

UNOFFICIAL MINUTES – SUBJECT TO CORRECTIONS
LYON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
LYON COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER, MARSHALL, MN
LEC Basement
October 28, 2009
Special Meeting

6:00 p.m. - Meeting called to order by Vice-Chairman Goodenow. Members present: Fenske, Ritter, Goodenow, Nelson, County Attorney Maes.

Absent: Commissioner Stensrud, County Administrator Stomberg, Auditor / Treasurer VanOverbeke

Pledge of Allegiance

Sheriff Mather – Tonight we will hear from Dennis Houseman from Federal Engineering. He was hired to study narrow banding. After the presentation we will take some questions. Houseman – I am with a company called Federal Engineering. All the information we received was from the Sheriff's Department. The purpose of what this is about the FCC has made a determination that by January 1, 2013 anyone operating a radio 500 mhz or lower will have to go through narrow band technology. There are two technologies analog and digital. There were two assessments that we did. We looked at the tower and dispatch center and the things that couldn't be moved. Next we sent an email and a survey to all the Public Service Agencies in Lyon County. We looked at three alternatives. Alternative one was analog conventional radios. The next alternative was to look at P25 standard based. Alternative three was the ARMER radio system. Goodenow – Does the third system allow you to use other counties towers? Houseman – Yes. Ritter – Alternative three is a trunking system? Houseman – Yes it is a trunking system. Today your system is conventional. Everyone waits their turn to use a radio frequency. Trunking doesn't care what frequency you are assigned to. The estimated coast for the first year for Alternate One is \$928,000 for Alternate 2 \$2,105,000 and Alternate 3 is \$2,230,000. Ritter – On alternate 3 that would be an all new, even new radios? On option two are they new too? Houseman – Yes. Fenske – In those costs, are you figuring all the units in Lyon County? Houseman – Everyone we got information from. Mather – It is basically everyone in Lyon County. Goodenow – Do you have a chart of what other counties have done? Bob Yant (Marshall Public Safety Director) – At RAC they had said that we should gather some information on how it has been funded. Discussion. Ritter – Of the 23 counties you worked with, are they just including the emergency departments or are they including others like public utilities? Houseman – Some are some aren't. Some are also including schools. Fenske – If you have this installed is it a big deal to have the schools get on later? Houseman – Not if you go with ARMER. When you work on the participation plan it is important to have all the users you want to have in there. Mark Klaith (Chief of Marshall Fire Department) – We applied for a grant but there is not guarantee. Yant – One of the things in a rural environment is we have to work together. It is really critical that everyone be able to communicate. Discussion. Nelson – I would like to have Dennis talk about the ten year renewal and seventeen years. Houseman – Built into the plan is in eight, nine, and ten is the ability to purchase more radios. We figure they will begin to fade out. They may last seventeen years but that might be a bit of a stretch. Fifteen is more likely. Everything we based it on was 10 years. Goodenow – You said you already had a users group? Was there a decision? Mather – We thought the priority. Houseman- I would recommend if you add you do it now. You may have to buy some additional frequencies. Yant – We will actually have two user groups but they will work hand and hand. Houseman – This is our experience from the other counties. We found is that typically when we were asking for radio counts the numbers we were getting were high. Goodenow – We do have a proposed resolution. Mather – The resolution will migrate us towards the ARMER system and it accepts the report. Maes – On the resolution option three he said the FCC mandated modifications with 512 and below, the resolution says below 512. It doesn't make a huge difference. Nelson moved, seconded by Fenske to approve the resolution and allow the Vice-Chairman to sign it. Ritter – It doesn't say any dollar amounts? Mather – \$30,000. Fenske – It does not commit us? Mather – No. Ritter – We have to figure out how to fund it too. All voted in favor. (Resolution 28-09 on file in County Administrator's Office)

7:10 p.m. Vice Chairman adjourned the meeting.

Mark Goodenow, Vice-Chairman

Attest: Loren Stomberg
Lyon County Administrator