

NORTHEAST ARIZONA REGIONAL DISPATCH CENTER GOVERNING BOARD MINUTES
September 25, 2017, 2:00 p.m. ** SPECIAL MEETING

PRESENT: Jim Morgan, Chairman; Paul Watson, Vice-Chairman; Keith Johnson, Member; Pat Nichols, Member; and Ed Muder, Member, were present.

ALSO PRESENT: Ron McArthur, CEO Summit Healthcare; Nick Patton, NARDC Attorney; F. Morgan Brown, City of Show Low Attorney; Bryan Layton, Navajo County Assistant County Manager; Paige Peterson, Navajo County Finance Director; Ken Dewitt, Navajo County IT Director; Kent McQuillan, Timber Mesa Fire; and Randy Chevalier, Deputy Chief Timber Mesa Fire, were present in person. Jack Pleiter, Chairman and CEO Red Rock Telecommunications, was present telephonically.

2:03 p.m. Call to Order

Discussion and possible action regarding Red Rock Telecommunications: Vice-Chairman

Watson suggested we have Red Rock provide any new information and then open it up for questions. **Chairman Morgan** stated that he has collected the information regarding current infrastructure and desired needs for the south county fire districts. Mr. Pleiter spoke about proposing two additional switches in Navajo County and two in Apache County, if we are connecting to them, which would be in addition to the switches in the Red Rock central office in Phoenix. He indicated that all of the switches would be fiber connected and each station with PSAP would be interconnected with fiber which would make it virtually impossible for 911 to go down in Navajo County. In response to questions by the group, Mr. Pleiter stated as follows:

- If connectivity was lost with Phoenix, 911 would be internal within the County itself. If Red Rock decides not to do 911 anymore the Central office One and Two switches would revert to the County's ownership. The County is on one switch with Frontier and one piece of fiber and one route, so there is no redundancy with Frontier.
- The change in switches will result in a decrease in the amount requested by about 25%. NARDC will need to determine what number it would like Red Rock to include in the ask and once they have that number, it will be included.
- There are two separate funds, one of which is for network and mobile equipment, and the other is for equipment, and we would make application to both of them.
- The money is available January 1st, and as of right now, nobody has made an ask. The amount of money is over \$100 million. One of the possibilities is that Frontier could ask, receive money and do nothing to help 911.
- An additional surcharge was put in place for one year to improve 911 and improve broadband to rural communities. Each state gets to keep the money it raises as a result of the surcharge.
- He suggested treating everything as being legacy and getting everything new.
- The information on all of the equipment needs to be turned in as soon as everyone has it and passed on to Mr. Dewitt. Red Rock has to apply for the money.

- The only obligation is that NARDC will need to make it known to the State that NARDC is intending to switch their services from Frontier to Red Rock. They would include a letter in the application from the organization saying, yes, we're switching these PSAPs to Red Rock when they come up here and when their switches qualify to handle PSAP calls. The equipment will belong to NARDC. He will have Tom put together a letter with the County Attorney that states in legal terms that the switches will be Red Rock's as long as they're operational up here; however, if they cease to operate in Navajo County, the switches would revert to the County.
- The fiber will be owned by Red Rock.
- The entirety of the fiber would be completed within 12 months. It is possible to bring up part of the network prior to the entire loop being completed; however, there would be a risk of an outage.
- All equipment will remain under the ownership of the respective agencies.
- Red Rock will be using APS for the long haul, not for the loop. They will be dragging fiber around on the low to medium voltage power poles and will get attachment agreements mandated by the FCC. Navapache is very easy to work with, as well as APS, and it will not be a challenge to go on the various poles.
- If there is a conduit, they will follow that; but, if there is not a clear path, they will go underground in the public right-of-way. 80% will be overhead, and 20% will be underground. Red Rock will not need a franchise agreement with cities and counties as long as they're in the public right-of-ways because they are a carrier.
- Once the necessary information is received by Red Rock, Susan Bitter Smith and he will put the application together. They do not have the forms yet for the application, but they will get the application to the State. Once the application is filed, Ms. Bitter Smith will take it through the appropriate channels, and it will also come down from the governor's office.
- NARDC would have no obligation before it finds out the results of the application.
- If the application is approved, Red Rock would expect that NARDC would allow Red Rock to host the PSAPs as the 911 phone company; however, if NARDC chooses not to, there is no obligation.
- At this point, the only obligation NARDC has is a letter from them saying, yes, we will join in the application and here is the equipment we need. If for whatever reason Red Rock does not perform to satisfaction as host for PSAP, there is no obligation to stay with them. Red Rock will guarantee the trunk price, but it's not very much.
- The fund we need is the \$100 million one, if that does not fund 100%, the second is insurance on the project.
- The ask has come down from \$20 million. They will deliver fiber to all PSAPs, whether they come in or not.
- We will try to get everything we can funded, including software (Spillman).
- Suggested that once Red Rock receives all of the necessary information, they will put together the forms that they are going to submit to the State which can then be brought before the NARDC Board for ratification. Mr. Patton stated that he is fine with that, but

