

COLUMBIA 9-1-1 COMMUNICATIONS DISTRICT
Minutes of the Joint Board of Directors and Advisory Committee Meeting
January 11, 2023

Board Present: Henry Heimuller, Rob Anderson, Shelley Hennessy, Jeff Flatt (in person)

Advisory Present: Mike Russell, Josh Marks, Joe Kaczinski, Eric Smythe, Joel Medina, Shawn Carnahan, Steve Sharek, Ryan Murphy, Jerry Bartolomucci, Jasen McCoy, Evin Eustice, Rob Davis, Chris Fluellen, Jeff Pricher (in person)
Brian Greenway, Brian Pixley, Earl Smith, Steven Lougal, Will Steinweg, Greg Griffith (via Zoom)

Staff Present: Mike Fletcher, Nancy Edwards, Nathan Hughes, Dannell Hooper, Merx Lavine, Alex Edinger, Maryjo Beck, Chandra Egan (in person), Jerod Leloff (via Zoom)

Guests Present: Michael Peterkin – Peterkin Burgess, Rajit Jhaver & Jeffrey Pare’ – Federal Engineering, Ron Polluconi – WCN, Greg Brody, Jeromy Hasenkamp, Jerry Cole, Joe Backus, Kim Holmes, Peter McHugh, Sarah Donley & Will Mullins – Tait, Alex Raines, Tyler Miller (in person), Gabriel Wiggins (via Zoom)

9:03am Meeting called to order

Henry Heimuller 00:00

Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to the joint meeting of the Columbia 9-1-1 Board of Directors and our joint Advisory Committee meeting. We'll start by first of all reminding everyone to sign in. If you haven't done that there's a sign in sheet back there on the table. And Maryjo was kind enough to remind me to remind you all to sign in. We'll go ahead and start with calling the role of our Board of Directors. I will say that our member Jeff Flatt will be here, he's going to be a few minutes late. And our chair Bruce Holsey is not going to be here today because his grandfather passed away and his services are this morning. So I'm Henry Heimuller, the Vice Chair and we'll be co-chairing this meeting today. And we'll start over here with Rob.

Rob Anderson 00:53

Present.

Shelley Hennessy 00:56

Shelley.

Henry Heimuller 00:58

Do you want to introduce staff?

Mike Fletcher 01:00

Sure. 9-1-1 staff present is Nathan Hughes - Technical Manager, Maryjo Beck - Admin Support, Nancy Edwards - CFO, Dannell Hooper - Operations Manager, Chandra Egan - CAD Specialist, Alex Edinger - Training Coordinator and Merx Lavine - IT and Facilities. I'm Mike Fletcher, I'm the Director.

Henry Heimuller 01:27

Okay, and I'll punt to my esteemed colleague, Mike Russell, the Chair of our Advisory Committee.

Mike Russell 01:32

Thank you Chair Heimuller. I like to call the meeting of the 9-1-1 Communications Advisory Committee to order. My name is Mike Russell. I'm the Advisory Committee Chair and I'd like the other members to introduce themselves. We'll start on that far end of the table.

Greg Brody 01:50

Greg Brody, Westport Fire.

Mike Russell 01:52

Lieutenant...

Chris Fluellen 01:54

Lieutenant Fluellen, Scappoose Police Department.

Shawn Carnahan 01:57

Sergeant Shawn Carnahan, Vernonia Police Department.

Mike Russell 02:00

Over here at the end...

Rob Davis 02:01

Rob Davis, Deputy Chief, Vernonia Fire.

Joe Kaczinski 02:04

Joe Kaczinski, Fire Chief, Mist-Birkenfeld.

Ryan Murphy 02:06

Ryan Murphy, Columbia County Sheriff's Office.

Eric Smythe 02:09

Eric Smythe, Deputy Chief, Columbia River.

Joel Medina 02:11

Joel Medina, Fire Chief, Columbia River.

Evin Eustice 02:13

Evin Eustice, St. Helens PD.

Josh Marks 02:14

Josh Marks, Scappoose Fire District.

Jerry Cole 02:17

Jerry Cole, Battalion Chief with Columbia River.

Steve Sharek 02:20

Steve Sharek, Clatskanie Fire District Fire Chief.

