



**The Meeting of the Utah Communications Authority's Public Safety Advisory Committee
Wednesday, January 10, 2024 9:00-10:00 am**

Anchor Location: 5215 Wiley Post Way, Suite 550, Salt Lake City, Utah 84116

MEETING MINUTES

1. **Welcome.** Sheriff Tracy Glover welcomed everyone to get the meeting started and hoped everyone had a good holiday and are raring to go. The committee still has a vacant position from the Tribal Government.

2. **Roll Call.**

Tracy Glover
Mike Phillips
Clint Smith
Rob Nelson
Dan Benson
Mike Mathieu
Neil Johnson
Brian Gwilliam

Mike Rapich
Andy Smith – absent
Lynn Yocum
Jared Rigby
Mike Brown
TJ Brewer
Travis Trotta

3. **Motion to approve November 8, 2023, meeting minutes.**

Sheriff Glover asked if everyone had a chance to read the minutes from the November Stakeholder meeting and asked for approval.

Motion: Brian Gwilliam motioned to approve minutes.

Second: TJ Brewer seconded the motion.

Motion **passed** with all in favor.

4. **Sub-committee report from Captain Travis Trotta;**

Captain Trotta said there have been a couple of meetings. There have been concerns with the consoles but L3Harris and UCA have been open and working to keep

everyone updated. There were things with patching that they thought couldn't be done but now finding can be. It is a learning experience in that everyone has been used to doing things one way and will now be done a bit differently with the new system. One meeting was frustrating but the next one had the answers. The new newsletter that Tina put out from UCA will help us be transparent.

Sheriff Glover asked if the sub-committee should be kept in place, is it going to be helpful? Captain Trotta said it will be helpful as we get closer to implementation. Right now, as we're learning these things, it's good to have our people interacting with UCA, finding out the do's and don'ts and the things that we may need to be looking at that we do every day that maybe didn't get thought about at first, but now we're understanding them more.

5. Radio Division Update – Phil Krebs;

Phil read from the Stakeholder letter as it had all the latest updates. We have completed all the 119 legacy sites. They are up and running. They have been optimized, and that portion of the system is completely up and running and ready for cutover. Then, talking about the 25 expansion sites, we've finished complete, fully ready three sites, Castlegate in Carbon County, Bookcliffs in Grand County, Gosland in Daggett County. On top of that, we've readied an additional nine sites across the state, and if you look at that newsletter, I won't read all of them and all the counties they're in, but those listed are fully ready for L3Harris gear, and they're in some process of having that L3Harris gear moved in, and then after that, it will get optimized, signed off by UCA and L3Harris, and then those will be ready for cutover. Beyond those three and then the nine, there is a set of 13 currently being built and are scheduled to be completed in 2024. That will complete our list of 25 sites. We plan to have all those online. It's an aggressive schedule. We may not make every single one of those by cutover, but we will do our best to do that. We have ensured that out of those 25 sites, that every single site that currently has 800-megahertz coverage today will be online by cutover, so there won't be any drop in coverage, but we want to have all those sites online so that we improve coverage as we go live. Overall, our tasks in radio division have basically been focused towards getting the PSAP resources. We call it enumerated and integrated into the new system, so basically the VHF, UHF, 800 conventional systems, paging systems. All of that has to be tied into the new Symphony consoles, and that's where we're spending the bulk of our time working through that, getting the consoles configured. Overall, our plan with the PSAPs and the dispatch centers, our plan is to basically test each of those resources, including the radio arbitration function with the Motorola Vesta systems. We'll be going throughout the state, visiting each PSAP, and we'll be signing off those resources with each of the PSAP directors to ensure that

everything is ready and tested, and then our goal is to basically lock the system down at that point, at that PSAP, and not change anything until cutover. So that's kind of where we're going, and that's where you'll see us working over the next few months to get the system online.

