



The Meeting of the Utah Communications Authority's Public Safety Advisory Committee

Location: Via WebEX Remote Meeting

Tuesday, June 8, 2021

Meeting Minutes

1. Welcome: Colonel Mike Rapich

2. Roll Call

Board Present:

Jim Miguel

Tracy Glover

Mike Mathieu

TJ Brewer

Rob Nelson

Mike Rapich

Andy Smith

Darin Adams

Mike Phillips

Kevin Rose

Board Absent:

Gary Giles

Lisa Wilson

Brian Nielson

3. Approval of Minutes

April 13, 2021

Motion: Andy Smith

Second: Tracy Glover

Vote: The motion passed with all in favor.

4. Report from Interoperability Division

James Baker updated the group that he has been reviewing the templates that users have to ensure that they are arranged accurately with GPS centers. They are fully staffed and are reaching out to end users. TJ Brewer inquired how the 800 system would work with interoperability with Colorado. The two systems could be interfaced with an inter-subsystem interface, however that is dependent on Colorado being able to do so. There will be limitation of coverage between the two systems, James Baker will meet with TJ Brewer to help facilitate a solution. Rob Nelson stated on the L3 side they are ready to interop with all five surrounding states. The group discussed that weekly they are dealing with pursuits across state lines, so this is an important issue.

5. Encryption

A question was posed regarding encryption with the P25 system. What does encryption mean? What are the advantages? What are some of the considerations that need to be reviewed as all agencies in the State move to the P25 system. There are some costs associated with encryption. James Baker shared that their stance has been encryption is implemented at the direction of the user and not UCA. The system does support encryption. The goal is to have the State use a single key for encryption to make the process unified and not segmented. Weber County has had to address this issue and has implemented a single key for encryption across all 26 public safety agencies. Mike Mathieu has a presentation that can help users understand encryption options. Encryption is a balance between interoperability in terms of restricting conversations from those that should not be able to hear them but allowing other agencies that need to hear the conversations have access. Another consideration is UCAN was created back when the Olympics were coming to Utah in 2002 to allow the 7 counties to interoperate. Encryption was not an option then, however if the Olympics do come to Utah in 2030, the importance of having advanced secure interoperable communication systems is important. As decisions are made now, then these issues in the future need to be considered to create success in the future.

The Committee requested that this presentation be shared during the next meeting to allow further consideration on advantages and disadvantages of encryption. One issue was shared that Apex Motorola radio or newer have certain subscribers that come with a default single key encryption at purchase. The determination of what capability a radio has will be down to the board in that radio; if it has room for single or multi key. If there is an opportunity in the State to consolidate encryption into single key, and it is determined later that there are other encryption options, these can always be added to the system. Whether they can be added to the radio or not will depend on how that radio was ordered and configured.

6. Report from Radio Division

a. P25 Deployment Update

An update was provided from the radio division. They are fully engaged in cyber mediation throughout the State to optimize for P25 and 800 legacy equipment. The Book Cliffs site will be 100% and operational by the end of the month for use by Uintah County and Grand County. The Copper Ridge site is on the agenda for site build this year. They have obtained permission from BLM and obtained POs for the site build. The delay will be in relation to the Topper Rocks site which will feed the Copper Ridge site.

Feedback was provided that the trainings that have been provided around the State have been well received and effective. This was evidenced by a recent incident in Juab County which had a multi-agency response and the communication and interoperability was effective.

7. Fleet Mapping

The Committee reviewed fleet mapping and that all issues have been resolved in this area.

8. Follow-up on PSC Current Vacancies

There are vacancies on the committee. Quinn reviewed that Colonel was reappointed in the last board meeting. He requested that the letters for the UPS and UDOT appointments be forwarded to him for retention, and he will ensure they are put on the next Board agenda. They are just informational for this Committee. He has not received any letters for the other vacancies. There are several vacancies and reappointments that will need nominations. These letters of nominations can come from an individual or an organization representing the required class. Committee members are allowed to serve two consecutive terms. Those committee members with terms expiring just need to submit a letter of interest and Quinn Stephens will submit it to the Board for approval and reappointment.

The Committee agreed that creating an application process and publishing the open positions online with the goal of adding members to create a complete functioning committee would be beneficial.

9. Remaining 2021 Meeting Schedule

Next meeting will be held on August 24 at 3:00 pm.

10. Round Table

TJ Brewer requested placing guidance in purchasing end user equipment at a discount as an action item on an upcoming agenda. Rob Nelson offered to provide information directly to TJ Brewer from L3 Harris. The Committee reviewed that for the L3 Harris contract, there are discounts that the State as whole can receive based off the radios purchased through December of next year. The discounts for L3 Harris will be between 40-60%. There are contracts with Motorola with discounted equipment not predicated on aggregation as well

as EF Johnson and JVC Kenwood. The administrative rule is currently being finalized for a process for other radio vendors to sell P25 radios in Utah in the future. The recommendation is to call the vendors that your agency is interested in as they will be able to provide the best detail on equipment, pricing, and discounts.

James Baker confirmed that he will meet with Sherriff Glover on June 30th. He also asked if there are any events that occur in the future that went well or did not go well at all to send him the info so he can ensure the system is functional.

Darin Adams inquired about the coverage in the Hamlet Valley area and Western Iron County area. This is being addressed.

11. The meeting adjourned at 4:14 pm.