



DU PAGE COUNTY

ETSB - Policy Advisory Committee

Final Summary

421 N. COUNTY FARM ROAD
WHEATON, IL 60187
www.dupagecounty.gov

Monday, March 6, 2023

8:15 AM

Room 3500A

1. CALL TO ORDER

8:15 AM meeting was called to order by Chairman Hayden at 8:15 AM.

2. ROLL CALL

Matthew Theusch, Emergency Telephone System Board
Eve Kraus, DuPage Emergency Telephone System Board
Kurt Bluder, Hinsdale Township High School District 86 (Remote)
Jim Connolly, Village of Addison (Remote)
Reid Foltyniewicz, Oak Brook PD (Remote)
Michael Hylton, Oakbrook Terrace PD (Remote)
Todd Kubish, Villa Park PD (Remote)
Bob Murr, College of DuPage (Remote)
Jimmy Lahanis, Darien-Woodridge Fire (Remote)
Michael Rivas, Villa Park PD (Remote)

On roll call, Members Hayden, Dina, Baarman, Hermes, Herron, and Johl were present, which constituted a quorum.

PRESENT Dina, Hayden, Baarman, Hermes, and Johl
--

3. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS - CHAIR HAYDEN

Chairman Hayden said, sadly, this would be Member Herron's last PAC meeting; Member Herron is retiring. Chairman Hayden asked Member Herron if he would be available to attend the ETS Board meeting on Monday, March 13 at 9:00am as Chairman Schwarze will have a resolution for his service. Member Herron replied he would try.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

5. CONSENT ITEMS

Chairman Hayden asked for a motion to combine Consent Agenda Items A/Minutes approval for ETSB PAC February 6, 2023; B/DEDIRS February Maintainer Report. Member Herron motioned, seconded by Member Johl. On voice vote, all "Ayes", motion carried.

Chairman Schwarze asked for a motion to receive and place on file Consent Agenda Items A/Minutes approval for ETSB PAC February 6, 2023; B/DEDIRS February Maintainer Report.

Member Herron motioned, seconded by Member Johl. On voice vote, all "Ayes", motion carried.

23-1020

ETSB PAC Minutes - Regular Meeting - Monday, February 6, 2023

Attachments: [2023-02-06 PAC Minutes Summary.pdf](#)

23-1025

DEDIRS February Maintainer Report

Attachments: [2302ETSBRadioMaintenanceReport.pdf](#)

RESULT:	APPROVED THE CONSENT AGENDA
MOVER:	Steve Herron
SECONDER:	Pat Johl
AYES:	Dina, Hayden, Baarman, Hermes, Herron, and Johl

6. PARENT COMMITTEE APPROVAL REQUIRED**6.A. [ETS-R-0014-23](#)**

Resolution to amend Policy 911-005.6: DuPage Emergency Dispatch Interoperable Subscriber Unit System (DEDIRS) Use of Emergency Button.

Chairman Hayden said if the policy is ready, they could take action on it today and move it forward to the ETS Board. Member Johl motioned, seconded by Member Herron.

Vice Chair Dina reviewed the addition of the emergency button on the mobiles. He said there was discussion on this item as the Fire Standardization Focus Group (FSA) meeting and he believed that section was ready. He continued saying he believed the section on the portable radios was in conflict within the policy and there may be more work to be done. Vice Chair Dina said that until the radios are programmed and the button has been tested to work correctly, then they probably do not want to approve the policy today. Mr. Theusch spoke to the section on the portables and explained that when the Chief who was questioning how the button functions on the radios and that it was in conflict with the policy wording, he (the Chief) thought it was conventional and STARCOM channels. Mr. Theusch said they discussed this at the FSA meeting and a line was added to clarify the tone would have priority over spoken radios. Vice Chair Dina said he still believed they should wait for the programming of the APXNextXN fire radios to ensure they function per the policy.

Mr. Theusch also noted that the section that talked about the TC workflow after the button was pushed, based on the discussions at the FSA meeting, much of the wording was struck and the expectation is that the PSAPs will work together to standardize the operational functions.

Chairman Hayden asked if there was an idea when the radios would be ready. Vice Chair Dina said it was close. He said when the Motorola System Manager went to program the radios, it was discovered the SmartConnect feature was not in the XNs. He said that issue has been addressed. Mr. Theusch confirmed the feature is in the radio and the firmware has been pushed to a test radio, but they are waiting for the official word from STARCOM. Vice Chair Dina said once that is confirmed, the twelve XN radios should be programmed and distributed to the Fire Focus Group and PAC Members for testing.

