

SIRCOMM

Joint Powers Board Meeting

March 21st, 2017

SIRCOMM Conf. Room

911 E Ave H, Jerome, ID 83338

Those in attendance:

Commissioner Bolduc-Gooding County

Commissioner McConnell-Lincoln County

Commissioner Johnson-Twin Falls County

Commissioner Howell-Jerome County

Director Moore-Director SIRCOMM

Mariann Schiewe-Admin. SIRCOMM

Scott Hunsaker-MH & Co. Public Accountant

Susan Tenney-Accountant/CPA

Sheriff Renee Rodriguez-Lincoln Co. Sheriff's Office

Fire Chief Jason Keller- Rock Creek Fire

Commissioner Bolduc called the meeting to order at 0935 hours

Commissioner McConnell made a motion to amend item twelve to add Sole Source discussion. Commissioner Johnson second. All in favor, motion carried.

- **1. Public Comment-None**
- **2. Correspondence-None**
- **3. Fiscal Year 2016/2017 Audit Report:**

Director Moore introduced Mr. Scott Hunsaker from the Mahlke, Hunsaker & Co. CPA accounting firm to review the SIRCOMM audit.

Mr. Hunsaker corrected the audit dates to the fiscal year on the agenda to 2015/2016 and shared that SIRCOMM report is a unique report and that was a good thing as it is recognized as a clean opinion. Mr. Hunsaker reviewed the report with the board noting that SIRCOMM's net position shows a strong balance sheet with a ten month reserve where a three to six month is always suggested. He brought to the boards attention the changes noted from the last audit with the increase in PERSI, which affected the balance sheet and a decrease in the land line income.

Mr. Hunsaker shared that in his opinion having an outside bookkeeper has a positive result on accurate accounting at SIRCOMM. He stated it was a good audit and he had no concerns.

Commissioner Howell if SIRCOMM was over budget to which Mr. Hunsaker a stated the income was under however the expenses were acceptable, not really over. Commissioner Howell also asked if Mr. Hunsaker felt SIRCOMM had too much in reserve to which Mr. Hunsaker shared that he always suggests three months in reserve is adequate. A discussion entailed on what was budgeted and monies in reserve along with depreciation and donations.

Commission Howell asked Mr. Hunsaker if there should be any concern regarding line items going over budget to which Mr. Hunsaker stated that he felt nothing appeared grossly over budget.

Director Moore clarified for the board that the income from the counties could only be used for payroll, indicating the lower funds in the payroll account and that the fee fund was used for maintenance of all the facilities. It was asked if SIRCOMM did face a major purchase, if it would be necessary for the board to amend the budget to which Mr. Hunsaker stated, "Yes the original budget will need to be amended."

Commissioner Johnson made a motion to accept the 2015/2016 SIRCOMM audit as presented. Commissioner Howell second, all in favor, motion carried.

Mr. Hunsaker & Ms. Tenney excused themselves at this time from the meeting.

- **4. Current Fiscal Report and Invoices:**

The Board reviewed the current budget reports and invoices were presented for signatures.

- **5. Approval of minutes from the February Joint Powers Board Meeting:**

After reviewing the minutes from the February Board meeting and Commissioner McConnell enquired if a roll call vote was taken on the GEOCOM resolution. Commissioner Bolduc confirmed that yes, he had asked for a roll call vote on the resolution.

A motion was made to accept the minutes from February 2017 by Commissioner McConnell and seconded by Commissioner Johnson. All in favor, motion carries.

- **6. EIS CAD Discussion and Update:**

Director Moore stated that he has set up a meeting with the City of Twin Falls and Chief Deputy Newman for tomorrow to discuss the possibility of inoperability with a CAD system and solving current issues such as the inability for agency's to receive text messaging and other communication issues that have not been resolved.

Director Moore stated that he had had enough with the daily issues with the EIS CAD system. The year-end reports were incorrect after the update and other reports are inaccurate the texting does not work, and it has become a safety issue.

