

Board of Directors Study Session Minutes

Meeting Date: March 17, 2021
Meeting Time: 9:00am
Meeting Place: WebEx video conference

I. **Call to Order** - Chair Lillian Hunter called the meeting to order at 9:00am.

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. J. Kelly McClimans, City of Bonney Lake Councilmember | present |
| 6. Pat McElligott, East Pierce Fire & Rescue Commissioner | present |
| 7. Bill Pugh, City of Sumner Mayor | present |
| 8. Dan Rankin, West Pierce Fire & Rescue Commissioner | present |
| 9. Robert Thoms, City of Tacoma Councilmember | present |
| 10. Derek Young, Pierce County Councilmember | present |
| 11. Lillian Hunter, City of Tacoma Councilmember | present |

III. **Public Comment** - None

IV. **Approval of Agenda**

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

VI. **Radio System Provides Follow-up Presentation**

Boardmember Bruce Dammeier arrived at 9:04am.

- City of Tacoma IT Director Daniel Key walked through the eleven questions that were submitted by Board of Director members after the previous study session and provided paraphrased answers.
- In regards to question one, Boardmember Michael Brandstetter inquired about radio system security measures due to both government agency subscribers and private subscribers using the two systems.
 - Mr. Key advised that each radio is programmed with a series of channels/talk groups for specific services and there is no concern of cross talk or congestion.

Boardmember Derek Young arrived at 9:11am

- Boardmember Bruce Dammeier noted the trend of some agencies moving away from radio systems into a more cost effective model for their services.
 - Mr. Key confirmed this is the general trend of the industry.
 - Pierce County Director of Emergency Management Jody Ferguson added that radio service is still the best option for any type of emergency response.
- In regards to question two, Boardmember Pat McElligott asked if there is a cost savings with converting the 700 system to an 800 system.
 - Mr. Key advised that costs are not dependent on frequency and there would not be a fundamental change in rate for CCN subscribers.

- Boardmember McElligott asked what the cost would be to convert the 700 towers to 800 towers.
 - Mr. Key explained that there are no 800 frequencies available and it would add a significant licensing cost. The estimated cost to move the 29 frequencies from the 700 system to an 800 system is \$350,000. Mr. Key noted that this would be a one-time cost.
 - Mr. Key advised the two systems operate exclusively on a cost recovery basis. The reason for the cost disparity between the CCN and the City of Tacoma is related to the territory covered and the number of subscribers.
- For question six, it was noted that there may be some errors on Attachment 1 (page 9) of the agenda packet as Central Pierce Fire and Rescue is listed as a non-public safety user and the auditor is listed as a public safety user.
 - Wolfgang Opitz, Pierce County Finance Director, noted that the Auditor reference is for animal control, which is now managed by the Pierce County Sheriff's Department.
- In regards to question seven, Ms. Ferguson noted that as agencies leave the radio systems for more cost effective options, the default will not be to automatically increase rates. The radio system owners will first look to see if there are any operational adjustments and/or efficiencies that can be made.
- Boardmember Dammeier added that with a smaller subscriber base, rates will most likely increase.
- In regards to question eleven, Chair Hunter asked if the City of Tacoma legal team has reviewed the statute and confirmed that monies are being spent correctly.
 - Mr. Key confirmed that the legal team has reviewed the statute no concerns were raised.
- Chair Hunter advised the Board to send any additional questions to Executive Director Deborah Grady and she will forward to Mr. Key. It was noted that the radio system owners may be asked to provide a follow up presentation at a future board meeting.
- Boardmember McElligott asked to meet with Mr. Key and Executive Director Grady in person to discuss the 700 and 800 radio systems. Ms. Ferguson requested to be included in the meeting.
- Boardmember Dammeier noted that because the trends show radio system users becoming predominately public safety users, radio costs will increase and the Board will need to be ready to address the issue in the future.

IX. **Other Business / Announcements** – None

X. **Adjournment** - A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 10:10am (Door); 2nd (Thoms), passed – unanimously.

Mandy Walters, Clerk of the Board