There was a brief discussion on how to proceed with the policy as there was a motion and second to approve. Chairman Hayden said a "No" vote means it would not move forward to the ETS Board and they would place it on the agenda again for next month. On roll call, the Members unanimously voted "No".

Attachments: [911-005.6 DuPage Emergency Dispatch Interoperable Radio System \(DEDIRS\) Emergency Button draft 3.13.23.pdf](#)

RESULT:	DEFEATED
MOVER:	Pat Johl
SECONDER:	Steve Herron
NAY:	Dina, Hayden, Baarman, Hermes, Herron, and Johl

7. POLICY DISCUSSION

7.A. Policy 911-005.8

Chairman Hayden said there was a redline copy of the policy that was emailed to the Members with their packet. Mr. Theusch added there was a clean copy, as well, for ease of reading.

Member Johl confirmed no action would be taken, this was a discussion item, and that he had some items to discuss. Member Johl said that from the fire side, there were concerns regarding TDMA compliance and AES encryption on legacy radios and radios outside of the DEDIR System. He said outside agencies are going to use DEDIRS channels for mutual aid with DuPage and we have to work with them. He would like to see some of the restrictive TDMA language removed and make it so ETSB has the final say on which radios are allowed on the system. Member Johl said the fire side has radios on the system that just monitor, they do not transmit, that do not degrade the system and are not TDMA compliant. He said there are also multiple caches of radios that are not going to use the encrypted talk groups, they are held as spares for special events or large scale incidents that could be used on a non-encrypted channel and there should be an exception for those radios. Member Johl said he believed this affects the fire side more so than law enforcement but that law enforcement may have an issue with requiring all radios to be encryption capable and TDMA.

Member Hermes believed the language regarding GPS also needs to be changed as ACDC also has legacy radios, some of which do not have GPS capabilities required to be enabled in the policy.

Mr. Theusch said he believed the intent with TDMA was that it would be enabled in all ETSB

radios, not necessarily agency owned cache radios. He said the intent was to upgrade any APX7000s.

Member Herron said the APX7000s are TDMA enabled. Mr. Theusch and Member Johl responded, not the fire ones. Member Herron believed there had to be a sunset on FDMA. Member Johl said he understood that was the reason to go to this system but every fire main dispatch group is patched through a VHF channel. Member Baarman said it is all the ops channels, that if a radio is affiliated, it downgrades the call. Member Johl said that is why it should be left up to the ETSB to determine if a radio downgrades a channel then it would not be allowed on the system. Member Baarman said we have that today. All the police are TDMA capable, but when fire listens in, it downgrades the call. Member Baarman said the last report they had run showed only 25% of calls were TDMA, which is not many if all police are TDMA. Member Johl said there are radios on the DuPage system that are not TDMA capable and that is what we are trying to get away from with the new radio purchase, but they are not on the street, or in the vehicles yet. He reiterated that radios outside of the system, radios built into buildings, or cache radios are not transmitting every day and not downgrading the system, should be determined by ETSB whether to allow them to be in operation. Member Herron clarified with Member Baarman who said, if the radios affiliate to the talk group, as soon as that radio is on an ops channel, it pushes the channel to FDMA. Member Baarman confirmed saying, it just takes one radio. Member Herron said to Member Johl, that is just listening, that is not transmitting.

Member Herron said law enforcement will be utilizing AES, fire will not, but fire will have it on the new radios, so any legacy radio that does not have that capability will not be able to listen.

Member Baarman said he would like to see a goal to get to TDMA, that maybe the language in the policy is too strong, but there needs to be a plan to address those radios of concern. He said from a PSAP perspective, the more talk groups he can get to TDMA, the less busies they experience. He said, ultimately, that is the goal they are looking for. He said VHF is patched, they are not concerned about the dispatch channels, those will remain FDMA. But if users are using the ops channels instead of the firegrounds, more traffic will be brought in more frequently which can cause more busies.

A brief discussion ensued around older model radios and whether flashcodes are available, how many legacy/cache radios are on the system and whether agencies budgeted to replace the legacy radios on system, of which Member Johl said there are at least twenty mobiles on the ACDC side and an unknown number of portables. Member Johl said there is still useful life on the 7000XEs and if they only get VHF channels and are not on STARCOM channels because they would degrade the TDMA capable STARCOM radio channel, okay.

