

Klamath Radio Interoperability Executive Board Meeting

February 15, 2024 – 10:00am

at Klamath 911 Emergency Communications District Office

Present: Joanie Rote – Klamath 911 - Acting Director/Operations Manager
Mike Cook - KCAAC - Chiloquin RFPD, Fire Chief – Virtual
Matt Hitchcock - FD #1, Fire Chief
Chris Kaber - KCSO, Sheriff
Rob Dentinger - KFPD
Jeremy Morris - Klamath County Public Works
Rob Dentinger - Klamath Falls City Police
James Wilson - FDB - Crescent Fire Chief - Virtual

Absent:

Guests: Garrett Winter – Day Wireless - Remote
Bradley Kahler – Absent
James Moore – Klamath Tribes Security - Virtual
Rachelle Escatel – Klamath Tribes Security – Virtual
Chief Alvarez – Klamath Tribes Security

I. CALL TO ORDER: Meeting was called to order by at 10:00 am.

A. Roll Call

B. Public Comment:

a. Klamath Tribes Security: Chris informed the group that the tribes would like to eventually have their own dispatch center but for now they are interested in partnering with 911 for service. They have been given access to the radios but have agreed not to use them until they are part of the radio group.

Chief Alvarez verified that the information was correct and said they use it only for listening purposes and not for communication. Chief Alvarez gave a brief overview of how they plan to operate and the agencies they have already met with regarding partnerships. The tribes may be able to provide some information on alternate funding options as well as a potential source of funding as a partner. Discussion followed regarding partners and KIRG membership. Jeremy explained the history of KIRG, user fees and the process of becoming a user of the system and group partner. Chief Alvarez said they are working towards getting all the certifications necessary to provide support and response to law enforcement already in place. Discussion followed regarding how they would function and see the partnerships working together.

Mike Cook arrived at 10:22am.

Chris thanked Chief Alvarez for the update and welcomed him to attend future meetings.

James explained how the radio frequencies work within the group and the overall function of the system.

C. Communications: Joanie said nothing has been received but she will be sending out a notice to OIT for discontinuing service with 911. This will remove them from radio use as well. Chris asked why they would be removed. Joanie explained that they are no longer considered public safety by the state, and they are not tracked in dispatch nor provided with CJIS information. The notice will inform them that as of July 1st they will no longer be able to transmit or receive radio traffic.

Jeremy asked if they needed a motion to remove the group.

Matt motioned to approve formally removing OIT from billing and to send a notification letter, Chris second, motion carried unanimously.

II. OLD BUSINESS

A. Meeting Minutes: Jeremy motioned to approve the meeting minutes from January 11th, Matt seconded, motion carried unanimously.

B. Claims & Demands: Joanie reviewed the following bills.

Angel Mt/Tigr in the amount of \$2820.51 for monthly rent, Pacific Power in the amount of \$651.31 for electricity at site locations. ODOT in the amount of \$1585.09 for annual rent and power at Applegate and Walker, Day Wireless \$4046.04 for battery and generator chargers and labor for work performed in 2023, Special Districts Insurance Services in the amount of \$14,844.48 for 2024 property insurance and Government Ethics in the amount of \$151.31 for the 2024 annual fee.

Jeremy motioned to pay bills as presented for February, Matt seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Chris said it seems like the Government Ethics fee was a lot higher.

Jeremy explained what the ethics commission does and the new changes for reporting a complaint and response timelines. Discussion followed and it was noted that other agencies saw increases as well.

Joanie sent around the new Umpqua signature card for everyone to sign which will add her as a signer.

C. Bylaws: Jeremy asked if the bylaws set how user fees are to be calculated. Mike said he believes they do and that they are set by the board as necessary. Discussion followed and Jessica confirmed the bylaws establish how user fees can be calculated.

D. Hamaker Control Site DWS: Joanie said there have been some radio issues and they are working with Mike to determine the problem and get it fixed. James said that the outage was widespread, and he thinks there should be a notification pushed out to all the agencies when something like this happens. Mike asked if the fire defense list would be good to use. James thought they may need a different list because agencies may want others included that are not on the FDB list. Mike asked Joanie if this could be done. Joanie said yes but we are having an outage every day and that may not pertain to all users. Holly said she did not feel they are actual outages rather the radios are going in and out. This is a different problem than the outage that took place a couple weeks ago. Discussion followed. James said having awareness when other areas are out would be good information for everyone to know. Mike asked about forming a committee to come up with a list and discuss this at the next meeting. The group agreed to form a committee with Mike, James, Joanie, and Calvin Emigh from Day Wireless.

