

COLUMBIA 9-1-1 COMMUNICATIONS DISTRICT
Minutes of the Board of Directors Emergency Meeting
November 19, 2021

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: Board President Clark called the Board of Directors Emergency Meeting to order on Friday, November 19, 2021, at 4:47p.m. via Zoom.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Henry Heimuller, Sean Clark, Rob Anderson, Shelley Hennessy connected via Zoom

Staff Present: Mike Fletcher, Nancy Edwards, Lara Marzilli, Nathan Hughes, Maryjo Beck

GUESTS PRESENT:

Roll call was done.

PUBLIC COMMENT:
No public in attendance.

EMERGENCY REPAIRS OF MICROWAVE LINK – AUTHORIZATION OF EXPENDITURE:

Fletcher explained that the District owns a public safety land mobile radio system. The system is comprised of two different systems – a radio (push to talk) system and a microwave system. The microwave provides synchrony and timing across our simulcast system – all the tower sites have microwave links between them which keeps everything in sync.

Last week, Day Wireless noticed a problem with the microwave link between Clatskanie Mountain and the Columbia Heights site in Longview. Fletcher noted that the microwave is a redundant system, meaning that each transmitter receiver has two sides (side A and side B); the theory is that if the system is operating on the A side and has a problem, the system will automatically fail over to the B side – holding the system up until a repair technician fixes the A side and redundant capabilities are restored.

Fletcher stated that the Columbia Heights site is our prime site, it's where all the voters are housed, which are the brains of the system. Anything that impacts that site, impacts the whole system. Last week, Day Wireless discovered that one of the transmitters in the Alcatel transmitter box had both its A and B sides locked. When they try to reset it, the whole radio system crashes, so they are unable to fix it in a 'live' environment. At this time, it is operational and working, but it is extremely fragile. If there's a problem there is no fallback, no B side to fail over to.

Fletcher stated that this system is 20 plus years old, and parts are scarce. The manufacturer doesn't support it any longer and any spare parts are scavenged or used parts from a third-tier marketplace (i.e., eBay). That problem along with the supply chain issues that afflict this country right now make it difficult to get what we need. He noted that Day Wireless has been able to locate some used parts.

Fletcher explained that we have three options. Option A would require Day Wireless to take the microwave system down consequently disabling the entire radio system in order to replace a circuit card that might or might not be the problem; total down time is estimated to be 15 minutes. However, Day Wireless is not very confident that this will fix the issue. If Option A is unsuccessful, Option B would