

SIRCOMM JOINT POWERS BOARD

**July 11, 2019
2151 Tiger Dr.**

**JCSO Training Room
Jerome, ID 83338**

Those in attendance:

Commissioner Jack Johnson, Twin Falls County
Commissioner Mark Bolduc, Gooding County
Commissioner Charlie Howell, Jerome County
Commissioner Rebecca Wood, Lincoln County
Kristy Churchman, Interim Deputy Director SIRCOMM
Angel Hunsaker, CAD Admin. SIRCOMM
Dave Neal, Project Manager, SIRCOMM
Sgt. Dave Benefiel, SIRCOMM
Mariann Schiewe, SIRCOMM
Susan Tenney, CPA
Payson Reese-Lincoln Co OEM
Cameron Dirks, Rock Creek Fire
Matt Eden, Twin Falls Co. Sheriff's Office
Douglas Sugden, Twin Falls Co. Sheriff's Office
Mike Harrison, Jerome City Fire
Lane Sickles, Jerome City Fire
Tanya Stitt, JC OEM
Chief Dan Hall, JPD
George Oppedyk, Jerome Co. Sheriff's Office
Missy Shurtz, Gooding Co. OEM
James Pennington, Magic Valley Paramedics
Perry Barnhill, Twin Falls Co. Sheriff's Office

Meeting called to order 0903 hrs.

Chairman Bolduc stated that an Executive Session conference call with legal was scheduled to begin at 1100

1. Public Comment: None

2. Correspondence: None

3. Action Item: Current Fiscal Statement/Invoices Presented for Payment:

A motion was made by Commissioner Johnson to approve payment of "B Budget" invoices as presented. Commissioner Wood second, all in favor, motion carried. A second motion was made by Commissioner Johnson to approve payment of "A

Budget” invoices as presented. Second by Commissioner Woods, all in favor motion carried.

4. Action Item: Approval of the Minutes from June 6 2019:

Commissioner Johnson made a motion to accept the minutes with the spelling correction as noted from June 20, 2019. Second by Commissioner Wood, all in favor, motion carried.

5. Radio & Tower System: Awaiting Mr. Neal’s arrival.

6. Action Item: Discussion of “B” Budget: The Board stated that they would like to continue working on the “B” Budget, and the item was tabled.

7. Action Item PTO Payouts: PTO payout requests were submitted by Dory Alleman, Shannon Malone, Tucker Ray, Angel Hunsaker and Brian Murphy. Interim Director Churchman shared that several of the dispatchers did have upcoming vacations scheduled and even with the forty eight (48) hours that are allowed to be carried over, several of the dispatchers are requesting to keep additional hours to be carried over to cover their upcoming vacations. These vacations will reduce the PTO on the books. The board requested that the larger PTO request be addressed before next year, and a possible cap be put on maximum hours carried over.

The Board reviewed the requests and conferred with CPA Tenney on the requests.

A motion was made by Commissioner Johnson to allow the PTO payout requests to be accepted as presented. Second by Commissioner Wood, all in favor, motion carried.

8. Center Report: Sgt. Benefiel reported that Policy/Procedure manual states nothing about the PTO guidelines and he therefore suggests that the Policy/Procedure manual be moved to the top of the new Director’s list. He noted that this project has been in the works for the past two years and desperately in need of being finalized and put into action so guidelines can be established, along with evaluations and guidelines that have not been addressed in the past two years as it has the potential to become an issue.

Sgt. Benefiel shared that Jeff from Intermountain Communications was on site for six hours and had also visited some of the tower sites and actually reset the Hagerman site that was offline due to a possible lightning strike. Sircomm didn’t receive an alarm on the issue; however there had been some radio issues in that area. Information is being gathered as to have alerts/alarms at the towers come right to the dispatch floor. Intermountain Communications has a staff of 10 employees, and

once they begin, they will address the projects in the priority of importance and get them completed in a timely manner.

The fence is scheduled to be repaired, and in speaking with Young's Auto Dealership, the new pick up is in Salt Lake and due to be delivered next week and will be available after they have detailed the inside and out. The front gate is in the process of being completed. Data Tel and the electrician have been on site.

