

**MINUTES OF THE
GOVERNMENT COMMUNICATIONS TASK FORCE**
Monday, November 10, 2014 – 9:00 a.m. – Room 30 House Building

Members Present:

Sen. Wayne A. Harper, Cochair
Rep. Brad L. Dee, Cochair
Sen. Ralph Okerlund
Mr. Tim Doubt on behalf of Chief Chris
Burbank
Chief Mike Mathieu
Mr. Doug Chandler on behalf of Mr. Ken
Peterson
Mr. Steven H. Proctor
Ms. Tina Scarlet
Captain Alan Workman

Members Excused:

Sherriff James Winder

Members Absent:

Rep. Douglas V. Sagers
Rep. Mark A. Wheatley
Sherriff David Edmunds
Chief Michael Jensen
Chief Terry Keefe
Chief Mike Navarre
Mr. Jerry Pope

Staff Present:

Mr. Joseph T. Wade, Policy Analyst
Ms. Victoria Ashby, Associate General Counsel
Mr. Tim Barber, Legislative Secretary

Note: A list of others present, a copy of related materials, and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at www.le.utah.gov.

1. Welcome and Task Force Business

Chair Dee called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.

MOTION: Chief Mathieu moved to approve the minutes of the October 14, 2014, meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Radio Test

Mr. Steven Proctor, Executive Director, Utah Communications Authority (UCA), and Mr. Jake Hunt, Operations Manager, UCA, demonstrated for the task force a radio test that communicated with individuals in several locations throughout the state with varying levels of coverage quality and used a variety of communication networks. All of the radio test participants were able to be heard clearly by the task force.

3. Status of Consultant Report

Mr. Joe Blaschka, Owner, ADCOMM Engineering Company, presented “Consultant Report,” which outlined planning considerations, reported on cost factors, and recommended how to pursue the next steps.

Mr. Chandler questioned the timing of the upgrade and whether the core system will need to be updated before the entire build out process is complete.

Mr. Blaschka replied that some minor upgrades to the core system will be needed. The minor upgrades are included in the recommendations in his report.

Mr. Proctor informed the committee that federal funds for these types of projects are much harder to come by than in the past and that much of the funding will need to be obtained through user fees and bonds.

Chair Dee and Sen. Okerlund both emphasized the need to consider rural needs in the upgrade and to not impose any mandates that will be too onerous for rural governments.

Mr. Eric Isom, Century Link, requested that the committee reconsider what private provider facilities, services, and equipment might be utilized in the upgrade to bring down public costs to taxpayers.

4. Funding Sources

After discussing several proposals, the task force members expressed support for a plan to increase the 911 telephone surcharge by an amount sufficient to generate \$29 million per year.

MOTION: Chief Mathieu moved to recommend to the Legislature that the 911 telephone surcharge be increased in an amount necessary to generate \$29 million per year and allocate those funds to updating the public safety communications system. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Rick Bailey, Emergency Manager, Grand County, thanked the task force for their service. He also explained the challenges small, rural counties face when dealing with any changes or updates to government communication systems.

Mr. Tom Ross, Chief, Bountiful City Police Department, recommended that any remaining details of the 800 MHz upgrade be handled by the UCA board rather than continuing the work of the Government Communications Task Force to avoid any confusion.

5. Other items/adjourn

MOTION: Sen. Harper moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Dee adjourned the meeting at 11:20 a.m.