if we are bringing on additional agencies in the consortium, we will need to get the other agencies prior. **Mr. Muder** indicated that Red Rock is submitting on behalf of all of Navajo County and Apache County. Mr. Dewitt stated that he received an email from the Apache County IT director indicating that they are in.

- Although complex, NARDC would have control over and whether others outside of NARDC can tie in if they become part of the organization. **Vice-Chairman Watson** does not want to hold things up based on the fact other agencies are going to continue to be naysayers.
- As to the cost to move a PSAP from one location to another being included in the grant application, Mr. Pleiter stated that he does not know how deep they will allow us to go, although we can ask. **Vice-Chairman Watson** stated that the consensus would be if we could consider that in our applications for possible relocations, that would be good; however, in the overall NARDC capital budget, if we could cover all but \$50,000.00 of our cost, we would find a way to cover that need. Mr. Pleiter stated that every year a certain amount of money is available for PSAPs for the 911 fund. He indicated that we may get a no on part of this to begin with, but that doesn't mean we'll stop asking because at the end, if there is money left, Ms. Bitter Smith will say it can't go back to the feds with us making a request. **Vice-Chairman Watson** stated that we should make it known in the application that Navajo and Apache Counties are recognized as poverty counties. Mr. Pleiter stated that he believes it would be impossible for the State to say no to us.
- Red Rock is only working to partner with Apache and Navajo Counties. He spoke about the reasons why Red Rock is doing this, first of which is to host 911; second, the money has become available, and he is frustrated that nobody is moving on it.

There was a discussion regarding what needs to be included in the list of needs. **Chairman Morgan** will send the list of items to Mr. Dewitt who will then forward it to all of the agencies with the agencies providing their information to Mr. Dewitt by the end of the week who will then forward that to Red Rock.

Mr. Johnson thanked Mr. Pleiter for his presentation and answering the groups' questions. He stated that he believes this is a great opportunity and hopes that it comes into fruition. Mr. Patton questioned whether we are comfortable with our level of knowledge with regard to whether we want to pull other people on or not. **Chairman Morgan** stated that if we have more partners, fine; but he is concerned with the signators of NARDC. **Vice-Chairman Watson** agreed. He stated that he does not want us to hold up what sounds like a pretty short time frame trying to get other players on board. Mr. Dewitt spoke about the consortium with schools and libraries. Chief Shelley spoke about the cost to keep the systems up and running over a long period of time and the cost of the centers in Phoenix and cost on the back end. Mr. Dewitt indicated that Red Rock cannot charge more than what the State allows. He stated that the only way to get redundant routes is to stack your grants. **Vice-Chairman Watson** stated that we would want included in the proposal the ongoing charges. **Mr. Muder** stated that he believes this is a good opportunity, but we need to be leery of hidden costs. He indicated that

he has no opposition to looking at the opportunity. **Chairman Morgan** spoke about the significant advantage to individual agencies and picking up capital costs we were going to have to bear individually. He stated that he will continue to budget a capital replacement plan. Mr. Dewitt stated that he will include in the package the equipment needs, recurring costs, and a list of all buildings we have for districts and agencies. **Chairman Morgan** stated that fiber will go to the individual stations. **Vice-Chairman Watson** requested that a copy be sent to the NARDC Board of what is being sent to Red Rock. Mr. Dewitt stated that he will ask everybody in Navajo and Apache Counties for their information. **Chairman Morgan** stated that he has spoken to Snowflake Taylor Fire Department, and they are under the mistaken impression that NARDC will take their PSAP away with this project, which he stated was not the case. He indicated that someone needs to clarify with Snowflake Taylor because they are getting wrong information.

Adjourn 3:07 p.m.

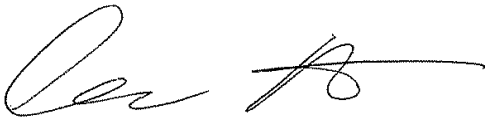
APPROVED:

DATED: October 9, 2017



Jim Morgan, Chairman
Northeast Arizona Regional Dispatch Center Governing Board

ATTEST:



Donna Hurstrom, Clerk
Northeast Arizona Regional Dispatch Center Governing Board