Interim Deputy Director Churchman shared that there were ten new applicants that had applied and that seven had been moved forward to take the "Criticall" computer oriented test phase of the hiring process, and only three chose to move forward and of the three, none of them passed the test. Many of these applicants came from the "Indeed" job site and not from applicants in our area. It was also noted, that after the two failed and one did not complete the test, Ms. Churchman did take and pass the test. It is a standardized test that has always been used. More applications are being processed as they come in.

The Consoles have been signed off and Ben is working to coordinate the whole switch over production with everyone involved.

James Pennington from Magic Valley Paramedics reported on the GeoComm Geolynx vs. the Zuercher applications for AVL's. It was shared that the Zuercher app is very expensive, approx. \$60K more than for GeoComm; they can get the information they need; however it does take an extra step for those in dispatch and for the users, but is doable. He shared the costs of both programs that he had received. The Board thanked Mr. Pennington for his diligence in researching both products. It was noted that communication with GeoComm is extremely difficult leaving concern for technical support when issues arise. The discussion continued on the pros and cons of both systems with Mr. Pennington stating that the original quote the former Director had presented was only for seventy (70) users and that he & Ms. Churchman have counted a minimum of ninety two (92) users and possibly more, so a new quote will be necessary. After a short discussion the board asked Ms. Churchman and Ms. Hunsaker to get quotes from both Zuercher and GeoComm, compare the two program's features and maintenance fees along with the user group's wants and needs, and share the results at the next JPB meeting, so as to assist the board on making an informed and responsible decision.

CAD Supervisor, Angel Hunsaker shared information regarding the "Field Op's" feature that was originally quoted at \$120.00 per user on a conference call with Ryan, has now gone to \$360.00 per the Zuercher Rep. There is a different fee for mobile vs. non-mobile users. After reviewing/sharing all emails and correspondence

back with them she has now been referred to Sarah and she has not responded on the issue as of this morning.

A list of agencies and their users wanting the feature was noted as forty eight (48) possible users. It was also noted that there is an annual fee of \$19,800 per year maintenance/subscription fee. There is also a \$2500.00 one-time set up fee.

Sgt. Benefiel stated that the numbers didn't add up and they would work with Zuercher on that this week. The Twin Falls Sheriff's Office has already purchased ten (10) of the "Field Op" features.

It was shared by Ms. Hunsaker that the text paging information has been entered for about three fourths of all of the users they have the link to the portal and she entering the remaining information as it comes in.

Regarding the mapping functions, after going live on the 26th, GeoComm has had some issues. Screenshots are taken when issues arise and forwarded to GeoComm. Addresses in Castleford are showing up as calls in Buhl when we know they are Castleford and calls in Buhl are showing up in Castleford. There has been a lack of response from GeoComm and the maps have not interacting as needed until this morning.

Commissioner Johnson asked if it was her opinion that having the Zuercher mapping feature would be of benefit to both the dispatchers and the user agencies.

Ms. Hunsaker and Int. Deputy Director Churchman both stated that they felt it would eliminate many issues and time delays in dispatch using just one system. Every time an extra step is needed, it not only costs time, but it causes frustration on the dispatcher's part. The discussion continued and referred back to the "Field Op's" feature and the EIS feature that allowed the ability in the past to log onto the CAD from a phone. Sgt. Benefiel shared information on how and what can be accomplished with the Zuercher portals and many reports are easily accessed. In reply to Commissioner Wood's question regarding those having MDT's with a different system, such as "Computer Arts" will interact with the new CAD even if they have a different system. A software interface may be necessary, and can be expensive, but it is doable. Jerome City Police were given as an example and they have to pull their data in a different manner. Chief Hall did share with Commissioner Wood, that if the money was not an issue, and there were no priorities above a new system, he would go with the Zuercher system if his MDT's needed replace as to be on the same system.

Ms. Hunsaker shared that they had two dedicated support calls with the Zuercher Team since going live. Issues from the Sircomm side have been shared, with some being resolved, and some still being addressed. Training has been set up with Zuercher for Tami and Kris to train on the records and reporting features and that will be passed on. There is still more to be set up in the system and we will keep moving forward.

Sgt. Benefiel stated that text paging has been working well. Response time has been great on the test runs and they will continue to test the system.

Radio & Tower System Update: Mr. Neal shared the Drake Mechanical had been onsite to do their quarterly maintenance on the HVAC systems at the tower sites. A list of suggested repairs from Drake for the Dietrich, Hansen, Gooding, Salmon Damn, Sunset and Twin Falls Silo Tower Sites were shared with the board and Mr. Neal stated that he had also been in contact with two other HVAC companies and would be requesting bids for the work to be done before moving forward.