Sheriff Glover gave appreciation for the newsletter; it is helpful to have it for people to turn to as he is in a rural area and there is a need to understand the new radios and working systems. He is looking forward to continuing to get an understanding of what is going on, what is moving forward and why the dates have been pushed back.

6. Interoperability Division Update – Mike Veenendaal;

Mike said the interoperability team has been working over the last month since the last meeting, programming the new L3Harris radios for the system that have been in the UCA warehouse. The team combined spent over 800 hours in the month of December getting those programmed. Over 4,000 radios in the warehouse that needed personalities put in them and keys and all kinds of stuff. Appreciation to the UCA team for helping get that accomplished. And that was a big goal for our team starting off. My team has been also working on updating the personalities for the legacy radios, as you have seen in the newsletter. We are going to be coming out over the next three months and working with agencies to get the first three zones of their new personality put into their old radios. No matter where you are at in the process, you will have communication on the system, whether it's on the legacy system or the new system. You will have at least those main working talk groups in your radios. I'll be working with each of you and as well as stakeholders across the state to make sure that we have dates and times and get that arranged. My team is in the background building those personalities in preparation for that four-month process that we will be going through over the next little bit. The radios, like Sheriff said, have been programmed with the new 700 system, the ones that have gone out for L3Harris. They have also been opened for VHF. We are working with agencies that are putting VHF as much as we can to assist them or to get them the data and information, they need to make sure that they can use those. The radios on the VHF side are allowed and used on the system, and I know that's some of the questions you may be getting. We are here to help as much as we can. I'm willing to help and assist agencies to get that accomplished for them so that they can be successful when our new system goes live. That is the focus of my team-programming and getting that new soft cut over prepared and ready to go.

Sheriff Glover mentioned he is asked by the agencies who are trading out vehicles and whether they should put new radios and new vehicles as part of the changeover. The VHF has been mentioned to work in theory but the 700 band won't

work until the cutover. It is up to the agencies if they want to get moving and use 800 handhelds until the cutover. Mike mentioned that the 700's will not be live until cutover, continuing to get that message out to everyone.

Discussion on live wiring for new vehicles. Documentation will be sent regarding antennas and placements and installs in the form of a dongle. Each order that is going to include L3Harris' best practices and installation guide on all your mobile installations. So that's a good recommendation to follow when you're looking at that, or if you're working with installers within your counties or even those outside professional installers, they have that information as well. That is going to include the battery for your portables on the best carriage and practices for that and UCA's documentation from UCA on best practices on antenna placement on your vehicles for best reception. There is also a digital copy that can be sent so that everyone has the best practices to be successful from the start.

7. Additional Updates – Tina Mathieu;

Tina expressed appreciation for the reference to the newsletter. I have had a lot of good feedback from agencies that have read the letter, despite the length. It is important for the agencies to know where we are on the project. As soon as the announcement went out in November at our Stakeholders' meeting that we were pushing the go-live back, some people made some assumptions on how long it would take to cutover. We are planning on cutting over August through November of 2024. There were some rumors that cutover would not be until 25, 26 or that it will take more than a year to complete cutover. That is not the case, it is going to happen fast. That is one of the reasons we are doing a soft cutover, touching every one of the radios between that February and June timeframe, meeting with everyone, doing the PSAP cutover and the PSAP console, final acceptance testing, and working with the PSAP directors to make sure that they've got all the resources. That has been the single biggest task that has caused the most delay -underestimating the number of resources those PSAPs have tied to those consoles. Some of the systems are very old and some have not been here. Some of the directors were not here when some of those resources were added to the console creating questions on what the resources are, what are they tied to, and things like that for UCA to fill. So that's been the single biggest reason for the delay in terms of the amount of work that must be done. L3H is in town, actively working, I think they're in Logan this week. They are building three different teams so they can go out and hit all those PSAPs and get them ready. UCA must follow them. We cannot come out to do the work that we need to do in the February through May timeframe until L3H has done their piece to the consoles or the back end and the resources that will be tied to the consoles. We are excited about that

