

## Radio System Interoperability Committee

Meeting Notes – September 17, 2002

Skip Thomas opened the meeting with an opportunity for public comment. None was offered.

Eric Fine went over the proposed specifications for the handheld radios. Jerry Zarwanski asked why 16 channels were required. Eric explained that with “talkaround” capability, 10 channels are needed, and, as a practical matter, all radios of this type are manufactured with at least 16 channel capability. Jerry then asked about the need for such a high durability standard, noting that it probably doubles the cost. Chief Bill Chiarenzelli said that the accepted standard for police work is military specification 810. Ruggedness is important, as the radios will very likely be delegated down to the first responder level, where they could be subject to rough handling and adverse conditions. The Connecticut Chiefs of Police Association believes that “mil spec” is a necessity. Chief Michael Varney said that the fire chief’s feel the same way.

Jack Bates said that it was the consensus of the specifications subcommittee that each of the requirements and options was necessary to ensure the minimum performance in terms of service, durability and longevity.

Gordon Shand stated that the batteries and charging system is a key component. The batteries must be durable and properly maintained, given the expected light use most of the time, or the radios won’t function when an emergency need arises.

Captain Scott Martin advised the committee that bid specifications are minimum standards. No exceptions can be permitted. If the specifications are met, the contract goes to the lowest and best bidder. Mandatory accessories are acceptable.

Skip Thomas said that the Department of Public Safety will purchase, license and distribute the radios. The engraving on the back of the radios will identify DPS as the owner of the radios.

The specifications need some minor revisions. Eric Fine will incorporate them into the proposal and send them to Jack Bates. He will send them to the entire committee, and make any further revisions suggested by committee members until all are satisfied. The final version will be presented at the next meeting.

The next meeting was set for October 22, 2002 at 1:00 P.M. at the Department of Transportation’s Rocky Hill facility.