

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 1:02 P.M. by Chairman Ron De Bruyne at the Vilas Justice Center conference room with the following committee members present: Ed Bluthardt, Jim Galloway, Gary Peske, Kathleen Rushlow and David Alleman. Sheriff John Niebuhr was excused. Also present were Dave Leack of PSC Alliance, Steve Beil and John Heisel of Northway Communications and Chief Deputy Joe Fath. Proper open meeting notice and quorum present were both verified.

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 voting aye. Carried.

Approval of previous minutes:

Motion by G. Peske, 2nd by E. Bluthardt to approve the September 25, 2008, minutes as presented. All voting aye. Carried.

Communication Project tower work updates:

D. Leack reported a small punch list of items still to be addressed. G. Peske reported that the enclosure fence had been purchased and installed at the Eagle River site.

Project Budget and Financial Update:

D. Leack reported no substantial changes since last month. The project is currently \$63,000.00 under budget, and is still expected to finish on budget.

Motorola project status and update:

D. Leack reported that the Motorola equipment purchase and installation portion of the overall project is finished except for some small issues. G. Peske reported that one of the remaining items that needed to be clarified had to do with bandwidth. R. De Bruyne expressed concern that this issue may cause aspects of this project to become prematurely obsolete. G. Peske felt that the bandwidth issue could be resolved without prematurely replacing equipment. The bandwidth issue stems partly from proposed changes upcoming in 2013 and from outside agencies that have previously purchased radios that will not operate on our bandwidth. We will be able to communicate with those agencies by the selective use of our Law 1 and Law 2 channels. E. Bluthardt was concerned about what our position would be with regards to upcoming bandwidth changes in 2013. S. Beil said that cost would not be a major issue due to the ability to reprogram our equipment. E. Bluthardt then asked if this change would affect our interoperability with other systems. G. Peske replied that it wouldn't.

Town of Lac du Flambeau tower project:

G. Peske reported that all zoning permits have been obtained. The NEPA site study is underway. D. Leack presented bid amounts from three tower providers. Two of the companies did not respond with complete bids. Sabre submitted a complete bid including foundation work, tower erection and grounding at a price of \$204,916.00. Motion by E. Bluthardt, 2nd by R. De Bruyne to accept the bid from Sabre at the bid price of

\$209,916.00 contingent upon the successful completion of the NEPA site study. All voting aye. Carried. G. Peske reported that the Town of Lac du Flambeau had already cleared the tower site area. He also reported that the agreement between Vilas County and the Town was in the process of being amended to reflect the additional dollars that the Town is putting into the project. Proposed language changes regard revenue sharing between the two municipalities. The proposal is for a 66% - 34% tower revenue split between the County and the Town based upon the dollar amount that each entity has contributed towards the project.

Portable radios and console work:

G. Peske stated that the portable radios were programmed and that some minor glitches were being resolved.

Countywide frequency repeaters:

G. Peske reported that the purchase of the repeaters was approved by the Public Property Committee this morning.

Mobile data project:

Nothing reported.

Radio system maintenance contract:

G. Peske reported that the current system would be under warranty until September 1, 2009. A 4 month maintenance contract can be purchased through Motorola at a cost of \$18,043.56, to be put into effect on that date. The contract would cover essential items on a 24/7 basis, with non-essentials covered on a next business day basis. These costs have been allocated in the proposed 2009 Communication budget. 2010 annual warranty coverage cost are \$54,130.68. E. Bluthardt asked if that amount could be locked in by agreeing to a two year contract and by prepaying a portion of that 2010 amount in the 2009 budget. This will be explored with Motorola.

Vilas Forestry and CellularOne lease renewal action:

Since 1999 Vilas County has leased land to AT&T, formerly CellularOne, for a cell tower site. G. Peske read portions of the current lease agreement that are very unfavorable to the County. The current lease payment is also well below current market prices. Portions of the lease renew in February, 2009. Motion by K. Rushlow, 2nd by E. Bluthardt to authorize G. Peske to contact AT&T to explore the possibility of renegotiating this lease with terms more favorable for Vilas County.

Equipment purchases:

Nothing presented.

2009 committee budget:

The Clerk presented a revised 2009 budget totaling \$69,551.56. He explained that the reduction from the previously proposed amount was primarily due to reduced maintenance contract fees. Motion by E. Bluthardt, 2nd by D. Alleman to approve the

proposed 2009 budget and to send it on to the Finance & Budget Committee hearings. All voting aye. Carried.

Correspondence:

G. Peske reported that he had spoken to a vendor about the ability to encrypt Kenwood radios. A special cable is needed. J. Fath said that the cable was in current inventory.

Approve Bills and Requisitions:

Motion by E. Bluthardt, 2nd by K. Rushlow to approve a bill from Fortress Fence for the amount of \$7,830.00 for fencing at the Eagle River tower site. All voting aye. Carried.

Set Next Meeting Date:

Next meeting was set for 10:00 A.M. on Thursday, November 10, 2008, in the Justice Center conference room.

Adjournment:

Motion by E. Bluthardt, 2nd by D. Alleman to adjourn. All voting aye. Carried.
Meeting adjourned at 2:16 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted By:

David R. Alleman
Vilas County Clerk