Garret had no updates on the project.

Mike gave an update on funding. He is finishing the paperwork with Merkley's office for the two million request and the Oregon lottery is looking promising although it is a long process. Mike is looking for other avenue streams but has not found any at this time and asked the group if they had any to let him know.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. 2024/2025 Budget and Fee Schedule: Jessica said no comments in opposition to the increase were received from the email distribution. Matt said they are not in favor of another 5% increase, and he has had some conversation with other agencies that feel the same. He recommended that if they are going to increase rates annually they should match the increase for tax revenue. Jeremy said that the original rates were set up in 2016 and the last two years are the only increases seen. Jeremy agreed with Matt that it would be better to incrementally keep up rather than a larger increase every five years. Matt asked if the intent of user fees is to cover annual cost or is it to fund the system replacement. Discussion followed funding and costs associated with keeping the system up to date. Rob said he thinks they missed the opportunity on lost increases not imposed from the beginning and should not be trying to catch those up but rather set the amount of increase each year that remains. Mike said that was the intent when they discussed this three years ago when the group saw a shortfall. Discussion followed on reserves, funding, and the trend of increasing costs. Jessica informed that the reserve account has a balance of about \$437,00, expenses have seen an increase around 7% for the past couple years and insurance rates are projected to increase 13% for 24/25.

Jeremy motioned to approve a 3% increase to user fees for the fiscal year of 2024/2025, Matt seconded, motion carried with a 6 to 1 vote.

Nay Vote - Mike Cook

Mike said he understands taxes and the economics, but this is a 911 service that provides safety to everyone and having a reliable robust system is essential.

Jeremy said he thinks they should leave fees on for future discussion to further discuss what is needed for general funds, projects, etc. and what they want thresholds to be.

Chris asked if Mike spoke to the commissioners about contributing funds for the system upgrade. Mike said yes that Matt, Jeremy, and himself went and they did not volunteer to assign any finances, but they would assist with grant writing and going out for grants.

Matt said there was quite a bit of discussion on Title 3 funds being a part of that.

Jeremy said he heard them say they might be willing to close the gap if the group received an amount; then they could provide funds to fill in. They may also be able to provide a loan option.

Rob said he has not approached counsel, but he would be willing to do so and ask for funds.

Discussion followed regarding how the direct link was broken with the group no longer being under the county.

Mike said that KIRG is not a taxing entity, and the future needs would require KIRG joining with a taxing entity that allows the capability to go out for a bond or levy. Matt agreed.

Budget 24/25: Jessica reviewed the budget and explained how she arrived at the recommended numbers. Discussion followed regarding rent and the highest expense being Hamaker and Odell.

Jeremy motioned to accept the 24/25 budget with the adjusted maintenance fee revenue, Chris seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Jeremy left at 11:21a

New Business: None

Open Discussion: None

Good of the Order: Mike said Tim Doney the director of ECSO reached out to him to see if he would be willing to send a letter of support for their radio system upgrade project. Mike asked if the board would give permission for the chair and vice chair to send a letter of support on behalf

of KIRG. Discussion followed. James said his understanding is that their new system does not work with any of KIRG's system. Mike said that is true but soon the rest of the state will be leaving KIRG in the dust with P25s. James said he is hesitant for the group to send a letter in support of something that does not have compatibility with KIRG's system. Mike said what he is hearing is to maintain the status quo and get approval on a case by case. Chris said he appreciates what James is saying because they need to understand what they are supporting. No decision was made.

Mike said he attended the SDAO Conference and that it was very good. He encouraged everyone to take advantage of the training they offer and attend the annual conference if possible. Joanie and Jessica attended the conference as well.

Rachelle asked if they could get a copy of the user agreement to present to their committee for discussion. Jessica will send it to Rachelle. Rachelle said their grants do not come out till mid-year and if they are not able to utilize Klamath 911 as a service they would need to see about utilizing grant funds for their own PSAP. Mike said having a separate PSAP in the center of the county could be problematic because of the changes in the state consolidation of PSAP's. James said the other resources would be Frontier Regional or Warm Springs because they have already gone through the same circumstance. Discussion followed regarding how 911 calls are received and dispatched.

Rachelle said once they have the agreement they will review and get back with them on service and grant funds that may be available through the tribes.

IV. ADJOURNMENT: Matt motioned to adjourn, Rob seconded, meeting adjourned at 11:34 am.

Next Meeting Date: March 14, 2024 @ 10:00am