

**SIRCOMM LAW ENFORCEMENT  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

**June 27, 2019**

**1000hrs.**

Jerome Co. Sheriff's Office Training Room

2151 Tiger Dr. Jerome, ID 83338

**Present:**

Sheriff George Oppedyk-Jerome Co Sheriff's Office  
Chief Dan Hall-Jerome Police Dept  
Mariann Schiewe, SIRCOMM  
Chief Deputy Don Newman, Twin Falls Sheriff's Office  
Sgt. John Darnell, Filer PD  
Duane Rubink, Jerome PD  
Sheriff Shaun Gough, Gooding County Sheriff's Office  
Derek Walker, Gooding County Sheriff's Office  
Sgt. David Benefiel, Twin Falls Sheriff's Office/Sircomm  
David Neal, Sircomm  
Chief Jeff Perry, Kimberly/Hansen PD  
Gary Taylor, Jerome Co. Sheriff's Office

**Meeting called to order at 1005 by Chief Dan Hall**

**1. Welcome & Introductions:** Chief Hall thanked everyone present for coming to the meeting and introductions were made around the room.

**2. Approval of Minutes from April 9, 2019:** Those present asked to review notes from the April 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting. The minutes from May were also presented to be approved at the next meeting.

**Sheriff Gough made a motion to approve the minutes for the LEA meeting held on April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Chief Perry second, all in favor, motion passed.**

**3/4/5/ & 6: Operations Report:** Sgt. Benefiel stated that the go live date was the 26<sup>th</sup> and that the Sircomm Dispatch Staff is doing a great job and that the CAD Coordinator, Angel Hunsaker has done an amazing job. He also shared that Commissioner Howell had moved to approve the texting feature for the new system. Those present were asked to please be patient regarding their ILETS password and POST ID for the CAD. There are about 700 users to be entered before passwords can be assigned and we are just getting started. The desktop suite is available on the new system.

The feature for "Field Ops" is available for Sircomm to add on to the CAD for a fee of \$2500. It would cost each user \$120.00 per year with up to three devices. The Sircomm Commissioners are being asked to consider paying the first years fees, however; it would be up to the individual agencies to continue thereafter

Ch. Deputy Newman stated that the TFSO had purchased 10 of the "Field Op's App's on their own and that notes cannot be added to calls without the "Field Op's" App. He shared that it is his opinion that the "Field Op's" is the best choice to go with; however, the firmware would not be available for another month. A short discussion entailed with the Ch. Deputy sharing information he had gathered and his opinion on the "Field Op's App.

Concerns were voiced on the many agencies not being made aware of the cost to be incurred with upgrades and equipment necessary to be compatible with the new CAD System at Sircomm.

Sheriff's Gough, Oppedyk and Perry all stated that they had been reassured by the former director that there would be no issues or cost to the agencies with the upcoming CAD switch. Now they are being hit left and right with issues they are not prepared to address.

A request was made for a list of the unexpected issues/functions that the LE agencies can expect and what the cost or solution may be and what is Sircomm was willing to do to solve the issues.

Chief Foster stated that he also had received no emails or information from the former director as to the changes they are now facing.

Chief Hall reiterated that he had been reassured over the past many months that the Law Enforcement Agencies would not lose any of the current capabilities the cost they are now being expected to incur. Several of those present stated the former director had stated GeoCom was included not an extra cost and that a discussion needed to be held to clear up the many misunderstandings that have occurred. The LE Boards lack of ability to have any input on the many upcoming changes has created many issues that need to be addressed.

Sgt. Benefiel stated that he would share the LEA's concerns with the JPB and suggested that anyone with questions stop and visit with the Zuercher Rep's that would be onsite until Friday afternoon. He also stated that the candidate for the director's position was in the background check and awaiting the polygraph. If she is cleared she is set to begin on July 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Sheriff Gough brought it to the Board's attention that there was not an "Action Item" notation on the approval of the minutes for the LEA meeting held on April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019, and they would therefore need to be approved at the next meeting.**

**Radio Frequency/Tower Projects Update:** Mr. Neal shared that Mr. Tajkowski had resigned; however, all projects that have been started will be completed. Several issues are being addressed and it was noted that Robert Hugi would be available to complete the projects, however; he has chosen not to do so. Intermountain Communications out of Mountain Home have been on site and are preparing a bid to complete the radio/tower projects. They have already begun pulling the frequency licenses applied for by Sircomm and they have been supplied with the punch list provided by Mr. Tajkowski. The Towers are ready for the next phase of the switch over

is ready. Chief Kelley is getting the paperwork completed with the agencies. Be aware that until all of the information is in, the change cannot take place. (A side note from Chief Hall that this is item six (6) on the agenda being combined with four (4) as Chief Kelly is unable to attend due to a fire call). Mr. Neal stated that there are several Law Enforcement agencies that have not turned in their information. He went on to explain the frequency's available and how they can/will be changed for better communication and how the switch works and that it is frequency's and not channels.

Chief Hall shared a hand out on the frequency, channel and zone information available to the agencies and how it is designed to work. It was once again noted that Chief Kelley was willing and would be available to assist with the changes and help clear up some of the confusion with the upcoming changes. The switch will take place in a four day window as they go from tower to tower and radio's will have an approximately a 20 second delay as each tower is switched to the new frequencies.