and it is going to be a lot of work. We realize that it is extra work for the agencies to have to bring their radios to us twice within your county. Mike does need some extra meeting points where you can do some of the programming while we're out there between February and June, and then again August through November. He will be reaching out. We realize that and we appreciate the support and your patience with us on that. It's going to be just a massive amount of work. And there's just not really a good way for us that we felt we could do it any other way but to touch the radios twice, the legacy radios twice. We are going to be headed down to the Fire Chiefs Conference next week. We appreciate that invite to be able to speak conference. If the police and sheriffs also want to invite us, we would love to come to your conferences or meetings, whatever you have. We're happy to come and meet with you so that you have full access to us to be a part of what we are doing, what direction, when it's happening. It is your system we're just managing it. We want to make sure you all feel very comfortable with everything going on.

Tina said she is going today before the governing board asking for a budget amendment for an additional almost three million dollars so that we can add in those six extra sites and have the funding to do that and go out to bid for those. We have tried to offload as much of the building of the sites and towers that we can. Normally, UCA would do all that work internally. But contracting out helps with getting as many sites as we can up. Phil noted that we won't have diminished coverage, but every extra site we get up is just extra coverage. Our biggest delay typically on our sites is getting into contracts and getting the land rights and things like that. We're close on Brian Head, and we're not as close on Moccasin, but that's one that we just picked up. But we're confident that we can get there. But if there are delays in it, that will be why. L3H knows what our timeline is and what our aggressive goals are to get these sites done, they're on board. Obviously, one big factor is the weather. If it snows and it continues to snow through June, there will be some extra challenges, which is always something that obviously we can't control.

If you have questions or if you get in a spot, you want us to come down to your county chiefs' meeting, we're happy to come meet with your groups or jump on a Teams whenever. We would like to get ahead of the frustration, if there is any, or be involved in the conversation when there are questions so that we can make sure you're getting the right answers and you feel like you know what's going on with your system.

Sheriff Glover expressed appreciation of Tina's willingness to be accessible for questions during this cutover. There will be hurdles and potholes but with good communication and accessibility from UCA, it can be done. He asked to address the rumors that the system will not be ready. Tina mentioned that she has been in public safety her entire career. If she thought the system would not work when it is cutover in

August, she would tell everyone. Tina knows it will work during the August cutover. Getting monthly information, like the chat with UCA team and doing more newsletters will help keep everyone involved.

One last thing, some of the sheriffs have been contacted to do some drive testing for us on the UTVs, and we've got one contract... L3H has one contract back, but we really need the help to be able to do some drive testing so we can validate coverage in some of the areas that there are large trucks that have set up. We need the sheriffs, if possible, to help with UTVs that you might own, and L3H will pay you for your personnel time and things like that. If you believe that your sheriffs or your agency is willing to help with some of the drive testing in the county that your agency is in, send Tina an email or text, but I'm going to be reaching out to the sheriffs again on Friday and try and get them to commit to some of the... Or to respond to L3H and get into those contracts. We want to start doing some of that, especially down in the south as early as March and April. That's imperative to get that done. We need to complete all the drive testing by June.

8. Open Round Table discussion;

Sheriff Glover mentioned that there is a UCA Board meeting today and items could be discussed there as well.

9. Public Safety Advisory Committee Chair and Vice-Chair Elections;

After many thanks and discussion about the committee, Sheriff Glover asked about nominations for the Public Safety Advisory Committee Chair and Vice-Chair.

Motion: TJ Brewer motioned to nominate Mike Phillips as Committee Chair.

Second: Clint Smith seconded the motion.

There were no other nominations.

Motion **passed** with all in favor.

Motion: Mike Mathieu motioned to elect Brian Gwilliam as Vice-Chair.

Second: Clint Smith seconded the motion.

Motion **passed** with all in favor.

10. Motion to adjourn.

Motion to adjourn was so moved by Sheriff Glover, looking forward to big things from UCA.