

Menominee County E-9-1-1 Governing Board

Josh Dessart – Chairman Carl Johnson – Vice-Chairman Mark Petersen – Secretary/Treasurer

October 14th, 2019

Dear Members:

Please be informed that a meeting of the Menominee County E-9-1-1 Governing Board is scheduled for Thursday October 17th, 2019 at 5 PM at the Stephenson City Hall W628 Samuel Street Stephenson.

AGENDA

1. Approval of agenda.
2. Minutes of previous meeting.
3. Public comment – agenda items only.
4. Radio System Improvement Plan – Emergency Management Coordinator Tom Philipps.
5. 911 Final Plan Review/Discussion.
6. 9-1-1 Director's Report
7. Next meeting date. ???
8. Governing Board Member Comments/Concerns.
9. Public Comment.
10. Adjournment.



Josh Dessart

Menominee County Radio Communications Options

County EMS/Fire responders.

Menominee County recognizes the importance of reliable communications in the event of emergency situations, and the need for dispatch to be able to alert responders and for them to be able to communicate with dispatch and between each other. Being such, the county board has budgeted a one time fund of \$281,000.00 to help fix this issue, but it is now time for you, the responder to tell us what is the way you feel we need to proceed with this. As such the county administrator, 911 dispatch director and the emergency services coordinator have spent countless hours exploring different options to improve communications and have come up with these two options.

We have know way of knowing what the future in communications will bring, will vhf systems still be around in 10 years? Will more narrow banding be coming which will shorten range again? Will the State of Michigan continue to provide 800 towers and service for no charge? Is there something new that will be coming 5, 10, or 15 years from now, we know about as much on these issues as you do. So with that being said here is the two possible plans to proceed, we need your agencies and municipalities to look at this and tell us which way to proceed. And remember once the plan is agreed upon and starts, it will be followed thru to completion. This money is a one time offer from the county, and with tight budget restraints will more than likely be up to you to take care of which ever system you decide to go with.

Menominee County
Proposed VHF Radio System Improvement Plan
August 19, 2019

Menominee County recognizes that the VHF radio system within Menominee County is a critical piece of our emergency response system, and needs to be upgraded and improved to meet the needs of the citizens of our county. But we also recognize that this system and upgrade is going to take a working relationship between the 3 stake holders involved, the county, the local jurisdictions, and the emergency response agencies that use the system. Being said the involved parties need to accomplish the following to insure the most efficient and reliable system is in place.

Menominee County:

Late Summer/Fall 2019

A): Install and put into service the voting system on the Fire/Rescue frequency, tying all repeaters together making use easier and more efficient.

B): Do maintenance and repair on Cedarville, Gourley, LaBranch, Rangeline and Stephenson tower/repeaters to make sure they are working at top performance

C): Do temporary repairs/maintenance on Bagley tower/repeater to hold it until spring of 2020

D): Issue RFP for erection of New Bagley tower, installation of new antennae and cables, and removal of old tower with timeline of work starting at earliest time possible in spring of 2020

Early Spring 2020

A): Erect new tower, antennae, and repeater at Bagley site

B): Remove old tower

C): Do a county wide test of the system to see how well the county is now covered, try and identify any dead zones that still might be present.

D): Look at possible installation of an additional repeater utilizing an existing tower or installation of a smaller tower with repeater. (Possible locations: Faithorn, Powers, Shakey Lakes)

E): Implement an aggressive maintenance program with all communications equipment to keep operating at peak performance.

Local Municipalities:

Need to understand the importance of this radio system to them, and understand that the County working with a tight budget needs to look for ways to maintain this system at top levels. Currently County Law enforcement utilizes the state 800 radio system and are not using the VHF system, with the

majority of use being from the Local Fire/EMS agencies. This being said we would look to county municipalities to:

Starting Spring 2020

A): Implement a minimal user fee for all local municipalities with the monies collected going into a fund that can only be used for maintenance of the towers and repeaters.

B): This fee would be based upon: area, population, and number of fire/ems calls generally responded to in the jurisdiction:

Townships of Daggett, Harris, Holmes, Ingallston, Lake, Mellen, Menominee, Meyer, Nadeau, Spalding, and Stephenson, and City of Stephenson. \$250.00 a year

Townships of Cedarville, Faithorn, and Gourley, and the Village of Powers. \$200.00 a year

Villages of Carney and Daggett. \$100.00 a year

These fees would generate \$4000.00 a year to be used for maintenance of the system

Emergency Response Agencies:

Starting Summer/Fall 2019

a): Make sure all vhf radio equipment in service is working properly, handheld units have batteries that provide proper energy to operate

b): Recognize the limitations of handheld radios with 5 watt outputs when trying to reach towers to transmit to dispatch. Rely on mobile units with 45 watts for this traffic. Possibly add more mobile units in the field with key department officers having them in their private vehicles.

C): Try to have each agency have a minimum of 1 - 800 radio at scenes to act as backup radio.

D): Identify and utilize additional radio frequencies on scenes to free up the County Fire/Rescue channel for paging and radio traffic between incident command, dispatch, and responding apparatus.

E): Train personnel on proper use of radio system to minimize radio traffic

F): Utilize backup paging system such as text paging or I am Responding, to make sure initial page message is being received by agencies.

Menominee County
Proposed 800 radio/paging system

Menominee County recognizes the safe, reliable radio communications is of critical importance to county Fire/EMS personnel. A proposed 800/VHF communication system is one possible answer to this issue. This system would be implemented as follows.

PAGING/ALERTING OF PERSONNEL

- a): Set up 15 different tone packages for the county Fire/EMS pagers and Fire Sirens, along with one all call tone
- b): Replace all existing vhf pagers with new 800 pagers, these pagers would be set up to handle all of the agencies each individual responds for, plus all call
- c): Get each agency to enroll their departments in I am Responding, and text paging so that all personnel will be receiving a secondary means of dispatch, and providing them with a way to notify fellow responders and dispatch of their response
- d): Set up Central Dispatch with a screen to monitor I am Responding so they would be aware of response by department members

COMMUNICATION BETWEEN RESPONDING AGENCIES AND DISPATCH:

- a): Each agency would be supplied with 2 combination 800/vhf mobile radios to be installed in key pieces of equipment to communicate during response and on scene
- b): Each agency would be supplied with 2 handheld combination 800/vhf handheld radios that will be issued to key department members to be used to communicate during response and on the scene.

ON SCENE COMMUNICATIONS:

- a): Departments will utilize their current vhf handhelds and mobiles to communicate on scene and between units in a point to point system deleting the use of repeaters