

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 1:01 P.M. by Chairman Ron De Bruyne at the Vilas Justice Center conference room with the following committee members present: Ed Bluthardt, John Niebuhr, Gary Peske, and David Alleman. Jim Galloway and Kathleen Rushlow were excused. Also present were Dave Leack and Jeff Nelson of PSC Alliance, Steve Beil and associates of Northway Communications and Sheriff's Dept. Capt. John Butler.

Proper open meeting notice and quorum present were both verified by the Chair.

Agenda:

Motion by E. Bluthardt, 2nd by G. Peske to approve the agenda with the order of discussion to be at the discretion of the chair. All voted aye. Carried.

Approval of the previous minutes:

Motion by G. Peske, 2nd by E. Bluthardt to approve the May 19, 2009 minutes as presented. All voted aye. Carried.

Project Budget and Financial Update:

D. Leack will present an update of the project budget at the next meeting. The Clerk presented a 7-month revenue and expense regarding the general communication expense budget. The .221 telephone line is of concern but will be dealt with if an over budget situation actually occurs.

Communication Project tower work updates:

a. Musky Mountain:

J. Nelson reported that all was complete at the site with the exception of the necessary reports due the leaseholder. The generator at the site is now equipped with an operational alarm that reports directly to the dispatch center.

a. Boulder Junction tower:

J. Nelson reported that all was complete at the site with the exception of some necessary reports. He also reported that the generator is also alarmed into the dispatch center. G. Peske reported that Verizon had acquired the AllTel operation and was now the site leaseholder. Verizon has been paying the property owner the monthly amount that is due him by Vilas County, but has not yet billed the County for reimbursement. The amount is approximately \$2,500.00 per year and has been budgeted in 2009. E. Bluthardt recommended that this amount is carried over into subsequent budgets until the County is billed.

c. Eagle River water tower:

J. Nelson reported that all work at the site was completed. The generator alarm has been connected to the dispatch center. There has been no further communication from Eagle River's engineering firm. J. Nelson also reported that the generators at the Phelps and Weber tower sites now had alarms connected into the dispatch center,

Motorola project status and update:

J. Nelson reported that the system is operational. G. Peske reported that the system performed as expected during a recent large-scale incident.

Town of Lac du Flambeau tower project update:

J. Nelson reported that FAA height clearances have not yet been received from that Federal agency. He characterized the process as stalled. J. Niebuhr reported that the Sheriff's Dept. has been in contact with our U.S. Senators regarding this issue.

Northland Pines Weber tower request:

G. Peske reported that the Northland Pines School District has made a request to lease space on the Weber tower for their bus route communication system. J. Nelson reported that space was available for their antenna and related equipment. A lease has been prepared and approved by the Corporation Counsel. The lease rate will be \$1.00 per foot of antenna height, totaling \$260.00 per month or \$3,120.00 annually. This lease would be up for renewal December 2019. Motion by E. Bluthardt, 2nd by R. De Bruyne to approve the lease rates and terms as presented between Vilas County and the Northland Pines School District. All voted aye. Carried.

Oneida – Vilas interoperability project:

J. Nelson reported continuing communication with Oneida County. Oneida County and Vilas County equipment purchases are pending. Equipment installations are projected to begin in late October. Antenna height still needs to be negotiated with Oneida County.

SonicNet Weber Tower agreement:

G. Peske reported that SonicNet has completed an equipment upgrade at the Weber tower site. 73 customers are currently receiving wireless internet service from that site.

American Tower / AT&T lease – Wilderness Trail:

G. Peske reported that AT&T has acquired cell phone service provider CelCom, and has attempted to change the terms of the existing lease agreement with Vilas County. Instead of continuing to offer free cell service to the County Forestry Dept., covering 6 phones and airtime, AT&T wishes to annul that segment of the agreement, and proposes to pay an additional \$200.00 per month in lieu of the free phone service. J. Nelson suggests that the County may want to use this opportunity to attempt to reopen the lease agreement, as the current lease has been considered detrimental to the County. G. Peske reported that the opinion of Corporation Counsel was that AT&T could not change the lease in this manner. Further Committee discussion was divided between accepting the revised offer, which would raise the overall current annual lease payment to \$4,800.00, and attempting to use AT&T's action as a method to force renegotiation of the lease. Motion by E. Bluthardt, 2nd by D. Alleman to table this issue until the next Committee meeting, and to refer the issue back to the Corporation Counsel for further review. All voted aye. Carried.

Equipment purchases:

Nothing presented.

Correspondence:

G. Peske presented a letter from Verizon announcing their acquisition of AllTel.

Approve Bills and Requisitions:

Motion by E. Bluthardt, 2nd by G. Peske to approve the following bill:

Eagle Electric Inc. \$201.00

All voted aye. Carried.

Mobile data project:

J. Nelson reported that all of the used equipment purchased from Scott County, Minnesota, was in-house and undergoing preliminary testing. One base unit each has been installed at the Weber tower site and in the Justice Center basement. The Musky Mountain site requires an equipment rack, which was ordered. Future system programming efforts will involve coordination between the Motorola and Spillman Companies. G. Peske presented two bids from equipment suppliers as follows:

Baycom Co. 30 Panasonic Tough Book CF30 laptops; 30 docking stations; 30 power supplies; 30 vehicle mounts. Total cost including installation \$140,880.00.

Motorola and Northway Communications. 30 Motorola ML910 laptops; 30 docking stations; 30 power supplies; 30 vehicle mounts. Total cost including installation \$150,666.00.

There was discussion concerning the equipment and price differences. The Vilas County I.T. Dept. regards the Motorola laptops as superior. J. Nelson recommends that the County not purchase the entirety of this equipment until some testing is completed. Motion by E. Bluthardt, 2nd by D. Alleman to table this issue until the next Committee meeting. All voted aye. Carried.

Set Next Meeting Date:

Next meeting was set for 1:00 P.M. on Monday, August 24, 2009, in the Justice Center conference room.

Adjournment:

Motion by E. Bluthardt, 2nd by G. Peske to adjourn. All voting aye. Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 2:26 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted By:
David R. Alleman, Vilas County Clerk