

**SIRCOMM JOINT POWERS BOARD**

**May 15, 2018**

**911 E. Ave H**

**Jerome, ID 83338**

Those in attendance:

Commissioner Charles Howell-Jerome County  
Commissioner Jack Johnson-Twin Falls County  
Commissioner Mark Bolduc-Gooding County  
Commissioner Rebecca Wood-Lincoln County  
Hope Lindsey- Director SIRCOMM  
Chief Casey Kelly-Shoshone Fire  
Tanya Stitt, Jerome Co. Emergency Coordinator  
Mariann Schiewe-Admin. SIRCOMM  
Susan Tenney-CPA  
Chief Jeremy Presnell-Jerome City Fire  
Mike Williams-City of Jerome  
Chief Jeff Perry-Kimberly PD  
James Pennington-Magic Valley Paramedics  
Chief Dan Hall-Jerome PD  
Stephen Phillips-Lincoln Co. Sheriff's Dept.  
Chad Kingsland-Jerome Sheriff's Dept.  
Tim Miller-TWF Co. Sheriff's Dept.  
Don Newman-TWF Co. Sheriff's Dept.

**Meeting called to order 14:00 hrs.**

**1. Public Comment: None**

**2. Correspondence: None**

**3. Invoices presented for payment:**

**Commissioner Johnson made a motion to approve the invoices for payment.  
Commissioner Howell second, all in favor, motion carried.**

**4. Approval of the Minutes from May 1, 2018:**

**A motion was made by Commissioner Johnson to approve the minutes as presented.  
Second by Commissioner Howell, all in favor, motion carried.**

**5. Employee Insurance/Insurance Renewal:**

The Director shared that a decision must be made by 1700 hrs. A letter can be submitted at a later date to change the renewal date to October 1<sup>st</sup> of each year to coincide with the SIRCOMM fiscal year for budget purposes. The cost of coverage today is not guaranteed to be the same on October 1<sup>st</sup> per Rhonda Bartholomew.

Commissioner Howell stated that at this point in time the current plan should be renewed, and consider changes for the next budget/calendar year.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Johnson to continue with the current insurance plan. Commissioner Howell second, all in favor, motion carried.**

**6. RFP for the CAD Update:** Director Lindsey stated that she had sent the proposal over to Naylor/Hales and had a conference call scheduled for 11:00 tomorrow to go over the changes they asked for before sending it back to Zuercher.

**7. Radio/Frequency Updates:** Commissioner Bolduc asked Chief Hall from Jerome Co. PD if he would like to lead off.

Chief Hall first shared his thoughts and concerns on the proposed changes with the radio frequencies here at SIRCOMM. He stated that he had not been informed on the technical aspect and needed more information before Jerome City PD and other Law Enforcement Agency's would consider moving forward with the changes. It was noted that Jerome City puts in a large amount of money to support SIRCOMM and this is 5% of his entire budget and feel he deserves better communication. He stated that the lack of communication was on SIRCOMM's part and that Law Enforcement was not entirely at fault. It was his opinion that someone needed to bring Law Enforcement up to date before they could weigh in on the proposed changes and make an informed decision. He stated that the previous director had maintained weekly contact with the agencies and that SIRCOMM was the lifeline and without communication it fails. He would like a commitment for better communication in the future. He shared his overview/questions of the proposed changes to be addressed at the upcoming meeting on the 29<sup>th</sup>:

1. Exactly what changes are being made to the frequencies?
2. Why are the changes being made? Standards and where these standards come from?
3. How will these changes affect the communication and interoperability of all the agencies involved?
4. What is the target date of the proposed changes?
5. What is required of each agency regarding the changes?
6. Will there be any training for those involved?
7. Will the training be conducted in a manner in which everyone can understand and have a clear understand of what is going on?

Chief Hall apologized for bringing a negative tone into the meeting; however, he feels there is a lot at stake here.

Commissioner Howell asked Chief Hall if he had a solution regarding his concerns with the communications issue, to which the Chief stated that he was not intending to point fingers, however he felt the Director or an appointed liaison should open and keep open a line of communication regarding information on proposed changes that affect the agencies that Sircomm serves. He also suggested a user's group that could meet on a regular basis and blast the information out to their individual groups.

Chief Kelley from Shoshone Fire asked to make a comment to the group that he had been working with the previous director a year ago and now Director Lindsey on this frequency issue. He stated that as head of the Fire Advisory Committee, he has made it a point to attend every meeting set up by Sircomm and that SIRCOMM has done a good job. In turn he had sent the information out to every fire chief or fire agency in his user group. He shared that this project has been addressed every two weeks for the last eight months by the Director & Mr. Tajkowski at the SIRCOMM Joint Powers Board Meetings which all the head of all agencies are notified of. Failure to be a participant by the agency is where the issue lies.

Chief Hall wanted to point out that some have other commitments and cannot come to SIRCOMM every two weeks as he has many meetings on his schedule for Tuesdays and if he had known what was being proposed he would have made the time. Chief Kelly stated that a representative is welcome to attend and report back to the group, keeping everyone informed and also having input on other issues being addressed.

