

# Eaton County Emergency Communications Law Enforcement Subcommittee

## Minutes

Wednesday, April 20, 2022

At 1100 hrs

**Call to Order and Roll Call** – Chairman Weeks called the meeting to order at 11:02 a.m. A quorum of 5 was present.

**Members Present:**

Larry Weeks, ERPD  
Jeff Cook, ECSO  
Shawn Garcia, OPD  
Richard Barry, PPD  
Chris Blievernicht, GLPD

**Non-Members Present:**

Kelley Cunningham, ECCD  
Francis D’Huyvetter, ECCD  
Rod Sadler, Emergency Management

**Introduction of New Members and Guests** – None.

**Reading and Approval of Minutes** – Motion to approve the minutes to the January 2022 meeting was made by Shawn Garcia and seconded by Jeff Cook. Motion carried.

**Old Business**

Report from Central Dispatch Committee – Chris Blievernicht gave an update from the March 2022 meeting. A data channel for the new radio system was discussed and Kelley stated she will discuss it at this meeting.

Central Dispatch Operational Report (Kelley) –

- PST Jessica Nunham has promoted to supervisor effective April 25, 2022.
- Three new dispatchers are in the training program at different stages; Fire/EMS dispatching, orientation and basic call intake.
- Cassandra Yarger returned in early April after resigning last fall. We are fully staffed now with the trainees included.
- Oral board interviews were held this week. One could potentially be on a waiting list.

- We have had interns observing in dispatch from St John High School.
- The 2021 Central Dispatch annual report is printed. Kelley and Francis will start going to city council meetings presenting it and talking about the upcoming millage renewal.
- The millage renewal will be on the August 2, 2022 ballot. Kelley provided millage renewal flyers.
- Kelley requested additional telecommunicators for the next budget.
- John Imeson retires on May 14, 2022. Kelley is not planning to fill his position. Kelley and Francis will do what needs to be done with help from Chrouch. If the workload becomes too much then Kelley will reevaluate the position, but right now there are no plans on filling the position.
- The Public Safety Committee voted to keep the radio surcharge at \$1.65.
- The surcharge is over-performing a little, but Kelley would like to use the surcharge money to purchase a data channel. The cost for a data channel is \$1 million.

Kelley further explained that a data channel goes on each tower and would give us the GPS location. A data channel would be integrated with the new CAD that we will purchase in 2024. A data channel was not available when the radio project was being built. Ingham County has it.

A data channel sets a cadence and updates the GPS in your radio every so often. If the emergency button was pushed, it would give us the user's name. This is why it is important to keep the radio's username updated. If you have a data channel it gives name plus their GPS location. You would still have an AVL MCT in your vehicle, but this would show you outside of your car on your radio, not your car radio. The radio project has a plan to replace radios in 10 years. The current radios are not capable but new radios would need to be capable.

Kelley stated that the next big thing in radio technology is if the radio system goes down, it would switch to cellular coverage.

Larry Weeks asked if GPS was just for law enforcement. Kelley said no, it would be system-wide. She explained that the user could disable and enable the GPS if they wish. It will be help for when people are in the woods we can compare their GPS radio to the 911 caller and lead them in.

Larry Weeks asked what the plan was in 10 years when we need to replace equipment. Kelley stated that the plan is to replace the radios. The current radios have 10 yr warranty. We will need to replace all radios in 10 years.

Technology Services put a short cut for responders to Central Dispatch's PowerDMS for policy & procedures. You can see maps, policies and procedures, and the template for your radios. It should be an icon on your MCT. Kelley can make a file for your own department like forms if anyone is interested.

Kelley asked for feedback on using TAC 2. She felt it was going well.

The Eaton County Jail is accepting everyone now per an email from Deputy Chief Morris. Jeff Cook stated that it is back to business prior to COVID. Medical clearance is still needed, just like before COVID.

ECSD & non 24 hr agencies – Kelley explained that if a non 24 hr agency is not working and there is a non-priority call in Olivet, Bellevue or Potterville, dispatch will assign it to the non 24 hr agency. If they do not take it because they are not in service and it has deemed to be a non-emergency, it would be documented in the narrative and the call will be assigned to the non 24 hr agency. Dispatch will contact the caller to let them know that the agency will contact them when they are back in service. The agency will then check their cleared calls when they are in service. An updated policy was provided.

Shawn Garcia stated that he appreciates dispatch coming up with a solution for now. He stated that his department would deal with it as they go. Richard Barry agreed with Shawn and thanked Kelley. Kelley stated that her major concern is that people in these areas feel like someone is taking their call and not ignoring them.

## PROJECT UPDATES

The radio preventative maintenance is projected to be done the end of this month. Email [radios@eatoncounty.org](mailto:radios@eatoncounty.org) if you have issues with your radio. It creates a support ticket and keeps everyone in the loop. Kelley is also looking at creating support tickets for radio requests for new radios. Kelley reminded the group that keeping the name updated with the radio assigned to that person is important.

Regarding the tornado siren project at Crandell Lake Park, the electric has been installed and we are waiting on the final inspection from the County. Once the inspection passes, it will be connected.

Chris Blievernicht had a question about Clinton County's radios and having to update GLPD's radios in order to communicate. Francis explained that originally, Clinton County did not want to share their police main with any other agencies and the surrounding counties had an issue with that. He did not know if MPSCS had granted us access to their main police yet but he would get a timeline from John. Francis stated that Wi-Fi will allow you to update the template and it should be okay.

