

JOINT DISPATCH BOARD
County Office Complex, Room 300
January 7th, 2021

Committee Members Present: Robert Barbier, Theresa Becker, Chris Dallas, Dave Funkhouser, Dan Hartwig, Brian Kohlmeier, and Supervisor Nickels. Other invited non-committee members were in attendance.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Chris Dallas at 9:00 a.m.

Current Agenda and Minutes of Prior Meeting: A motion was made by Dave Funkhouser and seconded by Brian Kohlmeier to approve the minutes of the October meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion on Dual Paging: Chris Dallas presented background information on dual paging of the St Nazianz & Valders Fire Departments as well as the Rockwood and Francis Creek Fire Departments. A concern was raised that a modification was made to the JDC radios that eliminates the ability to page these department's separately without notice to the departments. Travis Waack indicated that this modification was not a change in policy, but rather an equipment modification to ensure compliance with the request by the departments to be paged together for all calls. Chris Dallas indicated there are still instances when they would want to paged separately. A discussion followed on the importance of standardization of policies across departments in the JDC. Travis Waack also added that on several occasions when departments were paged separately at their request in the past it resulted in complaints from the departments. A follow up meeting will be held with the departments to discuss the matter further.

Discussion on Concerns Regarding Radio System Coverage: Chris Dallas indicated that concerns were shared with County Department of Public Works regarding radio system coverage. Gerry Neuser reported that Baycom was contacted immediately upon receiving notification of the concern and conducted signal strength testing. The results of the testing confirmed that the system is performing as designed and there are no signal strength issues. A lengthy discussion followed about in-building coverage and it was noted that no radio system can guarantee coverage in all parts of every building in the County due to construction type and internal interference. An additional discussion followed about historical decisions made regarding the radio system.

Discussion on Benzie County Interference: Travis Waack repeated the final report made at the October meeting and emailed in September detailing the County's effort to study the source of interference from Benzie County, MI, and determine proper mitigation steps.

Update from Public Works Department: Kody Berg reported that Manitowoc Fire Rescue is moving forward with the integration of a mobile CAD product. Bill Jones reported that various routine radio system equipment upgrades and a 911 upgraded are planned for 2021, but outages are not expected. Any outages will be announced.

Next Meeting Date: April 1st, 2021

Adjournment: A motion was made by Theresa Becker and seconded by Dan Hartwig to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Travis Waack
Director
Manitowoc County Emergency Services Department