



***St. Louis County 911  
User Board Meeting  
January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2011***

**There was not a quorum present so this was just an informational meeting**

**User Board Members:**

Barb Johnson (Arrowhead EMS), Keith Nelson (St. Louis County Commissioner), Chris Cox (Cook Ambulance), Walt Wobig (Proctor Police Department)

**Interested Parties:**

Marcus Bruning (St. Louis County) Jan Makowski (St. Louis County 9-1-1), Joy Hill (St. Louis County 9-1-1), Shannon Schultz (St. Louis County)

Meeting called to order at 18:45 by Chair Barb Johnson

**Communications:**

Penny Buckingham passed away and is sadly missed by all. Jan Makowski did the final page for Penny. Jan did a great job and was recognized for her composure and representation of the department and board.

**Unfinished Business:**

**ARMER:**

It is currently at the Regional Radio Board for approval.

Dewey Johnson will begin training in February and will put out a message to agencies regarding the dates. Training will be "train the trainer" so that agencies meet the board standards and can train their own people. It will be a 4 hour class.

Commissioner Nelson suggested that any inconsistencies in radio use/verbage that exist be integrated into this training. Marcus said that can be done. Some of the inconsistencies will be eliminated with the new 800 trunk system. For example, our current system allows users to talk over each other and dispatch to talk over them. End users hear immediately what is said and dispatch doesn't. Radio users of the current system need to hold the talk button for a few seconds before speaking. With the 800 trunk system the radio user will push the talk button and hear a beep when they system is ready for them to talk.

Commissioner Nelson suggested that any grants that are applied for should be distributed per capita. Marcus said that there is a formula in place for expenses by population.

The ARMER system allows dispatch to assign talk groups, such as a scene of action group for fires, and users can have their own frequency for training. This will help the overcrowding on the Midway Channel.

Cell phone use on the ARMER system was discussed.

### **Mobile Com:**

The new software kick off will begin next week. "Train the trainer" training will be done all week. The new software will allow Fire/EMS to be separated from police. The current software did not allow them to be separated and Fire/EMS agencies could not have mobile units because of security reasons. With this new software Fire/EMS agencies can have mobile units. They will now be able to see their calls, get directions to a call and get their call times. Dewey wrote a grant to have an interface with the state fire reporting system.

### **AVL:**

It is all grant funded and will start in March. AVL was installed in one of the radio technician's vehicle for testing and it worked great. If an officer needs help, Dispatch will know where they are. When someone keys their radio it shows who is calling and by looking at the AVL monitor it can be determined where they are exactly. It will give the quickest route to take to a call and show you who is the closest to a call. It is \$500 dollars per unit or less and it is a one time charge.

Commissioner Nelson discussed public works vehicles having AVL for the safety of the drivers.

The AVL system will be set to ping where squads are at set time intervals automatically but dispatch will be able to ping them at anytime to see where the squads are at.

### **Address Repository Project:**

The kick off will be next week. All county departments will hit off the same repository. For 9-1-1 this will make a huge difference. Currently we approximate where an address is now it will be exact. There are 6 phases to the project:

- 1) City of Duluth
- 2) Cotton
- 3) Hibbing
- 4) Virginia

- 5) North
- 6) Subdivisions of Duluth

It is a 24 month project. This will also help clear up addressing problems in Shield. You will be able to run scripts so that all will point to a primary key. You will get the right address no matter how you enter it. When you put in an address you will get alert indicating special circumstances, such as a group home.

#### **CAD:**

Marcus Bruning wrote a letter to the president of Tiburon. He agreed to assign a team to us. So far, it has been determined that the problems are not due to the hardware or the GIS layer. Since 2007, Pine County has been doing the GIS uploads but recently they eliminated their GIS position. When Tiburon was here, Marcus asked them to train Andy Hayden on the GIS uploading and he will now be able to take on that task.

Marcus met with members of AFSCME regarding concerns they had with the CAD system. Although our system is not operating optimally, we are still achieving our goal of ensuring public safety. Everyone was reminded that CAD is a tool to assist the dispatcher in performing their jobs. There was a major incident in the City of Chisholm during which the CAD system crashed and dispatch was still able to do their job and do it well.

#### **Other Business:**

The Duluth center is doing fine with the construction project. There was some interruption to water, sewer and power but everything is working out fine.

Marcia Becker retired and there was a gathering for her. Marcia will be missed and everyone wishes her the best.

Geoff Galaski has started a new job with the State of Minnesota. Geoff requested that his position be reduced as he wants to continue working with us as a casual employee.

Renee Kailanen who left employment with us to take another position has requested to come back. Renee will be coming back to work with us in February.

Normanna Fire Department restructuring - we have heard nothing.

Currently there are hotspots for updating mobiles at gas pumps, jails and other locations that will download new programs such as statutes, pictometry etc. The mobile manager program allows for an update to start and if you leave the hotspot before it is done loading it will stop at that point. When you enter a hotspot again it will continue to upload from the point it left off.

Mifi has been installed in all the Sheriff Sgt's squads. This is a hotspot for up to 5 additional people.

**Election of officers was not done as there was not a quorum present.**

**The next meeting will be March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2011 at the EOC in Duluth.**

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