

Board of Directors Study Session Minutes

Meeting Date: October 21, 2020
Meeting Time: 9:00am
Meeting Place: WebEx video conference

I. **Call to Order** - Chair Bill Pugh called the meeting to order at 9:07am.

II. **Roll Call** -

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| 1. Michael Brandstetter, City of Lakewood Councilmember | present |
| 2. Bruce Dammeier, Pierce County Executive | present |
| 3. Julie Door, City of Puyallup Mayor | present |
| 4. Matt Holm, Central Pierce Fire & Rescue Commissioner | present |
| 5. Lillian Hunter, City of Tacoma Councilmember | present |
| 6. J. Kelly McClimans, City of Bonney Lake Councilmember | present |
| 7. Pat McElligott, East Pierce Fire & Rescue Commissioner | present |
| 8. Mike Boltz on behalf of Dan Rankin, West Pierce Fire & Rescue | present |
| 9. Doug Richardson, Pierce County Councilmember | present |
| 10. Robert Thoms, City of Tacoma Councilmember | present |
| 11. Bill Pugh, City of Sumner Mayor | present |

III. **Public Comment** - None

IV. **Approval of Agenda**

1. A motion was made to approve the consent agenda as presented (Hunter); 2nd (Thoms), passed – unanimously.

V. **Radio System Providers Presentation**

- City of Tacoma IT Director Daniel Key, Puyallup Police Department Chief Scott Engle with Finance Director Barbara Lopez, and Director of Emergency Management Jody Ferguson gave a radio system briefing that reviewed the following:
 - Overview: fundamentals, evolution and funding
 - System owner operational profiles
 - 2020 budgets and access fees
 - Ongoing collaboration
 - 2021 priorities
- The purpose of the presentation is to provide the Board with background information about the 3 radio systems, along with a deeper dive into the budgets of each system and how access fees are determined.
- Boardmember Bruce Dammeier noted during the presentation that Pierce Transit will be moving to a cellular system by the end of the year, which will leave the current radio system primarily to public safety and emergency management users.
- Boardmember Pat McElligott asked how the CCN was formed.
 - Ms. Ferguson answered that the CCN was established in 2015-16 and was originally a partnership between Pierce County and Pierce Transit
- Mr. Key advised that many of the radios in the field will be coming up on end of life in 2023-25. The cost is each radio is currently priced at \$5 – 7K.

- Boardmember Michael Brandstetter asked if the CCN 2020 budget is currently using VHF overly reserves and E911 excise tax dollars as contributions to the public safety monthly access fees.
 - Ms. Ferguson explained that reserves were not used in the 2020 budget and the E911 tax was utilized in 2020 but at a lower rate. Ms. Ferguson offered to send the 2020 budget information to South Sound 911 to distribute to the Board.
 - Boardmember Brandstetter asked for a breakdown of nonpublic safety users by agency to see the comparison to the public safety users. Ms. Ferguson indicated she would distribute this information to South Sound 911 to pass along to Board members.
- It was suggested that Boardmembers and attendees submit questions to South Sound 911 staff to allow all questions to be tracked and answered at future study sessions.
- Chair Pugh asked about the disparity between the CCN access fees and the other two systems.
 - Ms. Ferguson answered that it was due to the size and scope of the CCN – especially when comparing the number of towers, the square miles covered and the amount of infrastructure in place. The group is working on efficiencies to reduce costs such as training and certifying staff to reduce the amount of dollars spent on professional service contracts.
 - Mr. Key noted that when looking on a per site basis, the cost is comparable.
- Vice-Chair Lillian Hunter requested that all questions be cataloged to create a Q&A document that can be distributed to the Board to discuss at future study sessions.
- Boardmember Pat McElligott suggested that the original intent of Proposition 1 be reviewed to ensure the dollars are being used correctly. There is concern the cost of radios will continue to increase and the public agencies will take the biggest hit.
- Boardmember Brandstetter would like to see how each of the three systems are accounting for the depreciation of assets.
- Boardmember Robert Thoms requested more information on how the CCN will respond to users leaving the system since it will increase costs for existing users.
 - Ms. Ferguson noted this being reviewed and forecasted.
 - Boardmember Thoms is hoping to see a more consistent cost across all three systems.
- Boardmembers discussed the importance of scheduling more study sessions in the future that deal specifically with radios to help facilitate the move towards one system with consistent costs.

VI. **Other Business/Announcements** - None

VII. **Adjournment** – Chair Pugh adjourned the meeting at 10:30am

Mandy Walters, Clerk of the Board