ASAP to PSAP – No updates. Nate from Technology Services is still working on it.

New CAD – The timeline to shop for a new CAD will be in 2023 and plans to purchase will be in 2024. Kelley would like to form a committee this fall.

Curbside SOS is an App for wrecker services. Kelley stated that a wrecker service came to public safety committee meeting recently to complain about wrecker selection. Kelley feels Curbside SOS could help.

Dispatch would have the application on their computers. The Curbside SOS App maintains insurance, license, etc., and they show the prices on the App.

Kelley stated that she would still want no preference wreckers but in the future, if there is complaints, we could do closest wrecker instead of no preference. Curbside SOS goes off the GPS on the wrecker service's phone, not their office location. Wrecker companies would have to join the Curbside SOS App if they want dispatch to use them. Curbside SOS would help the wrecker company get started with the App.

Kelley stated she would like to implement the Curbside SOS technology. Larry Weeks asked what needed to happen for this to be implemented. Kelley stated that the County Controller, John Fuentes, wanted Kelley to ask this committee for their support on going forward with the project. Kelley stated that it would not change what we are doing currently. Chris Blievernicht stated that he was fine with it as long as the officers and citizens can still make requests. Support from this committee would allow Kelley to get the software going. Everyone present at the meeting agreed and supported Kelley going forward with the Curbside SOS project.

## **New Business**

### **OPS Channels with Fire/EMS (Fabijancic)**

William Fabijancic was present at the meeting representing the Fire and EMS agencies. He wanted to discuss using OPS channels in incidents that involve police, fire and EMS. It was noted that the Fire and EMS do not have police radio in their radios anymore due to LEIN.

Larry Weeks noted that when radio committee went to site visits for the radio project, Washtenaw County said that their standard practice for major PIs was to automatically send all responding police, fire & EMS to the same OPS channel and it was recommended that we follow that practice. He stated that in subsequent meetings, there was a notable push back that that was too much change for people. Larry Weeks stated that he does not object to doing it because he sees value to it.

Francis provided information on how OPS channel works. They are in everyone's radios, Zone A, OPS 9, 10 & 11. They are interoperability channels for every discipline. Francis stated that there needs to be a discussion on what types of incidents would move to an OPS channel. He reminded the group that OPS channels are not encrypted so we would not want B&Es or homicide incidents on non-encrypted channels.

William Fabijancic suggested maybe having unified command and communication between supervisors. Chris Blievernicht suggested using OPS channels for structure fires and PIs but not active crime scenes.

Francis stated that using an OPS channel for structures fires would be difficult because fire departments are assigned a fire ground channel, not an OPS channel. Francis felt that the best-case scenario for structure fires would be for police to switch over or patch.

Larry Weeks was concerned that when multiple incidents are happening how will dispatch be able to pay attention listening to OPS channels on top of everything else. Another issue that was brought up is that OPS channels are further down the list where the TAC 2 is just one switch over. It was also noted that the intended purpose of OPS channels are not for everyday use with everyone talking on them. They are for once in a while incidents like a hazmat incident or a PI when there is a pile up trying to control traffic between disciplines.

Kelley stated that the discussion of using an OPS channel arose from an accident on the highway in Benton Twp recently where there were white out conditions with cars in the ditch and it was difficult for Fire and EMS to communicate with law enforcement. One of the fire trucks ended up getting rear ended at this incident. Fire requested switching to an OPS channel during this incident and law enforcement denied the request.

Francis suggested being very specific in what you are requesting when requesting an OPS channel. Make the specific request, "Can we utilize an OPS channel to communicate to police?" Francis stated that he and Kelley would remind dispatch what the purpose is of the OPS channels.

Discussion continued on this topic with suggestions on how to use the OPS channels, in what kind of situations and when to start using them. Suggestions included:

- Send law enforcement to OPS channels and keep the Fire and EMS on their fire ground channel and patch.
- Contact Lt Brooks about using OPS channels to get his support.
- Bring this topic to the next Fire/EMS subcommittee meeting to discuss.
- Bring this topic to the next Chief's meeting to discuss.
- Practice using the OPS channels at the active shooter exercise this fall.

## OTHER

Larry Weeks stated that there will be a seasonal school resource officer position at Eaton Rapids schools and the school will pay 100%. The school expects the officer to be in the school and not out assisting with other calls.

Kelley stated that Charlotte and Grand Ledge schools have an officer and the officer only gets calls in the school when they're assigned in the school. They only time they go out is when the Sergeant requests them. They do check in/out and sometimes status checks.

Larry stated that the school has their own radio system on the 400. They want him to carry school radio but ERPD wants him to carry new radios. Francis stated that we have radios that have capability to have both but you cannot monitor both at same time. It was

noted that other SROs carry two radios. It was also noted that Maple Valley got a school safety grant and they are getting on the 800-radio system.

Rod Sadler stated the Emergency Management closed out the FY-19 grant this month with the purchase of a shotgun box. The FY-20 grant is being used for conference registrations. There is no FY-20 HSHP money left. \$28,000 in law enforcement terrorist money is available to use by May 31, 2023. The FY-21 allocation was \$38,603, which decreases each year. HSHP money needs to be used by May 31, 2024.

**Adjournment** – Motion to adjourn was made at 12:30 p.m. by Shawn Garcia and seconded by Chris Blievernicht. Motion carried.

The next meeting is Wednesday, July 20, 2022 at 1100 hrs.

DRAFT