

**SIRCOMM JOINT POWERS BOARD**

**October 24, 2019  
Room 2151 Tiger Dr.**

**JCSO Training  
Jerome, ID 83338**

Those in attendance:

Commissioner Mark Bolduc, Gooding County  
Commissioner Charlie Howell, Jerome County  
Commissioner Rebecca Wood, Lincoln County  
Tamra Mulliner, SIRCOMM Dispatch  
Mariann Schiewe, SIRCOMM  
Susan Tenney, CPA  
Kristy Churchman, Interim Deputy Director, SIRCOMM  
Payson Reese, Lincoln OEM  
Chief Casey Kelly, Shoshone Fire  
Shannon Malone, SIRCOMM Dispatch  
Kristen Howard, JCSO  
James Pennington, Magic Valley Paramedics  
Tanya Stitt, Jerome County OEM  
Don Newman, Twin Falls Co. Sheriff's Office  
Aaron Zent, Rock Creek Fire Dept  
Tracy Koyle, SIRCOMM Dispatch  
Jackie Frey, TWC OEM  
Gary Taylor, Jerome Co Sheriff's Office  
Dory Allman-SIRCOMM Dispatch  
Ashlee Luna-Trelles. SIRCOMM Dispatch

**Meeting called to order 0909 hrs.**

**A motion was made by Commissioner Howell to move into Executive Session: Idaho Code 74-206 (1) (a) & (b)-Consider Personnel at 0910. Second by Commissioner Wood, all in favor, Motion passed. Chief Kelly, Jackie Frey, James Pennington and Capt. Gary Taylor were asked to stay in the executive session. All others present, departed the room.**

**The Board came out of executive session at 0939hrs and the Board Meeting resumed.**

**2. Public Comment: None**

**3. Correspondence:** It was shared that the Jerome "Jo Mama's Car Show" group offered to deliver Thanksgiving Dinner to SIRCOMM for the Dispatchers and all First Responders on duty that day.

**4. Current Fiscal Statement/Invoices Presented for Payment:**

**A motion was made by Commissioner Howell to approve payment of invoices as presented for the B Budget in the amount of \$74,769.74. Commissioner Wood second, all in favor, motion carried.**

## **5. Approval of the Minutes from October 10, 2019:**

**Commissioner Wood made a motion to accept the minutes as presented from September 19, 2019. Second by Commissioner Howell, all in favor, motion carried.**

**6. Center Report:** Commissioner Bolduc stated that the Board had reviewed the report from Interim Director Churchman and felt that the Board should include ex-officio members from the Law/Fire/EMS and OEM. After a short discussion with all present, Chief Deputy Newman was asked to research Idaho Code and present a proposal at the next Joint Powers Board meeting to be forwarded to legal for approval.

Commissioner Howell affirmed that Director Simpson was officially placed on Administrative leave for ten (10) days, and has the option of accepting that or retiring at that time. Interim Deputy Director Churchman will take over the current responsibilities and with the permission of Sheriff Oppedyk; she will be assisted by Capt. Gary Taylor to assist at SIRCOMM until other issues are worked out.

Commissioner Howell also stated that the JPB Board had asked to meet with the assembled interview board in executive session this morning to share options that the Board was considering at this time. He shared that the Board had reached out to Scott Vawser, a prior Deputy Director Candidate who was interviewed previously to offer him the Deputy Director position. It was noted that the interview board was in agreement with the Board on the option.

The Commissioner also stated that the Board had been contacted by another individual regarding interest in the Directors position; however, the interview board asked that this position be opened back up for ten (10) days with the qualified candidates being interviewed at that time.

Commissioner Howell thanked the staff for all that they do and for reaching out to the Board with their input and thoughts. It is not being taken lightly and the entire Board appreciates their presence here today as it is going to take everyone's support to move through these current situations. He personally thanked all of the dispatchers for the outstanding job on Saturday during the storm. He was on a call with the fire department and knows how overwhelmed the center had to be and what a good job they did and thanked all the extra's that came in to help.

Commissioner Wood also thanked the dispatch staff for their hard work over the past week and appreciated the calls and emails she received and hopes that the upcoming changes will improve the situation for everyone involved.

Dispatcher Tami Mulliner shared the dispatch staff's struggles with the many issues they have had to deal with over the past many years due to the lack of quality leadership at SIRCOMM and the price the dispatch staff has had to pay. This had led to distrust and bad feelings towards the board, a poisonous atmosphere on the dispatch floor which has led to short staffing. With all of the changes, struggles and stress things have not been good. Interim Deputy Director Churchman has been the only constant that has held SIRCOMM together.

Jackie Frey stated that she also feels that the management at SIRCOMM over the last ten (10) years has not had a good relationship with the OEM's in the area. The coordinators of all four counties offer their support. They want the staff to be aware of the resources their offices have to offer and are available whenever there is a need. She shared that she has hope that in the future the can meet and formulate a plan of action that will benefit everyone involved.

The Commissioners shared that success for everyone depends on the relationship that the board has with its leaders. There are certain communications that cannot be shared and yet there is much the Board must depend on hearing from those directly involved. Hearing from staff over the past few weeks has been a huge part of what is going on today. Many people look much better on paper than what they are actually capable of and yet some prove to be a great find. A probationary period will be put in place as to not be put into situations that are not favorable for SIRCOMM. An open door policy is much appreciated and requested for the future success of SIRCOMM.

The discussion continued with the staff present sharing their cares, concerns and suggestions for SIRCOMM in the future. It was stated that hiring a Director or Deputy Director for SIRCOMM is very different than hiring for any other center as SIRCOMM is a regional center making it a very different entity where staff dispatches to 42 agencies. Staffing, training and maintaining dispatchers is much more difficult. It was shared that due to the required hours at SIRCOMM many families suffer and the dispatchers are overworked, tired and stressed. Something has to change. There has to be some kind of balance. Several opinions were shared on the "On Call" program, wages and incentive programs being discussed.

The Board asked the dispatchers to please put their suggestions, cares and concerns in writing and submit them for further consideration. The board members stated that they have no way of knowing without their help what is wanted or needed and are very open to suggestions. Where the center is now is not where it will be three, six or twelve months down the road. It is going to take everyone involved to make it succeed. The staff was encouraged to continue to attend the JPB meetings as well as the Law Enforcement, Fire & EMS meetings. Communication is the only way change can occur.

**Next Meeting Date: November 7, 2019 @ JCSO 0900hrs**

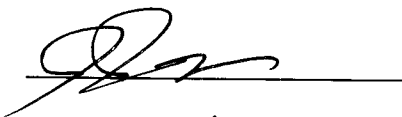
**Meeting Adjourned 1054**

Chairman Mark Bolduc

Int. Dep. Director Kristy Churchman



Date 12/4/2019



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