Chief Hall added a side note, that when you have your radio's reprogramed for the new frequencies do not get rid of the old frequencies. They are still needed until the switch over is complete.

The paging system has been approved by the Board and will be going into the new CAD. The consoles and carpet projects on the dispatch floor are moving forward, slower, but moving forward.

Mr. Neal stated that the GeoComm mapping project/program has been put on hold. (Chief Hall noted that this is item 6 on the agenda). The project is being reviewed and issues that have been brought to Sircomm's attention involving both the GeoComm and Zuercher mapping system are being discussed. No decisions have been made and this time but will be pursued after the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Holiday has passed.

Chief Hall asked if Mr. Neal could explain the GeoComm proposal to which he replied no, however; it was a separate project from the GIS mapping project done for Sircomm in the past few years. This is new \$50K mapping software that is compatible with the Zuercher system. Research is being completed on both options for what is best suitable for the agencies.

A short explanation was shared by the floor on the usage of the GeoComm program. Sgt. Benefiel shared how the AVL (automatic vehicle locator) worked and the capability of the program. They both assured that if there were any questions, please get in touch with them and they will find the answer. Communication seems to be the major cause of issues in the past and everyone needs to do their part as we move forward.

Chief Hall stated that with the many frustrations being shared, that he wanted to state that he is very appreciative of the efforts of the current staff and of the dispatch crew over at Sircomm for all they are doing.

Chief Foster shared his concern regarding costs the agencies are encountering without proper representation on the upcoming changes.

Chief Hall stated that he would bring up LE lack of input on changes at the upcoming JPB meeting and share his findings with the agency heads.

**Magic Valley Emergency Channel:** Chief Deputy Newman stated that he has been unable to find documentation on the usage of the MVE frequency other than that it is a nationwide designated channel for medical emergencies. It was noted that it is a Sircomm owned frequency. Search & Rescue has used it when paged out and then switched to a different frequency without any issues in the past and the consensus among those present, was to continue to do so. If any information contrary to this is found, the agencies will be notified.

**7. Action Item: Discussion of By-Laws & needed changes:** Chief Hall stated that the bylaws had not been updated since 2009. Copies of the bylaws with suggested updates/changes (such as Wendell Police Dept. no longer exists) were handed out. Everyone was asked to review the bylaws and email any changes or updates that may be pertinent.

Chief Hall also requested that on page two of section three of the bylaws, it list “five items explaining and granting and this above stated responsibility of the Law Enforcement Advisory Committee when Sircomm was formed”, could possibly be located. Those present shared the necessity that Law Enforcement should be involved in the decision making process at Sircomm.

Chief Hall scanned over the remaining sections, stating that a Police Chief or Sheriff and will serve as chairman and rotate with each term. The Director of Sircomm, the Admin Assn and a representative from the Idaho State Police will serve as Ex-officio members of the board.

Moving to page six (6) of the bylaws regarding a quorum, it was suggested adding in conference calls would assist in better attendance.

If any present have other suggestions or changes, please email them to Chief Hall.

## **8. Agency Reports/Updates:**

Sheriff Oppedyk stated that he and Sheriff Gough felt that due to being misled by the former director regarding the items and each agency’s ability’s to function with Sircomm’s new CAD System. The costs being incurred by each department is unreasonable and that Sircomm should assist in absorbing some of these fees. Agencies without MDT’s will need to purchase the “Field Op’s” feature order to communicate with Sircomm and other agencies.

Mr. Neal stated that he has made Commissioner Howell aware of these issues and they are working on a solution.

Sgt. Benefiel shared that Angel Hunsaker the CAD Administrator had just let him know that she was working with Zuercher on a solution to access and download the needed

Ch. Deputy Newman indicated the TFSO had several trainings with the Zuercher reps, and that it really had been painless and that they had very few complaints or issues.

Chief Foster shared the same sentiment as Sheriff Oppedyk and Gough on the handling of the changes by the former director and stated that he will be gone from July 8<sup>th</sup> through the 25<sup>th</sup> of September. Kevin Hanners will be standing in for him.

Sgt. Benefiel and Ch. Deputy Newman shared the availability of downloading reports and the ability to create reports. Mr. Neal stated that if your personnel have not gotten their information in they will not be able to access the CAD.

Chief Hall reiterated that the turnout for this meeting was great and that due to the lack of attendance in the past has led to several of the issues being dealt with now. Please if possible, attend the Joint Powers Board meeting. Stay engaged, and if you cannot attend the LEA meeting, please send a representative.

Chief Deputy Newman stated that Commissioner Johnson had shared his disappointment at the lack of attendance at the Joint Powers Board meetings by Law Enforcement Officials. He asked if it was possible to request the presence of a member of the Joint Powers Board to attend the Law Enforcement Advisory Board meetings.

Chief Hall stated that he will present this suggestion to the Joint Powers Board at the next meeting.

**9. Next Meeting Date: July 25, 2019 @ 1030 hrs. at County West in the New Meeting Room on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor near Jackie Frye's office**

**Meeting Adjourned: 1134 hrs.**

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LE Advisory Chairman

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Date