Commissioner Johnson asked if SIRCOMM had a long standing contract with EIS and if so what was the dollar amount. He shared that he felt it was now becoming an officer safety issue and possibly a citizen safety issue and needed to be resolved. Director Moore stated that SIRCOMM has no contract with EIS and is only responsible for a yearly maintenance fee.

Fire Chief Keller shared that they had a situation recently that he felt that the inability for SIRCOMM to send out text notification & responders to receive text notification had become a safety issue.

Commissioner Howell asked if Chief Keller had clarification on this issue to which both Chief Keller & Director more confirmed that there was. Director stated that he had been in contact with Twin Falls City to move forward with possibly working together to come up with a regional solution. Chief Keller stated that this would be a great move not only for the fire agencies, but also for all first responders that rely on the text alerts.

Commissioner Johnson suggested a discussion with other agencies regarding their CAD Systems and the issues they have encountered. Director Moore would work with the local agencies and look at several demo's before making a final decision.

Those present questioned what was really taking place when a text was sent, who received the text and why others did not. Director Moore walked them through the chain of events. The board asked if EIS could correct the problem that had not occurred before the last EIS update, he stated that after having several conversations with EIS, it is apparent there is no fix.

Commissioner Howell stated to move forward it would be necessary to have proper substantiation and documentation to declare this as an emergency situation. He suggested consulting with legal counsel to possibly declare an emergency resolution and the proper guidelines to follow and start the process to replace the EIS CAD system as it has now become a safety issue.

Commissioner Johnson asked for clarification on SIRCOMM replacing or providing the RMS units for the agencies and stated that he felt it was not SIRCOMM's responsibility to do so.

Commissioner McConnell agreed that it may not be SIRCOMM's responsibility to provide them; however, it was SIRCOMM's intention to get everyone on the same page. It was also his opinion that it could be an officer safety issue.

Commissioner Johnson agreed it would be great to have everyone on the same system, however, was it SIRCOMM's responsibility to provide the units. Where does SIRCOMM draw the line on what is provided to the departments.

Commissioner Howell noted that he felt that because it was SIRCOMM that was moving to a different system, he felt that it was appropriate to assist other departments and help them with this expense.

A short discussion entailed and it was noted that by changing our CAD would affect all of the agencies. Cost, models and equipment information were shared and what would be possible with different vendors. Director Moore stated that he felt it was necessary to continue the research and then make a decision as to what would work best for the majority.

Commissioner McConnell questioned the issue of texting to which Director Moore it is not working. EIS stated they are working on it, however, nothing has changed. The system worked before the upgrade and when asked if it could be rolled back to the previous phase and was told it was not possible.

The commissioners were in consensus that Naylor/Hale be consulted on SIRCOMM declaring the current situation an emergency and follow the guidelines in moving forward in a timely manner.

Commissioner McConnell stated that he did not want the public to become alarmed if they heard through the media that they were in danger when calling 911. Commissioner Bolduc agreed that Naylor/Hales Law firm be notified as to proper wording and guidelines to follow with this issue.

7. Ellen Dee Mountain Discussion:

Director Moore stated that SIRCOMM had received approval from BSU to install equipment up on Ellen Dee when the tower could be accessed. The original estimate for installation of equipment of \$400,000 has been reduced to \$50,000- \$70,000. New Tech will purchase spare surplus items at a reduced rate when available to help reduce the cost.

Commissioner Johnson asked exactly who would benefit from this project. The Director stated that the Salmon Tract area and So. Twin Falls Co.

Commissioner Johnson then inquired if at this time SIRCOMM had an agreement in place to with Elko, NV to bounce off their already installed receivers?

Director Moore stated that yes they did not, however, this would benefit Elko Co and VHF Forest side and would expand service in the outlying areas. He is hopeful that the vendors will participate in the development of the new technology available in the area. He stated that there was money set aside in the budget and he would like to move forward with the project in June when the site could be accessed and that SIRCOMM had planned on expanding their service in that area and up in Lincoln County, possibly up on Picabo area's and that the money for such projects is available right now. He feels it is great to work with the company that is interested in working with SIRCOMM.

