

Central Dispatch Fire/EMS Committee Meeting

February 14, 2008 @ 1900 hrs

Meeting was called to order at 1904 hrs by Acting Chairman Truba

Present:

Roger McNutt, ERFD
Casey Godlewski, GLFD
Dick McMahon, WEMS
Phil Miller, WFD
Stuart Black, BMFR
John Truba, CEMS & EREMS
Ron Kindel, SFD
Dave Burkett, BFD
Bruce VanAiken, ERTwp FD
Paul Fabiano, DFD
Steve Leese, ECCD

Minutes – Motion to approve the November '07 minutes as written was made and accepted.
Motion carried.

Public comment – None

Old business

Report from CDC – (Truba)

- Last meeting was on 12-20-07 at 2pm
- LEC is working on; Capital Area Dive Team, Codespear, No Preference Wrecker policy, Background checks, Amber alerts, ECSD doing sex offender registration
- Reviewed what this committee is working on
- Lakewood EMS and Ionia Dispatch agreement
- Status of Senate Bill 410 & 411 and House Bill 4852
- Update on Codespear
- Address situation on Baseline Hwy between Eaton County & Calhoun County
- MCT installation update

Steve explained that the addressing problems on Baseline Hwy is that the numbers are both even or both odd. They both don't run concurrently and the ranges are off. They don't coincide range to range. Calhoun County was adamant about changing their side of the road. They even changed the name of the road from Baseline Hwy to Baseline Road.

Operational Report - (Leese)

Staffing – Mindy Combs will start as a dispatcher on February 18. There is still one position to fill and the hiring list from last year is exhausted so the application process has started again. The three dispatchers hired last fall are progressing well.

Surcharge – The State Legislature passed the Senate and House Bills regarding 911 funding and they've become Bill 164. It will create a surcharge mechanism for counties to levy on cell phones and hard line phones to fund a 911 center. People will be getting charged each cell phone they have and counties will get funding back from the decline of land lines. The 911 revenue collected by Bill 164 will be regulated by MPSC. This isn't supposed to be an extra tax but in Steve's opinion there are some counties that are taking advantage of the new legislation to create a big source of funding that they may not need. One example is a county in Michigan that is going to up their rates so they can purchase a radio system and have it paid for in four years. Steve is on a state committee that reviews the applications that go to MPSC and makes recommendations if they feel the applications are reasonable or not. Steve explained that the bad part about the legislation is that it's only good until December and it doesn't start until July.

Casey received a letter from Clinton County Board of Commissioners who passed a resolution on its service charge. He was confused by the letter because it talked about communication providers and emergency services that operate in Clinton County. It also talked about per diems. Steve believed the letter was in regard to Clinton County having to open their 911 service plan and rewrite it. In order to do this, all cell phone companies have to be identified. In Clinton County, \$4 was the cap for hard line phones. Now that cell phones can be included, rates should decrease below \$2.

Steve stated that there has been a change to the Lakewood EMS dispatching agreement that was discussed at the last Central Dispatch Committee meeting. Apparently the Ionia 911 Board will not allow the Ionia dispatch center to tone out Lakewood EMS so Barry County has agreed to tone them out. We will revise our policy.

Telerad Update –The equipment is being paid for with the Homeland Security grant. It should be on line in a month or so. They say we will only be down for five minutes and it would only affect radios and pagers. If we're down longer than that we will page you and let you know.

The equipment will be installed on the Olivet water tower. The propagation study showed it should shoot down into Bellevue. Steve has been impressed with Telerad so far. He visited their shop and they gave him a demonstration of how the simulcast will work. Steve is looking into some of our Motorola equipment be serviced by Telerad instead of M/A Com. They sent a proposal and the price was 1/10 our current service contract. They basically want to give us a year of free service to get their foot in the door. Steve stated they've got a great reputation statewide.

Equipment at Rumsey Hill will be brought to dispatch so dispatch can maintain the equipment easier. Steve stated that because we will simulcast on two towers instead of one our system just became redundant and it wasn't before. Currently, if we lose something at Rumsey we're dead. Steve and radio vendors who know our radio system feel we've got a good radio system here even though it's old. It's a good foundation to build from. It was noted that the radio problem in Ingham County was a software programming issue and it's been resolved.

Steve recently sent out a letter to all of the agencies in Eaton County to identify radios that need replaced because they aren't capable of high band programming or extra channels. This will be paid for by Nextel through grants. Right now, it will become mandatory in 2013 as we go to narrow banding. We will have the U-Call and U-TAC channels programmed in the radios in Region 1 (8 counties). Chuck Cribley has been the driving force in this project. Region 1 includes Clinton, Gratiot, Shiawassee, Livingston, Jackson, Hillsdale, Ingham, and Eaton.

John asked Steve for an OSSI update. Steve stated that little glitches are found every day and people are making human errors, but getting better. It does a lot more than NWS did. Jail and RMS is just getting on board. The police want a 5 yr history of call information on an address, but Steve prefers to keep information for 6 months. If we keep 5 yrs we'll have to keep NWS around for 5 yrs. In OSSI it's easier to pull up a run because its Windows based. We can pull an incident and send it via e-mail. It gets printed on a PDF format.

For the audiolog recordings, Jackie can e-mail voice recordings via the audiolog on a wave file. Our policy is 6 months but the Prosecutor's Office wants us to keep them for a year even though we're not required to keep them at all. Steve feels that if they're kept longer it's usually because an attorney wants it to sue.

