

Minutes
Public Safety Data Network Governance Board
August 21, 2013
Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection
1111 Country Club Road
Middletown, Connecticut

Committee Members

Ernie Herrick
John Elsesser
Chief Richard Mulhall
Ted Schroll
Colonel Danny Stebbins

Representing

Volunteer Fire Service
Council of Small Towns
CT Police Chiefs Association/NPD
Connecticut State Firefighters Association
Connecticut State Police

Others in Attendance

William Youell	Division of Statewide Emergency Telecommunications
Mark Raymond	Dept. of Administrative Services/BEST
Sean Thakkar	Criminal Justice Information Systems Governing Board
Stephen Verbil	Division of Statewide Emergency Telecommunications
Gerald Werner	Dept. of Administrative Services/BEST
Charles Fuller	Division of Statewide Emergency Telecommunications
John Masciadrelli	Division of Statewide Emergency Telecommunications
Mike Varney	Dept. of Emergency Services and Public Protection
Jeff Otto	Quinebaug Valley Emergency Communications
John Vittner	Office of Policy and Management
Bonnie Guarnieri	Division of Statewide Emergency Telecommunications

Call to Order

Ernie Herrick called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.
John Elsesser made motion to approve the minutes of the meeting held on February 20, 2013.
Ted Schroll seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

PSDN Construction Update

Jerry Werner reported that the deadline of August 30, 2013, will be met in terms of the grant requirements. Fibertech has completed all required fiber installations for the project. There are three small areas that require re-splicing which is replacing Phase I circuits to Phase II circuits that are overlapping in Danbury, Winsted and east of the Connecticut River. There are 1,053 miles of off net constructed and 7,827 miles of on net, making that a total of 8,880 miles of fiber installed. This translates into 537 new circuits. Network equipment installation of basic connectivity is completed in 508 of the 510 locations. The two remaining locations are scheduled for completion by the end of this week. The routers for the NG9-1-1 connectivity which were part of the grant, have all been installed and tested. This completes the build-out process, now the connection of the various applications and uses of the network must be worked on.

John Elsesser stated that several volunteer fire departments are questioning the new equipment that has been installed and due to the fact that they don't know what they are, they are turning them off. Mr. Elsesser requested some physical documentation stating the details and necessity of the equipment and the importance of keeping them turned on.

Mike Varney is currently working on a letter to be sent to all the facilities explaining the function of the equipment and all the environmental issues that go along with them. Jerry Werner is working on signs to be attached to the equipment giving detailed information with regards to the function of the equipment and the importance of keeping them turned on. A target date of early September has been set for completion.

Application Update

John Masciadrelli reported that to date there are 19 PSDN applications. Eleven of them are currently Status 2, which means they have been accepted. Six of the 19 are Status 4 which have been handed off to BEST engineers. Two of the applications are deemed “customers not connected.” The most common types of applications being received are: computer aided dispatch, replacing leased lines from radio tower consoles to transmitter/tower sites, VoIP, sharing radio resources and internet traffic.

Chuck Fuller discussed the importance of the Technical Parameters Form being completed. It is a critical step in the entire process. Once DSET is in receipt of an application, it is reviewed by the technical staff. Upon completion of the review process, the DSET technical staff will meet with the applicant to discuss their particular network needs and expectations. The technical information gathered from the meeting will be submitted to the BEST Network Engineers.

John Elsesser recommended informing entities “up front” what the end-user expectations of connectivity costs are going to be, e.g.: the cost of a router or switch. Mr. Elsesser expressed that it may save DSET extra work if the entities know how much money will be involved ahead of time and if they are not interested due to the expense.

Bill Youell stated that in time DSET will know what the router costs will be and can let entities know in the future after costs are established.

John Masciadrelli stated that the Public Safety parameters requested include what make and model equipment will be used. DSET staff will then confer with BEST regarding what will best suit their needs, and what are the costs associated with it.

Legislation

Mark Raymond reported on the highlights of the legislation. First, DAS/BEST is required to work in concert with the Regional Council of Governments to develop a two-year plan for the implementation and connection of municipalities to the network. A meeting sponsored by the Connecticut Association of Regional Planning Associations is scheduled for September 4, 2013. At that meeting, there will be discussion of a timeline and the process in a draft plan with the COGS. This plan must be developed by October 1, 2013. Over a two-year period there will be two connection rounds. The first round will be for those entities that can utilize services that are currently available. If entities want a dramatically new set of services, these will need to be designed first before they can be rolled out. Therefore, they will happen toward the end of the two-year period.

Second, the legislation opened up the governance for the Connecticut Education Technology Committee to include municipalities and some of the advocacy groups for the municipalities

such as CCM and COST, and now funding was created for the municipalities to connect to the network. One part of the funding is a grant request to OPM for on-going operating costs associated with connecting to the network. The second part of the funding is a capital program that will allow municipalities to apply for a one-time cost grant which will offset those costs to connect to the network. Applications for these grants will be accepted beginning December 1, 2013, and the municipalities will not be notified that they are awarded the grants until the end of the fiscal year.

John Elsesser suggested that the COGS that are ready to go from Tier Four to Tier Two.

Mark Raymond stated that if there is reasonable assurance that they are ready to go, they will be moved forward.

Discussion

Ernie Herrick recommended to keep the PSDN Governance meetings bi-monthly. The group agreed.

Public Comment:

Jeff Otto announced that the Region Four Interoperability MOU with the State has been signed.

Mr. Otto also announced his enthusiasm for the satellite dishes being used regarding linking the sites. He requested a regular update regarding this matter.

Mr. Otto requested streamlining for similar applications in order to speed the process up.

John Elsesser motioned to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Col. Danny Stebbins. The meeting was adjourned at 1:45 p.m.