contacting the commissions to ensure they know the need for this project and the importance for all of our constituents. In the meantime, if you have questions or would like information to present to your Boards, please let Mark know. We hope to have better information after the meeting with the BOC.

Mark will contact Brian regarding the monies he said he had for the 911 center as well as make sure the \$1.2 million from Schrader's office stays with the intent for METCOM.

Jim Trierweiler reiterated that a \$50 per month subscriber fee would be difficult for many agencies and would possibly result in levies by departments. He advised agencies should be prepared to have discussions to plead our case for the radio project.

**Future Meeting Dates:**

March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023 @ 1000 - Budget discussion and vote for approval or changes – Stayton Fire Dept.  
May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023 @ 1000 - Formal Budget Adoption Vote – Location: METCOM super majority required  
June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023 @ 1000 – Place holder if needed  
September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023 @ 1000 – Location to be determined  
November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023 @ 1000 – Location to be determined

Chair Mark Daniel Closed the meeting and adjourned @ 11:00 AM