Mr. Theusch said the intent of the ETSB with this radio project was to end of life all the APX7000s. As the agencies were coming in, legacy equipment was talked about, some agencies said they had models to upgrade and ETSB ordered or took notes to order the necessary flashkits. He said if there is a need for flashkits to upgrade the mobile APX7500s, that can be done. He recalled conversations with agencies who wanted to keep their 7000XEs for VHF purposes only, but not to transition once the radios were rolled out. Member Johl agreed that he does not want to degrade the system, but there needs to be language to allow use of these radios when users ask, at the discretion of the ETSB, even if that means they are told what channels they can be on just

so they can still be used.

Member Herron said, being a short-timer, he would want to know which of his budget cycles this would affect rather than have ETSB tell him. He thought that should be a goal for 2025, or whatever, for everything to be TDMA enabled. Member Herron said nothing against ETSB, but if they arbitrarily throw out July 1, 2023 as the date, that is not fair because then agencies are scrambling. He thought January 1 or June 1 of 2025 would give all the agencies at least 1-2 budget cycles for a sunset date. Chairman Hayden asked Mr. Theusch if ETSB had a date. Mr. Theusch and Member Johl both answered December 31, 2023. Mr. Theusch said to keep in mind the radios are here now. If agencies are coming to ETSB in 2025 to have radios replaced, the current pricing through Motorola will no longer be available. Member Herron recalled the conversation that had taken place during a previous meeting approximately a year ago when the date of December 31, 2023 had been discussed. Chairman Hayden inquired into the deadline for a change order with Motorola for agencies to purchase the additional radios to replace the legacy radios. Mr. Theusch answered he does not have a specific deadline, just that Motorola is anxious to complete a true-up that was to come at the end of the deployment as agencies have changed their mind about the equipment they originally ordered.

Further discussion ensued regarding the impact to the system if radios that are not replaced. During this discussion, Member Baarman made it clear to the group that the only channels that would not downgrade the system if a non-TDMA radio affiliates are the six fire channels. Member Hermes believed there were two different items being discussed: whether the radios can be maintained and a deadline for everything to go TDMA. The decision was made to leave the date within the policy as December 31, 2023, which can be further evaluated at a later date, as needed. The Members also inquired into a list of radios potentially approved to be on the system, such as Naperville and their Harris radios. The policy application was shared on screen. The application includes the question of what type of radio models an outside agency is requesting be allowed to access the DEDIR System. Mr. Theusch reviewed and clarified the adjustments they would like to see made within the policy.

8. DEDIRS PORTABLE AND MOBILE REPLACEMENT

Vice Chair Dina said a list of outside agencies was provided to the ETSB as to which agreements need to be updated. He believed once those updates are complete, then the fire side could be programmed. He also said there the individual email addresses were no longer needed for fire side radios. Some of the features would then not be available, such as SmartMessaging, but that was not going to be utilized until FOIA compliance is in place. He concluded by saying once the fix for SmartConnect is implemented, then the 12 radios for Fire Focus and PAC Members will be programmed and disseminated for testing.

Mr. Theusch said that the latest firmware version for the APXNext radios was available. He said Motorola was pushing the firmware to a couple cache radios for testing, then training material will be updated and firmware will be pushed to one agency to start. Another Zoom session will be scheduled with DEDIRS contacts as informational because this is the first firmware push to go out direct to the agencies.

Vice Chair Dina asked Mr. Theusch to provide an update of the mobiles and agencies that have

asked to receive theirs before their deployment. Mr. Theusch said a handful of agencies have asked for their mobiles early because they have received new vehicles and would like to install the mobiles with the current codeplug. He said part of the challenge was figuring out what was needed for wifi and the encryption process over the air, otherwise every programmed radio would need to be touched. Mr. Theusch said the wifi was worked out with Motorola last week, and that this week agencies who had submitted Zendesk tickets for equipment were being contacted, and prioritized for vehicles without any radio equipment currently installed.

Member Baarman asked if there was a ballpark as to when fire portables would go out to the agencies. Mr. Theusch said he could not provide a definitive date until the fix to SmartConnect is evaluated and confirmed.

9. OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Hermes said she would like to return to working on policy 911-005.5, which discusses terminology. Chairman Hayden thanked her for the initiative.

10. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

11. NEXT MEETING:

11.A. Monday, April 3 at 8:15am in Room 3-500A

12. ADJOURNMENT

Member Johl made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:17am, seconded by Member Herron. On voice vote, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Eve Kraus