Agencies were encouraged to create a Codespear account with Central Dispatch. It could be used if the paging ever went down. You determine what devices you want the message to be received on. Region 1 bought the license and we have to pay for the users, which is a one-time charge of \$25 per user. Codespear isn't going away. They were bought by Federal, the siren company. John wondered if it should be a requirement for all Chiefs and their designees. Steve will have to take this before the CDC, but licenses would be offered to each department. If an

agency wanted to purchase more licenses, they could pay for them. All you need is internet access to use it. You can see who has received it and who hasn't. The receiver can also send an acknowledgment. Steve would like to pay for two licenses per agency. Roger felt two would be good, Casey agreed. Steve stated that the station phone could be added as well. It reaches voicemail too. It's a lot like MI-HAN. Once you get an account, you manage your own updating. Also, NOAA can go through Codespear. Codespear forms will be sent to the agencies to fill out and return to Steve. You need to list your numbers and then the sequence of priority.

The County Controller would like to have the Central Dispatch millage in November 2008 instead of August 2008. Agencies can help promote the millage through their fire department open houses and township meetings. Steve will let agencies know if/when he needs help as the date gets closer.

NEW BUSINESS

Elections - For this Committee, Roger motioned to keep John Collins as Chairman and John Truba as Secretary. Dave motioned to nominate LeRoy as Vice Chairman. Motion carried.

For the CDC, motion was made to keep the Representatives and Alternates the same. Motion carried. The CDC Reps are Vic, John Truba and LeRoy. The Alternates are Chuck Cribley, Casey and John Collins.

DNR – Kim Dufresne passed out contact sheets for his department. Eaton County is now with their Yankee Springs office. All agencies will receive a letter requesting information about how they handle burn permits (either with an ordinance within townships or if they work within the state forest service law). Contact them for classes, wildfire training, GSA equipment, Smokey the Bear, etc. In Barry and Calhoun Counties, they fax the central dispatch centers to say that they are not accepting burn permits. They'll probably do this with us. Codespear could work well for this. The letter will also have information about weather pages. He offers a phone number that is updated daily that says if burn permits will be issued that day. It's extension 198. Kim's e-mail address is dufresnk@michigan.gov. Jackie will send Kim a contact list of Fire and EMS agencies in Eaton County.

ROUND TABLE

Casey – His department's millage passed at 58%. He'll be going to Winchester, Virginia in March to pick up their new aerial. He'll have training on it while he's there. He had a question for Kim about PTNs.

Roger – His department implemented a new mutual aid policy with Eaton Rapids Twp and Hamlin Twp. It's working out good.

Ron – His department purchased three new pieces of equipment. He asked Steve about the two gentlemen from Telerad who came to his department to tell him that Sunfield Fire would be moving to the County Fire frequency. Steve stated that they were explaining what channels would be simulcast. They are the county fire frequency, the police frequency and the Admin frequency. If a department wants to be paged by the simulcast channel, they can. Your individual channel won't change or go away. If you decided to be paged on the county fire dispatch, you could switch to your non-repeated channel once you're at the scene. If a lot of agencies jump on fire dispatch we'll have to limit radio traffic. Ron wondered what the radio issues were Steve spoke of earlier about problems in the NW portion of the county because he has had no radio troubles. Steve said it was the police complaining about their handhelds.

Bruce – His department has two trucks as first responders now.

Phil – He wondered if dispatchers could ask the alarm company for key holder information when they have them on the phone. Steve said yes, that is the policy and dispatch should be doing this.

Dick – He is noticing on the new CAD system that agencies have to give dispatch the unit number before it can be brought up on the screen. He wondered if they say "170 will be enroute shortly" if it could be put on the screen. He said this would be especially important for their second rig. Steve said yes, it could be done that way. Dick stated that on the map portion of CAD, the map shows them going down instead of going up, especially when they go into Delhi Twp and there's confusion because up isn't always necessarily North. Steve will find out if it's a settable option. Dick stated that overall he's happy with the new CAD system

Stuart – He stated that their agency is still having problems with their MCT. Steve is working on a cellular connection for them. Loren has worked out a way to get a CAD live set up. That could be a solution for Bell MFR. Steve will keep Stuart posted.

Dave brought a list from Chrouch Communications of the radios that will not accept the narrow band width. Steve will make copies for anyone who wants it.

Steve had maps available the show fire department boundaries. He encouraged everyone to take a copy.

Paul wondered why fire departments have to respond to unknown accidents. He wondered why dispatch assumes someone is hurt on unknown accidents. Paul would like the policy changed but he doesn't want to be the only department who's doing it different. John believes the policy

was made county wide to keep it consistent but everyone realizes there is a difference between an unknown accident in Delta Twp vs. a rural location where you'd only get one or two calls. Steve will look up the old policy to see if we can accommodate the request. Steve doesn't feel it's a big request.

Paul stated his department is working on the MCT issue so they can buy their own computers and radio modems. Steve told him he may want to contact Advanced Wireless because Jackson County is selling 60 units to Advanced Wireless. Steve is working on purchasing some for spares. The Itronix MCTs are failing and we currently only have one spare. He would like to have 3 or 4 as spares but there're about 11 currently in the field that aren't working. About 43 Itronix MCTs were sent in last year because they weren't working.

John reported that there is train the trainer EMS training at Windsor regarding electronic record keeping. Delta is currently using it. ERCH will begin construction in April. The hospital's name will be changed to Eaton Rapids Medical Center. Ambulances will be temporarily moved to Eaton Rapids and Hamlin Twp fire departments. Eventually there will be a new EMS and garage quarters at ERCH. John recently purchased GPS for the ambulances.

Ron wondered if agencies were going to be forced to go with a certain brand for radios being purchased with the grant. Steve doesn't believe anyone would be forced to choose. Steve stated that the grant will take a while to get finalized. He would like everyone's inventory list back in a month or so.

Motion to adjourn was made and seconded at 2030 hrs.