

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 11:00 A.M. by Chairman Ron De Bruyne in the Vilas County Justice Center conference room with the following committee members present: Ed Bluthardt, Jim Galloway, Gary Peske, Kathleen Rushlow, Frank Tomlanovich and David Alleman. Also present was Dale Soltau, Steve Beil representing Northway Communications; Joe Spare representing Motorola; Dave Leack representing PSC Alliance and Jim Hanson representing the Boulder Junction Fire Dept. The Chair verified both proper open meeting notice and quorum present.

Approve agenda to be discussed in any order by the Chair:

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 F. Tomlanovich to approve the December 29, 2011 minutes as presented. All voted aye. Carried.

Presque Isle tower project:

G. Peske reported his attendance at a town of Presque Isle Board meeting on April 5, 2012. The town board supports the proposed Fire & EMS Simulcast project and is willing to work with the county regarding the construction of a communication tower, to be located near the Presque Isle Fire station. G. Peske reported that the local zoning approval and permitting process would be time consuming. J. Galloway also stated that the Presque Isle board appeared supportive of the project. G. Peske reported that AT&T applied with Presque Isle to erect two cell towers in that town. Neither tower would be a good candidate for co-location for Vilas County communication purposes. The proposed county owned Presque Isle tower would top at about 120 feet and not require warning lights.

Conover tower project:

G. Peske reported that the Conover Town Board was supportive of the project. The county proposes to replace the existing Conover fire communication tower with a county owned tower topping out at about 180 feet. Radio equipment and a back-up generator may be able to be housed in the Conover fire station. Conover will co-locate their radio equipment on the county tower. E. Bluthardt asked about the necessity of the previously proposed, county owned Land O' Lakes tower, for this project. G. Peske replied that the proposed Fire & EMS Simulcast project would not be contingent upon constructing a county owned tower in Land O' Lakes.

Fire and EMS simulcast radio system project:

G. Peske reported that time was of the essence in moving this project forward. The construction season is short. R. De Bruyne stated that a special May County Board meeting was required to approve project funding, if there was to be any hope for a timely start to the project this year. J. Galloway stated that the need for improved fire and EMS communications is urgent, requiring immediate action by the County Board. **Motion by R. De Bruyne, 2nd by G. Peske to forward a request to the County Board Chair, that a special County Board meeting is held in May, 2012 for the purposes of adopting a**

resolution funding the proposed Fire & EMS Simulcast project. All voted aye. Carried.

Microdata maintenance contract:

G. Peske explained the terms of the Microdata maintenance contract. This 3 year contract renews May 31, 2012.

WISCOM update:

J. Galloway reported the acquisition of necessary software. Installation of the software into the WISCOM radios is in progress. Completion is expected by April 30, 2012. The Sheriff has authorized Northway Communication to obtain the necessary programming key codes.

AT&T lease buyout proposal:

G. Peske reported that AT&T proposes to buy out their co-location lease on the Weber Tower for \$200,000.00. The ramifications to the county were discussed. **Motion by K. Rushlow, 2nd by E. Bluthardt to decline the AT&T offer. All voted aye. Carried.**

Tower issues:

Nothing presented.

Budget review:

G. Peske reported that two recent invoices received from PSC Alliance were billings for consulting and engineering time spent on the Fire & EMS Simulcast project. Funds from the Communication Systems Maintenance budget Professional Services expense line will be used to pay those invoices.

Approve bills and requisitions:

Motion by K. Rushlow, 2nd by E. Bluthardt to approve all bills as presented. All voted aye. Carried.

Letters and communications:

R. De Bruyne wished Gary Peske well in his retirement.

Set next meeting date and time:

Initial discussion indicated no need to set a subsequent meeting date. Discussion then moved to returning to a monthly meeting schedule, due to the proposed Fire & EMS Simulcast project. **Motion by J. Galloway, 2nd by F. Tomlanovich to resume a monthly meeting schedule. All voted aye. Carried.** D. Soltau will schedule a meeting in May.

Adjournment: The Chair adjourned the meeting at 12:01 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by:
David R. Alleman, Vilas County Clerk