Mr. Neal confirmed that the consoles had been signed off and were in production. The painting on the dispatch floor and the carpet is scheduled to be completed. He shared that a six hour assessment with Jeff Berger from Intermountain Comm. was held regarding the installation process and other unfinished projects and a more realistic plan is being put into place. He asked Mr. Berger to share his thoughts.

Mr. Berger introduced himself and went on to state that he was new to the situation and was still just gathering information and pick up the pieces on a path to completion of the many projects. He shared that there were a few fundamental things that he will need to address quickly before moving on. He asked for patience from everyone involved as there is a lot of training and technical information they will need to go over in order to give an informed opinion on each project. They did visit some of the tower sites and were able to address an issue at the Hagerman Site on their visit out at that tower site. He stated that he has a very good team in place and knows there is a lot to do and that they are willing to move forward but there is a long way to go.

Mr. Neal shared that Jeff and his crew had just completed the installation of consoles up at the Ada County dispatch with twenty two operator stations and is familiarizing himself with the layout plan for Sircomm.

Mr. Neal addressed Commissioner Wood regarding an email from Mr. Tajkowski offering to brief those coming in to complete the projects; however, after many calls and texts with no response from Mr. Tajkowski, and the board suggested that Mr. Berger make direct contact with Mr. Tajkowski himself and Mr. Berger stated that he

had the phone number and would make that call and he also would be reaching out to Mr. Hugi also.

Mr. Neal stated that we can get through this and it is not mission impossible. No completion dates are being given and will not be. Each project will be addressed as to its priority and we will update everyone as we go.

9. LE Advisory Meeting Report: Chief Hall

Chief Hall reported that the Law Enforcement Agencies have many concerns regarding everything going on at Sircomm. He shared that the turnout at the May 27th meeting was very good. He thanked Sgt. Benefiel & Mr. Neal for being present and opening up the communications. He thanked Angel, Kristy and the whole Sircomm crew for all that they are doing.

Chief Hall went on to share that the meeting was long and spirited with many frustrations being brought to the table. He stated that the Law Enforcement Agency feels that with all of the money put into Sircomm by said agencies, that as the end users they should have some input into decisions made by SIRCOMM that will impact each agency when unexpected cost are presented and have not been budgeted for.

It was suggested that one option to keep the communication open would be to propose that one of the Commissioners attend the future LEA and possibly Fire/EMS meetings taking on the role of a liaison. The next scheduled meeting is July 25th at 1000 hrs. at County West.

Mr. Neal stated that he appreciated Chief Hall taking on the extra responsibility of assisting in tracking down information needed from the different agencies to get everyone set up in the new CAD. He also shared that there is still missing agency information regarding the frequency change. At this point in time it is not urgent; however, we will need it down the road. Be aware that the frequency request information began in June of last year and it is still not complete.

Commissioner Howell shared that he had approached the fire chiefs in his county and received a common reply of “we have sent the information into Sircomm three times”, so please be aware, there is frustration on both sides.

Commissioner Johnson reiterated what Chief Hall stated, that there is frustration on both sides of the fence. What has happened in the past is in the past and we need to look forward and move forward and work together.

Next Meeting: July 25th, 2019 0900hrs

Chief Hall suggested moving the next LEA Meeting the same day from Twin Falls to the JCSO at 1100hrs following the JPB meeting and Tanya Stitt from confirmed that the room has been reserved for both meetings that day.

Regular Session adjourned at 1026 hrs. A short recess was taken with the Executive Session to begin at 1100 hrs.

- a. **Executive Session:** Idaho Code 74-206 (1) (a) & (b) Consider Personnel
- b. Idaho Code 74-206 (1)(f) Communicate with legal counsel regarding pending /imminently-likely litigation

The Board came out of Executive Session at 1215hrs and went back into regular session.

A motion was made by Commissioner Howell to offer Rebecca Simpson the position of director for a six month probation period with the intent that it is a probation period. Second by Commissioner Johnson, all in favor, motion carried.

Ms. Simpson's employment will begin on July 22nd.

A motion was made by Commissioner Johnson to allow counsel to enter into negotiations with T-Mobile regarding upgrades and licensing. Commissioner Howell second, all in favor, motion carried.

Chairman Mark Bolduc



Date 7/25/19