

Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council  
Interoperability / Information Sharing Sub Committee  
Special Meeting Minutes  
November 12, 2013 10:00 am  
Northampton Police Department, 29 Center Street, Northampton, Ma.

**In attendance:** Raine Brown (FRCOG), Gretchen Johnson (FRCOG), Tom Grady (BCSO), Dennis Nazzaro (DFS/NFD), Russ Sienkiewicz (NPD), Ann Shea (MMC), Peter Cowles (WEMA), Butch Garrity (MSP), Bernard Forgea (CFD/CPD), Fran Nothe (WPD), Robert Garriepy (HPD), Dave White (WPD), Seth Irwin (RPD), Jennifer Dubiel (RPD), Terry Dun (FCECS), Melissa Nazzaro (Spfld Comm), Blair Sutherland (MSP)

The meeting was brought to order by Russ Sienkiewicz, Chair, at 10:07 am. Russ thanked everyone for attending this Special Meeting. A round of introductions followed.

**Budget Overview**

Raine Brown stated that the Hampshire Hills 800 Project Phase I was voted and approved for the FFY13 Plan for \$175,000 to update four towns to the 800 MSP system. Russell has experienced some challenges with their communications after the towns for the phases were determined. Additional funding has become available. The Council has \$181,000 to spend down. Approximately \$130,000 must be spent by July 2014. This project would be a good fit because it is equipment only and therefore can move forward quickly. The Council will be presented with other additional projects to consider as well.

**Review Hampshire Hills 800 project**

*Russell PD Communication Issues*

Russ Sienkiewicz asked Blair Sutherland to give a background on the project. Blair stated that Phase I had included four towns. The state is still in the process of installing repeaters to address coverage gaps. The first phase towns were selected by the local partners. Russell has experienced an issue that has caused an immediate deficit in their communications.

Bernie Forgea stated that due to current circumstances it is being proposed to bump the Town of Russell to Phase I from a later phase in the project. The addition of Russell into Phase I will require an increase of \$52,000. Discussion followed regarding other possible solutions and if any other town was also in need of being added to Phase I. It was the consensus that no other town had a need to be put into Phase I from a later phase of the project.

Tom Grady voiced a concern about setting a precedent of using Homeland Security funds to address an emergency need of one town. Russ stated that the town was included in the project just in a later phase. Bernie stated that alternate funding is being sought through a bill currently in the legislature. If the bill is approved with the funding for this project it will be applied to a later phase of the project as appropriate.

It was decided that Russell will only require 2 mobiles and therefore dropping the request to \$47,522. Discussion followed concerning the additional funds in FFY13. Raine stated that all numbers of mobiles, DVRs and portable radios for this project should be reviewed and finalized to present to the Council on November 19<sup>th</sup>.

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**Motion:** Butch Garrity moved to approve \$47,522 of available funds to include the Town of Russell in Phase I of the Hampshire Hills 800 project. Peter Cowles seconded. Motion passed. Bob Garriepy abstained.

Russ clarified that all the equipment purchased under Homeland Security funds belong to the Council and are regional assets. Raine will write up an agreement for the towns receiving equipment to sign.

**Adjourn Meeting**

Bob Garriepy stated that the WMLEC system has been activated. Russ stated that he has had positive feedback on the system. Fran Nothe stated that Wilbraham Fire has experienced increased interference over the last week and he wonders if it is related to the enhanced WMLEC signal. Russ stated that it may be related to the simulcast broadcast from Hovey Hill tower. He will have the situation looked into.

Tom stated that a representative from Russell should attend the Council meeting to speak to the request.

The next meeting is scheduled for November 19<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 at WMEMS.

There being no further business Tom Grady motioned to adjourn. Terry Dun seconded. Voted unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at  
11:10 am.

Respectfully Submitted by  
Gretchen Johnson  
Homeland Security Program Assistant  
Franklin Regional Council of Governments