

**Clinton County Communications Commission Meeting Minutes**  
Tuesday, September 14, 2021 at 1:30 PM  
Clinton County Law Center – Large CR/EOC (241 7<sup>th</sup> Ave N. Clinton, IA)

Present:

**Communications Commission/ Board of Directors (BOD):**

Board of Supervisor – Dan Srp  
City of Camanche – Trevor Willis  
City of Clinton – Scott Maddasion  
City of DeWitt – Steve Lindner  
Sheriff's Office – Bill Greenwalt  
Sheriff's Office – Steve Diesch

Camanche Police – Bill Lodge  
Clinton Police – Kevin Gyrion, Jim Ballauer, Pat Cullen  
DeWitt Police – Dave Porter, Matthew Whalen  
Clinton County Auditor – Eric Van Lancker  
Clinton County Budget Director – Nick Manrique

Eric Dau – Communications Manager & Clinton County Fire President  
Brent Vogel – Technology Systems Manager  
Amanda Schwartz – TOB & BOD Secretary

Public: Clinton County EMA – Chance Kness

Press: None present

1. Call meeting to order – The meeting was called to order at 1:30 PM by Sheriff Greenwalt.
2. Roll Call – Present: Roll call was taken– Quorum was present (see above, >3).
3. Approval of previous BOD meeting minutes (6/30/2021)
  - a. BOD Motion: A motion to approve the previous meeting minutes from 6/30/2021 was made by Supervisor Srp and seconded by Mayor Maddasion. Motion carried.
4. Public Comment – There were no public comments and nothing received prior.
5. Update on Radio Project
  - a. Regarding the tower site updates, quotes from two (2) HVAC vendors were received. The first one being from Northwest Mechanical for \$7,322. That price would cover only one unit requiring 911 to be responsible for all concrete work from an additional vendor. The other vendor was Johnson Controls for \$23,900. That price would include two (2) units and concrete work. Motorola has recommended having redundant systems in place. Dau plans on using Johnson Controls in order to be in compliance with Motorola's recommendations and due to the concrete work included in the proposal.
  - b. Dau is waiting to hear back from Charlotte Electric and Leslie Electric on two different final bids for the electrical work for the site. He has received a verbal bid from one of the contractors and has been assured that a formal bid should be received by the end of this week. Due to the amount of work required from the contractor and changes in generator specifications, obtaining the bids has been a lengthy process.

- c. The Motorola sub-contractor has been on site twice in the past two weeks checking things over on the tower. The design for the microwave portion of the project will be locked in by the end of this week. The goal is to start installation work in October.
6. Discussion/ Possible Action Purchase of APX Next Radios and Trade in of Radio Impacted by Purchase of APX Next
- a. A joint meeting with the Clinton County Fire Chiefs and the Board of Supervisors was held on September 1<sup>st</sup>. The Fire Chiefs present with the exception of Clinton Fire decided to proceed with installing the radios that were originally ordered and getting the portables that are in stock put into service. Clinton Fire wanted to wait to make a decision until after the Clinton tower is online. There was discussion during the September 1<sup>st</sup> meeting that if there is money remaining that the Fire Chiefs would like to have one APX NEXT radio per department issued. The Chief or designee would then have the ability to monitor and communicate during large scale incidents even when they are not in the area. This addition would require some further discussion later.
  - b. Sheriff Greenwalt was present at the joint meeting as the Chair of the Communications Commission and advised that he has had discussions with Clinton PD and they are in favor of eliminating all mobile radios and migrating to APX NEXT. The Sheriff's Office is willing to take the mobile radios that are currently in use by Clinton PD to repurpose them for their squad cars since the Sheriff's Office is not in a position to migrate to APX NEXT to eliminate the use of mobile radios. However, the Sheriff's Office would like to migrate to APX NEXT portables. Sheriff Greenwalt was hesitant to switch over to the portables due to deputies being 20 or more minutes away from their home base/ back up compared to city agencies that are not as rural. He also suggested returning the other radios that were purchased for the Sheriff's Office but were never installed can be returned towards the additional radio expenses.
  - c. The BOS directed the Communications Director to work with the Auditor and Budget Director to evaluate the financial aspects of the potential migration. Budget Director Nick Manrique and Auditor Van Lancker are working on finalizing totals for the purchase of the new radios. There have been some additional expenses recently determined for the APEX NEXT radio which would include \$511 per radio for different app bundles and \$211 per radio for an annual extended warranty after the fourth year in use. In the future, there may not be a need for all of the apps which could reduce expenses. Nick stated the additional fees are estimated to be around \$200,000 more than the original budgeted amount available to purchase the radio equipment. This additional amount would still fall within the bond amount. The \$200,000 figure does not include the returns of the radios to Motorola. There will also be some installation fees to move radios from one department to another agency. Nick would like to wait on moving forward with ordering the radios until he has reviewed the final budget numbers. The current total of radios needed are 36 radios for Clinton PD, 15 for DeWitt PD, 9 for Camanche PD, 32 for Sheriff's Office, 2 for Communications and 2 for EMA for a total of 96 radios. There is also the uncertainty on how many radios Clinton FD will need. Sheriff Greenwalt and Chief Porter discussed the option of reducing some radio totals for Reserves in order to save some money. Dau stated concerns for the Sheriff's Office if

they reduced their radio coverage due to limited coverage available in some facilities. He was not concerned with the quality of coverage for portable radios for DeWitt PD.

- d. A Work Group follow up meeting with Motorola is scheduled for tomorrow. Dau discussed what budget the additional app expenses will be paid for after year four. The estimated yearly expense is \$70,000. Discussion took place on what to do with the extra radios from the fire departments. Dau suggested repurposing some of the fire radios to the Jackson County departments. He also suggested reallocating the vehicular repeaters to the rural fire departments to avoid paying the 40% restocking fee if Motorola does not decrease the restocking fee amount. Sheriff Greenwalt stated there has not been a strong push yet to negotiate the radio purchase price with Motorola. Further questions the group discussed to ask in tomorrow's work group meeting was:
    - i. Turnaround time once radios are ordered
    - ii. Confirm the radio total for Clinton Fire
    - iii. Negotiate radio purchase price with Motorola
  - e. BOD Motion: A motion to authorize the Radio Work Group commission to conduct one final negotiation with the intention to start an order as long as the negotiation price falls within the reasonable budget constraints for law enforcement radios after being reviewed by the county Budget Director/Auditor to was made by Mayor Maddasion. This motion was second by Supervisor Srp. Motion carried.
7. Other business
- a. Dau updated the group about a recent trainee employee who resigned. There are two additional trainees about ready to go on their own in the next few weeks. In order to get to the authorized level of 16, three more people will need to be hired. The department will begin advertising a testing date in the next few weeks. He also updated the group on some staff members testing positive for COVID.
8. Adjourn – BOD Motion: Sheriff Greenwalt made a motion to adjourn at 2:23 PM. This motion was second by Mayor Maddasion.