Commissioner Johnson asked if this project was necessary for Twin Falls or if there were projects available for Lincoln or Gooding Co. that the money would be better utilized with areas that need it more.

Commissioner Howell agreed that this was a valid question as to the need and would more of the public be served by adding new technology in areas with more need for better service in areas of Lincoln County and Commissioner Johnson felt areas of Jerome County also had several areas with issues.

Commissioner Bolduc suggested running the numbers from the CAD regarding communication complaints/problems and he also noted that when this project started they were not looking at the expense of a new CAD System.

Director Moore asked if the board would like him to run the numbers for both the Ellen Dee and projects up in the Lincoln County areas.

Commissioner McConnell stated he was aware of radio traffic issues in the area of northern Lincoln County. Sheriff Rodriguez shared information on a recent incident and felt it communication in the area is definitely an officer safety issue.

Once again Commissioner Howell reiterated that Commissioner Johnson's question was valid. Lincoln County has a real need for better radio reception with Commissioner McConnell and Sheriff Rodriguez adding that the Richfield has also become a high traffic area that is in need of radio reception improvement.

Commissioner Johnson suggested that with SIRCOMM funds already being allocated on the Sunset Tower Project in Twin Falls County and suggested that the board look at the other counties needs possibly spreading the allotted monies for projects to all four counties.

Commissioner Howell suggested using the monies allotted for the Ellen Dee project moved to assist in improving radio communication in Lincoln County.

Director Moore stated that he would meet with Sean and research radio communication improvements in Lincoln County and surrounding areas and bring back the findings to the board.

- **8. Donation of SIRCOMM Pickup:**

Director Moore stated that notification of the 2002 Chevy Pickup to the Jerome County Fair had been published in the local paper and a resolution was necessary for the donation to be complete.

Commissioner McConnell made a motion for SIRCOMM to surplus out the 2002 Chevy pickup to the Fair Grounds. Commissioner Johnson second. Resolution #2017-002 roll call vote taken, Commissioner Howell abstained from the vote. All others in favor, motion carried.

- **9. Conference Room Remodel Discussion-RFP:**

Director Moore asked if the board wanted to move forward with the remodel project or put in on hold for the time being. Commissioner Johnson suggested putting the project on hold as constructions prices were very high at this time. Commissioner Bolduc asked if it was possible to find space available when necessary to which Director Moore felt that would not be a problem with the

Chamber and ISP having meeting rooms available if reserved in advance. Twin Falls also has meeting space available at County West upon request. After a short discussion the Board agreed to table this project and revisit it in the fall.

- **10. Sunset Tower Site Update:**

Director Moore shared that the hearing regarding the Sunset Tower has been scheduled for May regarding ownership of the tower. Information on the case has been provided to the board for review.

Commissioner Johnson asked if there was paperwork regarding real ownership to which the Director replied no.

Commissioner Bolduc stated that real property goes with the ground. The question was brought to the table as to who owns the tower and could it be unbolted and moved.

Director stated that it could be done but would be costly and the present site is the best. It was noted that the original price had been \$350,000 for 160 acres. SIRCOMM counter offered \$250,000 for .3 acres and their appraiser came up with a counter offer of \$600,000 for the .3 acres. Director Moore stated that the hearing was scheduled for May and once the judge rules on ownership the board will need to determine their plan of action.

Commissioner Howell stated that if the judge rules that the tower is SIRCOMM property it is possible the price will go up and that SIRCOMM won't pay over market value. The issue of eminent domain arises from an original agreement with John Wells, one of the brothers, other family members have contested the agreement two years ago and has proceeded from there.

- **11. Funding For Microwave Equipment:**

Director Moore stated that he and Teton Communications have been working on replacing the microwave system. The company that originally supplied the parts for the microwave system has agreed to sell/exchange the parts needed to SIRCOMM and Teton Communications has agreed to install and maintain the system. The estimated cost is \$130,000 for parts alone. Naylor & Hales Law firm will allow the sole source the Microwave Network for parts and with Teton Communications for time and material monies available in the budget.

