



**MONTCALM COUNTY  
CENTRAL DISPATCH AUTHORITY**  
657 North State Street  
Stanton, Michigan 48888  
(989) 831-5253



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## **TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES**

March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2010 at 9:00 a.m.  
MCCDA/MCES Conference Room, 657 N. State St., Stanton, MI 48888

**Present:** Tim Scott – Central Dispatch Director  
Michael Stuck – Greenville Department of Public Safety  
Darin Dood – Small City and Village Police Departments  
Steve DeWitt – Small City and Village Police Departments  
Brian Waber – Montcalm County Sheriff’s Department  
Angel Ouwinga – Michigan State Police  
Jerry Payne – Montcalm County Emergency Services  
Steven VanHolstyn – Fire Chiefs Association  
Michelle Rose – Central Dispatch

**Absent:** None

The meeting was called to order by Scott at 9:00 a.m.

Scott advised that Crystal FD should be deleted from the Narrowband line item under new business. Motion by Stuck, supported by Ouwinga to approve the amended agenda. Motion carried.

Motion by Ouwinga, supported by Stuck to approve the minutes from the January 12<sup>th</sup> meeting. Motion carried.

Public comments were offered; none received.

**MCFA Report:** VanHolstyn reported that he is working a project with the Fire Chiefs to identify and inventory the siren warning system’s equipment located throughout Montcalm County. Identification of equipment ownership has been more challenging than anticipated. Scott advised that funding of sirens was listed as a priority for the Interoperable Emergency Communications Grant Program (IECGP) 2009 and while the funding/grant guidelines are not published, it would be helpful to have the research done before deadlines were set to enable a timely and thorough response. VanHolstyn also mentioned that automatic mutual aid was being discussed. Scott asked if that was a county-wide effort, since auto-mutual aid was already mentioned between Carson City FD and Crystal FD for some structure fires, and recently Maple Valley FD and Lakeview FD were discussing a possible auto-mutual aid agreement. VanHolstyn also mentioned that several Fire Chiefs are changing. These changes include Chief Pat Carr

taking over as Lakeview FD Fire Chief; Chief Kain leaving Maple Valley FD, with no replacement yet named; and Chief Hopkins leaving Montcalm Fire Department, with Director Clif Dickinson taking over.

**Police Chiefs Report:** No report.

**Traffic Enforcement Projects:** Ouwinga related that there will be two 2-person special patrols on St. Patrick's Day and will focus on OWI enforcement, but will be available in emergencies. Those patrols should be posted from 2000-0400 hours.

**MCES Report:** Payne related that the ALS ambulances would be getting toned out for all responses to ensure they were notified. Since this is a procedural change, this added step is sometimes overlooked. Dispatch will continue to remind personnel of this new requirement until it becomes routine. Payne also asked about the status of the on-going radio interference issues with Shiawassee County. Scott related that Chrouch Communications had contacted the Shiawassee radio vendor on our behalf and explained our interference problem and the Shiawassee vendor had made some adjustments which resulted in a lessening of the problem, but enough still persists as to overwhelm our dispatching efforts on occasion. Scott related that the next step is to contact the FCC to see if any action can be taken through that organization to remedy this problem.

**MCCDA Dispatch Report :** No report

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Scott advised all members that he had received approval for the \$15,000 Byrne Justice Assistance Grant Program. The amount does require a 10% match, and he just recently received the initial pricing from Casair for their newly designed MCTs for the police vehicles (\$4,635.63 each). Scott related it is undecided if 3 or 4 MCTs will be purchased since the MCCDA budget is also in deficit. To make a purchase of 4 MCTs, it may require some buy-in by the receiving agencies. This issue is still to be determined. Scott also mentioned that he needed the pricing estimate from the vendor (Casair) which was received yesterday, and also needed to have the receiving agencies identified by name. Scott had previously discussed this issue with Sheriff Barnwell, and asked Director Stuck, and Chiefs Dood and DeWitt to please assist with getting these agencies identified.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Scott briefed on the status of the on-going Region 6 Narrowband Project. Scott has received all needed information from all police agencies and most fire agencies. Scott still needs input from Day Twp, Home Twp, Montcalm Twp and the City of Sheridan. Scott asked VanHolstyn if he could assist as well.

Scott related that EMS, several Fire Chiefs and Carson City PD have all reported poor radio coverage in certain areas, so Scott has been working with Chrouch Communications to try and

identify future transmitter/antennae locations to try and improve coverage. If locations are identified, Chrouch related that the cost o the three antennae would cost approximately \$72,000.

Scott advised that the LEIN report concerning new ORIs to interact with the Sungard OSSI software was finally submitted by Mary MacMillen several days ago. Thus far, there has been no response on the completeness or acceptability of the information. The next issue we will ask Mary to address is the installation and activation of the NetMotion program. That should improve connectivity.

Dood asked about the continuing problem with an 'echo effect' when calling in to the non-emergency and administrative lines of Central Dispatch. Scott advised that these problems had been reported to Mary MacMillen and she had reported it to the 'Black Box' phone contractors to look into. These contractors were in the Dispatch Center recently but no update was received.

VanHolstyn asked Rose about how the 'burn permit' process was working. After several minutes of discussion, it was agreed that the 'burn permit' requests still need to be processed through a Fire Chief representative, except in Greenville which has a separate 'pit inspection' program. Stuck also agreed to forward a listing of current 'pit inspections' to Central Dispatch for reference.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Scott adjourned the meeting at 9:35 a.m.

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Timothy A. Scott, Chairman  
Technical Advisory Committee

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Date