

**SIRCOMM LAW ENFORCEMENT
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

August 15, 2019

1000hrs

Twin Falls County Training Annex on 6th Ave

Twin Falls ID 83301

Present:

Sgt. Dave Benefiel-Twin Falls Sheriff's Office/Sircomm
Chief Dan Hall-Jerome Police Dept
Rebecca Simpson-Director, Sircomm
Chief Deputy Don Newman- Twin Falls Sheriff's Office
Chief Jeff Perry-Kimberly Police Dept
Capt. Scott Bishop- Twin Falls Sheriff's Office
Chief Jeff Troumbley-Filer Police Dept
Lt. Kevin Hanners-Buhl Police Dept
Capt. Gary Taylor-Jerome Co Sheriff's Office
Mariann Schiewe-Sircomm
Sheriff King-Via Conference Line

1. Meeting called to order at 1001 hours by Chief Dan Hall: Chief Hall noted that Chief Deputy Newman was representing Sheriff Carter-Twin Falls Sheriff's Office; Chief Deputy Gary Taylor was representing Sheriff Oppedyk-Jerome Sheriff's Office; Lt. Hanners was representing Chief Foster-Buhl Police Dept; Chief Hall representing Jerome Police Dept and Chief Perry representing Kimberly Police Dept, Chief Troumbley representing Filer Police Dept.

It was noted by Chief Hall that a quorum was not present, and it was of his opinion, that lack of participation has been the ongoing issue that has led to Law Enforcement loss of input into the operations of Sircomm. They have now become the victims of decisions being made, such as the new CAD System, the hiring/firing of employees and outsiders that have grossly affected many Law Enforcement agencies, and not in a good way..

2. Approval of the minutes from April 9th, May 7th & June 27th 2019: It was shared that without a quorum the minutes could not be approved; however Chief Hall stated that they had been sent out in an email and asked everyone to look them over and contact him if any necessary changes or corrections were needed.

The question was asked if the minutes could be approved by email, to which Chief Hall stated that no, the LEA meeting is an open meeting and they must be approved in a meeting.

3/4. Operations Report-Sgt. Benefiel: It was reported that Century Link, Intermountain Communications and Ben Stephens had been on site to evaluate and work out a plan for installation of the new consoles on the 10th of September and Ben has installed all of the new firewalls. Parts were on order for tower repairs, and Intermountain has sent

several employees to be trained on the Tait/Avtec equipment already installed at Sircomm. The project priorities at this time are the completion of the dispatch floor, tower repairs and then the frequency change.

Regarding the CAD System, he shared that there is an issue with Jerome Co. Sheriff and interaction with the Zuercher System. The issue is on the Zuercher side and is being addressed at this time.

Chief Perry stated that his agents are unable to locate information on the CAD. Chief Hall stated he had heard similar complaints, Captain Bishop stated that these complaints were not new and could someone check to make sure it is not an ILETS issue.

A short discussion entailed with several issues being addressed and suggestions offered as to solutions that may possibly work.

Chief Hall stated for the record that they had moved on to item 4 on the agenda.

Sgt. Benefiel asked that everyone send him issues that they encounter with the Zuercher System as two dispatchers are scheduled to go to the Zuercher Conference in September. Email the list of issues and they will be able to address them on site with a Zuercher Tech.

Chief Hall requested that a dispatcher attend the next meeting if possible to assist in answering questions for the Law Enforcement side of the issue.

The GeoComm/Zuercher mapping issues was addressed with Sgt. Benefiel sharing that a decision had not been made on which program was going to be adopted by Sircomm. He also noted that the focus was not on the towers or the frequency change at this time.

Chief Hall asked that all of those that have not already had their radio frequencies programmed in to please wait. There has been some inaccurate information handed out and they are awaiting clarification on the proposed frequencies.

The issue of static out in the Dietrich/Shoshone area was discussed, with information being passed on to Intermountain Communications.

Chief Deputy Newman asked if a time line for the mapping issues to be resolved was available.

Sgt. Benefiel stated the Joint Powers Board would be making the decision in the near future.

Chief Deputy Newman requested it be addressed **ASAP** as many of the agencies have not budgeted for many of the changes Sircomm has undertaken that involve them and many agencies do not have the money to address the changes being incurred and they need an answer.

Chief Hall reiterated this is what has happened in the past! Law Enforcement does not find out until major decisions have already been made by the Sircomm Joint Powers

Board, and is not being kept in the loop, "AND IT HAS GOT TO STOP!" Law Enforcement has got to know what is going on, as it affects them more than anyone else and they should have a say in the decisions.

(3) Introduction of the New Director: Sgt. Benefiel-Director Rebecca Simpson was introduced and she shared about herself.

