

# Executive Director's Report for March 2022

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TO: Board of Directors  
FROM: Mike Fletcher, Executive Director  
SUBJECT: March 2022 Board Report

The topics contained here should follow closely with the agenda.

## **Old Business:**

### Radio System:

- Dixie Mt –
  - Project is on hold.
- Clatskanie –
  - The University of Oregon Geology Department continues work for the installation of seismic equipment
- Cory Hill (Vernonia) Break-In update:
  - New fencing upgrades are in progress and approaching completion.
  - Upgrades to security camera features in progress
  - Waiting on new transfer switch. Unknown ETA.
- NextGen Radio System:

Following up from the February 24 board meeting and in separate conversations with individual members of the Board, as well as with the Fire Defense Board and the C911 Advisory Committee, it remains clear that there is not a consensus on which solution is deemed to be the most agreeable.

Questions were raised recently by members of the Board as to the risk / vulnerabilities of the current radio system and were there steps that could be taken to lessen these risks that would afford the Advisory and Board to continue to research a palatable solution to pursue.

Meetings have been held with the management team of Day Wireless to help provide staff with their opinions and potential solutions. They are as follows:

### **Radios (site transmitters and receivers):**

As noted in all the system evaluations that have been conducted the past 3+ years, our radios are beyond the life expectancy. There is no support for this equipment and

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a failure of any such radio will result in a need to replace the old equipment with a like make a model and vintage surplus piece of equipment.

The good news is that there is a large supply of these radios in the marketplace. Day Wireless is confident in their ability to find equipment within their own companies' stocks and or while they may indeed go to the third-tier supply source (EBay), the radios are fairly easy to locate for purchase.

In their opinion, this item is on the lower end of the concern matrix.

## **Tower / Shelters:**

Except for the current Meissner site facility, all of the other comm shelters are "adequate" for service. Columbia Heights and Corey Hill are the smallest of the buildings and represent a challenge for the District should we expand equipment and at some point soon should be considered for replacement.

C911 owed towers are all currently adequate and are not considered for an upgrade. The exception might be the ODOT tower on Green Mountain which is fairly well loaded that impacts all users of this site, not just Columbia 911.

Towers and shelters are also considered to be low on the concern matrix.

## **Antennas:**

The various antennas found on our towers and facilities are also obsolete and at Their end of life. However, antennas are RF band specific. It is suggested that any specific antenna that is suspected of failing or has in fact failed, should be replaced. But it is not suggested that the entire system of antennas be replaced until such time as a new system (and potential different band) has been identified.

The next two components are the most at risk of failure and represent the need for continued work on upgrading and or replacement.

## **Microwave:**

It is noted that C911 started the process of upgrading / replacing portions of our microwave backhaul 2 years ago. As a reminder, the microwave system is RF agnostic, as it will transport radio frequencies of nearly all bandwidth.

C911 began this upgrade with a new diversified path from Green Mtn. to Clatskanie Mtn. Most recently we started the upgrade from Clatskanie to Columbia Heights North. This project is 50% done and we are waiting for new antennas and waveguides.

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Our Meissner site rebuild includes a new microwave equipment build out for the path between it and Clatskanie.

It is the recommendation / request of Day Wireless for C911 to continue this endeavor and if possible, accelerate.

With the exception of the new equipment mentioned prior, DW reports that every pathway of microwave is in some stage of failure. They are attempting to keep this sub-system of our LMR system functional, but are very concerned about it's viability.

DW recommends that we move up on our schedule a replacement of the pathway between Dispatch and Green to be a priority. Then to move to the path from Clatskanie to Corey Hill.

DW and C911 Staff met with Microwave Networks Inc (MNI) on 03/16 to develop a quote for your consideration.

## **Dispatch Radio Consoles (Gold Elite):**

Our 5 radio positions and the backroom Central Electronics Bank of Motorola Centracom Gold Elite equipment was discontinued by the manufacturer as of 2011. Support of this equipment ended in 2018.

C911 has been experiencing random failures of radio consoles during this past year.

Of equal concern to DW staff are these pieces of equipment. Within the last 6 months, C911 experienced frequent failures of position # 2. It was difficult to find a replacement workstation as they are hard to come by on any tier marketplace.

DW recommends an accelerated replacement project for this component.

There are multiple options available and a process of seeking quotes is underway.

## **Meissner Site improvements:**

Meissner construction manager is updating the RFP documents. C911CD is now a member of OregonBuys and we will be uploading the documents for vendors to bid as soon and the updates are complete.

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- Tow Contracts- No new update.
- Ambulance Service Area (ASA) – Assisting both the County Health officer and the Emergency Manager with the ASA process.
- Microwave work (Clatskanie to Columbia Heights):
  - Working with MNI to complete the MW upgrade. Supply chain challenges surrounding some of the remaining equipment. More to follow.

## **New Business:**

- Sean Clark – Resignation
  - Potential replacement introduction
- Request for spending limit adjustment
- **Executive Session** - Union Negotiations: