

COLUMBIA 9-1-1 COMMUNICATIONS DISTRICT
Minutes of the Board of Directors Special Meeting
February 1, 2022

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: Board Treasurer Heimuller called the Board of Directors Special Meeting to order on Tuesday, February 1, 2022, at 12:07p.m. at the Columbia County Fairgrounds Pavilion, St. Helens, Oregon and via Zoom.

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

Staff Present: Mike Fletcher, Nancy Edwards, Nathan Hughes and Maryjo Beck
Dannell Hooper, Chandra Egan and Alex Edinger via Zoom

ADVISORY MEMBERS PRESENT: Jeff Pricher, Scappoose Fire
Josh Marks, Scappoose Fire
Joe Kaczinski, Mist-Birkenfeld Fire
Steve Sharek, Clatskanie Fire (via Zoom)
Joel Medina, CRFR
Eric Smythe, CRFR
Kelly Niles, ODF
Mike Russell, Public Works (via Zoom)
Chris Carey, Emergency Management (via Zoom)
Shaun Brown, Emergency Management (via Zoom)
Ryan Murphy, Col. Co. Sheriff's Office

GUESTS PRESENT: Rajit Jhaver, Federal Engineering
Adam Nelson, Federal Engineering
Luis Camarillo, Federal Engineering (via Zoom)
Gabriel Wiggins, Clatskanie Fire
Jerry Cole, CRFR
Erick Holsey, CRFR
Tad Pedersen, CRFR
Mark Kreutzer, CRFR Board
Greg Brody, Westport Fire & Rescue (via Zoom)
Dustin King, St. Helens Police
Shaun Davis, Scappoose Police (via Zoom)
Alex Rains, Scappoose City Manager (via Zoom)
Tyler Miller, Scappoose City Counselor

FEDERAL ENGINEERING PRESENTATION:

Fletcher stated that the purpose of this meeting is to help further define the following:

- Technical and performance differences between a stand alone District owned system and/or joining one of the regional partner systems (CRESA, WCCCA).
- Identify the differences between the CRESA system and the WCCCA system.
- Identify the differences in maintenance and support of a stand-alone system and/or joining an existing 800 system

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- Pros and Cons of a VHF system – what has changed in the last 20 years since the build of our current VHF system.

Fletcher stated that Federal Engineering will provide a presentation and then a question and answer period will follow. He introduced Jhaver, Nelson and Camarillo and they began their presentation.

Nelson began by comparing the differences between VHF and 700/800 systems. He stated that even though VHF frequencies travel farther, they are congested and more prone to interference. VHF is an unstructured band, and it is difficult to obtain new frequencies. The 700/800 systems are a structured band with less congestion/interference, more frequencies are available and there is typically better in-building penetration. The 700/800 systems don't usually require receive-only sites. However, additional sites may be needed, and they are costly.

A partnership with CRESA would require four new sites in addition to the existing sites. A partnership with WCCCA would require six new sites. Nelson stated that a stand-alone system would require more than that.

The public safety standard is 95% 'wide-area' coverage. Vehicular repeaters may be used where portable coverage cannot meet public safety-grade levels. Lengthy discussion followed.

A recap of system alternatives was reviewed. A period of questions and answers followed. Discussion ensued.

VHF digital was not researched because it was not proposed by any of the vendors that responded to the Request for Information (RFI). This option would require more VHF frequencies and there are very few to zero available in the public safety spectrums of VHF remaining.

Fletcher noted that as for a stand-alone system, the District would have to maintain the old system while a new one is being built. The District has no space to build a new radio system at the current facility.

Fletcher and Heimuller thanked Federal Engineering for their presentation and attendees for their participation.

(Audio file and Federal Engineering's PowerPoint slides available for review).

1:50p.m. Board Adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Maryjo E. Beck

Date Approved