Once again Commissioner Howell asked Chief Hall if he had a solution that would solve the problem. Commissioner Johnson stated that Law Enforcement had a very close relationship with the previous director; however, he did not realize that this information had not been passed on to the current director by the board and felt this could be the reason for current the disconnect, and would take the responsibility and would work with the Director in finding a solution that could work for everyone. He also shared that he had been asking Law Enforcement to get involved from the beginning of his term on the SIRCOMM's Joint Powers Board, and this is a good example of why he feels that it is important that they show up and participate in decisions being made that affects all forty two agencies in the valley served by SIRCOMM. If Tuesdays are the issue, that can be addressed.

Sean Tajkowski, Sircomm's Radio Technician, shared his concerns regarding past attempts to reach out to everyone involved in an attempt to get all entities on the same page with the proposed frequency changes at Sircomm. He stated that there have been several meetings, group work sessions and private work sessions held throughout the area, and there still was a huge disconnect between some of the agencies. He asked that everyone take in what is being discussed today and move forward regarding the present safety hazards, what is being gained by all and the cost effective solutions that are being presented. Sean Tajkowski went on to explained the current situation mainly for Fire & Law Enforcement, regarding the lack of frequencies and what has been happening when two agencies on the same frequency step on each other during radio usage. He reiterated that the LE Meeting on the 29<sup>th</sup> is very important.

Mr. Tajkowski shared the current frequency diagram on the overhead screen. He explained that during the audit the issue was discovered. After hours of tedious investigation with Mr. Hugi a solution to correct this serious and dangerous issue that has been occurring for over twenty years according to the fire chief's was put into play. They were told it was technological issue, which it is not, it is an architectural issue. The proposed changes and explanation for these changes were then shown. The increase in frequency channel as well as assigned channels is the plan to improve radio communication and safety when an incident occurs.

Once again, it was reiterated by Mr. Tajkowski that the meeting for Law Enforcement on the 29<sup>th</sup> at 1000 hrs. of the utmost importance for the Law Enforcement agencies served by SIRCOMM and encouraged everyone's attendance.

**8. Center Report:** The Director reported that another part time dispatcher has chosen to move back to full time status and that there are now enough on staff that they can move back to the panama schedule and there will be no more mandatory overtime. Three trainees are still fine tuning their skills on Fire/EMS before moving on to the next phase. Eleven new applicants have applied and are moving through the "Criticall" phase of the hiring process. A Board interview for those passing the "Criticall" is being scheduled for the first week of June. The top three will move forward into background. The Director shared that she had attended the State Meeting at County West and found that Idaho does not recognize several certifications from other states and she may have to recertify. She also noted that Shannon Malone had applied and received a scholarship from APCO to attend their conference in Las Vegas this summer.

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Commissioner Johnson stated that Director Lindsey had shared that she had been denied access to the POST online services and asked if the board could send a letter of authorization to POST granting her the access to do so. A short discussion ensued and Capt. Miller shared that the same request from POST was done on his behalf the previous year as interim Director.

**Commissioner Bolduc requested that a letter be drafted and signed by the chair to allow the Director access to POST. Commissioner Howell second, all in favor, motion carried.**

The Director brought up the issue of recent radio interference for the last two weeks on the law frequency. She asked Mr. Tajkowski to explain to the Board what was found and what was being done to correct the issue.

Mr. Tajkowski stated that this issue was also being sent to our tower site legal services as it is something that could have been prevented if SIRCOMM had a proper blanket contract in place for those that lease space on our towers. At this time a blanket lease is being drafted for SIRCOMM tower sites, as the landlord at the tower sites and will be put in place that uses the national standards for rates, access and equipment restrictions in place to prevent these incidents from reoccurring.

Commissioner Bolduc clarified for those that had not been in attendance, that SIRCOMM is currently working with a legal firm that specializes in Tower Site Leasing and Law, to evaluate and advice on issues with current leasers at the SIRCOMM Tower Sites.

Mr. Tajkowski went on to share that after pinpointing the issue to interference coming from Sunset Tower and going to repair the issue it was found that one of the current leasers at the tower site, added extra equipment without permission and taken down equipment and abandoned it at the site which is not only unacceptable but illegal. After obtaining proof of reported access from SIRCOMM dispatch it was determined the responsible party and all information has been sent over to Cell Site Legal, LLC for processing. It was also noted that improper installation of cable by AT&T at one of the tower sites has proven to be a safety issue, and that fines will be implemented daily until installed properly according to the national safety standards. Several of these types of issues have been discovered in the overall audit and are being addressed and corrected at this time. Legal is also drafting a new blanket lease for all cell companies and other entities that lease space on SIRCOMM tower sites.

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**Appointment of Deputy Director:** The Director shared the starting date for Mr. Dorsey and a short discussion entailed.

**Commissioner Johnson made a motion to appoint Matthew Dorsey as Deputy Director effective May 15<sup>th</sup>. Seconded by Commissioner Howell, all in favor, motion carried.**

**9. Executive Session: NONE**

Commissioner Bolduc reminded all present of the Law Enforcement meeting on the 29<sup>th</sup> down at the Jerome Sheriff's Office at 1000 hrs. in their training room.

**Next Meeting: June 19, 2018 1400hrs**

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Chairman Mark Bolduc

Director Hope Lindsey

Mark Bolduc

Hope Lindsey

Date 6/15/2018

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