Commissioner Howell asked if there were any reasons not to proceed with the project to which the Director shared that he could see none.

Commissioner Johnson asked if the repairs would clear up existing radio issues to which Director Moore shared that it was very probable. Commissioner Howell noted that if necessary monies could be moved within the budget for the project. A resolution could be made or wait until the end of the year.

Commissioner Howell made a motion to proceed with the Microwave Improvement project. Commissioner Johnson second. All in favor, motion passed.

- **12. Microwave Equipment Sole Source Resolution:**

Chairman Bolduc asked for a roll call vote regarding the Sole Source Resolution #2017-03. Roll call vote taken, all in favor, resolution passed. SIRCOMM will move forward with repairing/correcting their Microwave Network. Wording will be corrected on the first page of the resolution.

- **13. Hagerman Tower Site-Generator:**

Director Moore shared that he had budgeted \$15,000 for a generator up at the Hagerman Tower Site. The quote received from Intermountain Power Source on a new generator came in at \$18,000. The Director suggested using the spare generator at the site; however, the board agreed that a new one would be a better choice and adjust for the extra \$6,000.

Commissioner Johnson suggested getting it done and adjusting the budget at the end of the fiscal year.

The question arose regarding the propane tank at the site. Was there a need for a new one or would a used one suffice?

Chief Keller stated that a used one would be fine if the regulator was certified and stamped.

It was affirmed that Intermountain Power Source take care of the propane tank at the site and also set ProFlame up as the propane vendor.

Commissioner Bolduc questioned if the budget needed to be opened or could monies budgeted and not used be moved. With the remodel be put on hold could that money be moved. The board agreed this was a good and valid

point. I was agreed the funds could be moved within the budget. If necessary the budget could be opened and funds could be moved according to need.

- **14. Deputy Director Position Discussion:**

The Director asked that this item be moved to the Executive Session

- **15 Staff Report:**

Director Moore reported that there are 11 Full Time, 3 Part Time and 4 New Hires in training. He stated that there are 16 on the payroll and hopeful 18 in the next few months. There are three candidates waiting to go into background and 30 applications still on hand. Commissioner Howell shared that Capt. Miller stated that 18 would necessary to cover overtime, vacations, sick time. Overtime is not only killing the budget it is also killing the morale of the staff. Director Moore shared that the online training has begun and there are POST classes available. It was noted that the atmosphere on the dispatch floor is changing. Director Moore will keep the board informed on the state's new dispatcher qualification requirements in the coming months.

- **Law Enforcement Advisory Committee:**

Director Moore noted that Sheriff Rodriguez was the chairman for the Law enforcement Advisory meeting and they were working together to create a larger attendance and work together on issues in the area. He also noted that Captain Kelly, the chairman of the Fire/EMS Advisory Board was also working with SIRCOMM on their issues. It was noted that SIRCOMM will be hosting the Law Enforcement Advisory Board meeting on April 3rd here at SIRCOMM. It was also shared that the 311 press release will be going out this week.

- **Next Meeting:**

Commissioner Johnson stated that mornings were difficult and would appreciate afternoon meetings. April 18th was scheduled, however all commissioner will be in Boise that week. It was then agreed that the next meeting will be a lunch meeting at 1300 hrs. On April 25th, location to be determined at a later date. Chief Keller & Sheriff Rodrigues will be attending.

- **16. Executive Session:**

Commissioner McConnell made a motion that the board move into executive session to discuss issues pertaining to Idaho Code 74-026 a & b. Commissioner Johnson second. Roll call taken, vote was unanimous. The board moved into executive session at 1047 hrs.

The Board came out of executive session at 1124 hrs.

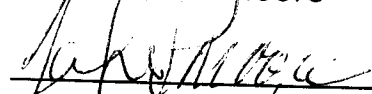
Meeting adjourned at 1131 hrs.

Chairman Mark Bolduc



Date 4/25/17

Director John Moore



Date 4/25/17