Ms. Simpson shared that she was born & raised in the Wood River Valley and had been in dispatch in Ketchum and Blaine County for twenty-one (21) years as a dispatcher, trainer and supervisor. A year ago, she decided to change paths and pursue her master's degree. She stated it didn't take long to realize that dispatch was her true calling and when the opening at Sircomm was posted she applied and feels extremely grateful to be back in the dispatch world. She asked all present to please stop by and say hi, and she will also be going around to the agencies to meet people and see where they are so as to aid her in serving all of the partner agencies, and also to please be patient as she learns all of the ins and outs. She stated that she plans to meet with each and every agency as to better understand and work at meeting their needs. She is looking to find the right balance that it will take to move forward in a positive manner for all involved.

1026hrs: Sheriff King from Shoshone joined the meeting via conference call.

Revisit Item 2: Quorum Now Present: Chief Hall asked that everyone go back to the minutes for review.

Chief Perry made a motion to approve the Law Enforcement Agency Minutes from April 9, May 7 and June 27, 2019 with the correction of the date for June 27th. Chief Deputy Taylor second, all in favor, Motion passed.

5. Discussion on the use of the Magic Valley Emergency Frequency-Chief Deputy Newman stated that under the Title for Participation-90.02 from the Code of Frequency Regulations, it was shared that after many hours of research there was no evidence found that the Magic Valley Emergency Channel could not continue to be used as it has in the past. After a lengthy and in-depth discussion, information presented formerly could not be verified; therefore, it is suggested to continue to use the frequency as it has been used in the past. Documentation was presented and after a long review and discussion, it was agreed by all present to add this as an action item at the next LEA meeting to continue the use of the MVE frequency as it has been used in the past.

Chief Hall asked that a copy of all findings be submitted to Director Simpson and all present for review. The use of the MVE frequency will be added as an action item in the future.

6. Action Item: Disc/Recommendations of proposed changes in LEA By-Laws: Chief Hall distributed documents and research discovered regarding the role of the Law Enforcement Agency's involvement with the operation of Sircomm in the past. It was shared that according to IDAPA (Idaho Administrative Procedures Act) that Law Enforcement must be a part of the operations of Sircomm as to their necessity to access ILETS.

A discussion entailed with attention given to five (5) documents found in the Sircomm archives that support the Law Enforcement Agency's role at Sircomm from the beginning of the regionalization of local agencies. Documentation shows that in the past, Law Enforcement must be involved in the management and operations of Sircomm. It is of the opinion of the LEA that an active role by Law Enforcement in the operations of Sircomm is of the top most importance. Concerns were expressed as to the role of the Sircomm Operations Board and its governing abilities. The discussion entailed past history, lack of participation and unsolved issues that caused the lapse in communication causing abandonment of responsibilities. The consensus was unanimous that it must change and it appears more critical than ever that the LEA/Operations Board must once again be an integral part in the running of Sircomm.

Continued findings will be shared with a plan of action to be presented when complete.

A copy of the proposed changes to the Law Enforcement Advisory Committee's Constitution and By-Laws was presented to those present and a detailed discussion ensued. Removal of "Sheriffs/Chiefs from Hagerman and Wendell" were removed as was Ex-officio officers (B) Administrative Secretary and Idaho State Police Representative. It was also suggested removing the communication technician as listed.

Chief Hall asked to be added to the agenda at the upcoming Sircomm Joint Powers Board Meeting and he will share what the LEA is working on and the path they intend to take to regain the intended role of both the Law Enforcement and Operations Board in the running of Sircomm.

A motion was made to assign another officer to assist Sgt. Benefiel into the research of the former Operations Board/Law Enforcement Agency's authority and management at Sircomm with supporting documentation by Chief Deputy Newman. Second by Chief Perry, all in favor, motion carried.

7. Agency Reports/Updates:

Chief Perry stated that he had concerns regarding the multiple time delays from dispatch on primary and Data of 5 to 10 seconds and he feels it is becoming an officer safety issue and must be addressed. He shared that the new CAD and short staffing has caused the need for dispatchers to multitask and he asked the Director to please look into the issue as soon as possible for solutions. Concerns over the compatibility of MDT's and the Zuercher CAD were also shared.

Capt. Taylor: None

Chief Troumbley: None

Sgt Benefiel: None

Chief Deputy Newman: Stated that he appreciated all that the dispatchers were going through with the new system; however, he is also concerned about the minimal staffing.

Director Simpson: Acknowledged that short staffing and training on the new system has been a challenge. She stated that a 5-10 delay was unacceptable and that she would be pulling the tapes to review the issues at hand. Her plan is to bring Sircomm to

an acceptable level of communication.

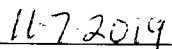
Chief Hall: It was shared that the former Director had prepared a staffing analysis for Sircomm and asked that it be reviewed as most of the issues shared may be due to short staffing. He suggested that the Joint Powers Board move forward in finding the Director more of a support staff with a Deputy Director and possibly more technical support.

8. Next Meeting Date: September 26, 2019 Location TBD

Meeting Adjourned: 1223hrs



LE Advisory Chairman



Date