Jerry Bartolomucci 02:28

Jerry Bartolomucci, Columbia City Police Department.

Mike Russell 02:29

And we'll go ahead and have others introduce themselves; guests as well. We'll start back in the corner there.

Jasen McCoy 02:35

Jasen McCoy, Oregon Department of Forestry.

Jeremy Hasenkamp 02:38

Jeremy Hasenkamp, Columbia City PD.

Pete McHugh 02:39

Pete McHugh, City of Scappoose.

Sarah Donley 02:43

Sarah Donley, Tait Communications.

Will Mullins 02:48

Will Mullins, Tait Communications.

Joe Backus 02:50

Joe Backus, Mayor of Scappoose.

Kim Holmes 02:53

Kim Holmes, City of Scappoose.

Alex Raines 02:55

Alex Raines, City Manager for Scappoose.

Tyler Miller 02:57

Tyler Miller, City of Scappoose.

Mike Russell 03:00

Thank you all.

Henry Heimuller 03:06

Okay with that, thanks, everyone for being here. It's an important day for us to hopefully dial in on this discussion of our new radio system potential and, and glad everyone took time out of their day to be here. Now is the time on our agenda for public comment. Anyone who would like to address the Board, please go to the podium back there. And give us your name and city of residence for the record. This is our time for public comment. I'm going to ask for this three times, anyone who'd like to address either the Advisory Committee or the Board of Directors, now is your opportunity to do so. And this we third and final call for public comment - anyone who'd like to address us here today?

Mike Russell 03:59

It appears there's nobody online. Is that correct?

Henry Heimuller 04:03

Nathan?

Jeff Pricher 04:05

That's not true. Jeff Pricher, Scappoose Fire is online.

Henry Heimuller 04:09

Oh hey, Jeff, hang on just a minute. Did you want to address us during public comment here?

Jeff Pricher 04:13

No sir, but I heard a comment that nobody was online.

Henry Heimuller 04:19

Okay. Well, we appreciate you being here, but we are having some technical difficulties. Sounds like we're going to, soon as Nathan gets back here, get your volume taken care of and see we can bring you up on the screen. Thanks for weighing in there. Okay, with that, we'll go ahead and close our public comment opportunity. Is there any additions to our agendas? Either one for the day?

Mike Fletcher 04:46

None from staff.

Henry Heimuller 04:46

Okay. Anything Mike from the Advisory Committee as far as an agenda addition?

Mike Russell 04:52

Any additions to the agenda? None.

Henry Heimuller 04:58

Okay, we'll go ahead and moving then, this is shifting over to the regular Board business stuff here. This will be the potential approval the November 17, 2022 Board meeting minutes. Directors?

Rob Anderson 05:17

So moved.

Shelley Hennessy 05:18

Second.

Henry Heimuller 05:18

Moved and seconded to approve the minutes from November 17, 2022; this is our Regular Board meeting. Further discussion? Hearing none, all in favor signify by aye.

Rob Anderson 05:29

Aye.

Henry Heimuller 05:29

Aye. Opposed same sign. Motion carries. Now it's an exciting part of our agenda here today, which is the potential appointment of a new Advisory Committee member we have Chris... I'm sorry,

Shelley Hennessy 05:30

Aye.

Henry Heimuller 05:38

Lieutenant Chris Fluellen. I missed the lieutenant part, I had a chance to meet him here a little while ago. It's our pleasure to meet you and your name has been submitted by the City of Scappoose to be the alternate on the Advisory Committee. So anything you'd like to say to our Board here, Chris, in a way of introduction?

Chris Fluellen 06:07

Brand new to this particular area. Just glad to be here in Columbia County and work with all of you. So thank you very much for having me here.

Henry Heimuller 06:14

Thank you, Chris. Do I have a motion from the Board of Directors for approval of Chris to be the alternate for the City of Scappoose?

Shelley Hennessy 06:21

I'll make a motion to have Lieutenant Chris Flu...

Chris Fluellen 06:28

Fluellen. Flu like the virus, Ellen like the name.

Shelley Hennessy 06:34

Fluellen.

Henry Heimuller 06:34

Is there a second?

Rob Anderson 06:35

Second.

Henry Heimuller 06:35

It's been moved and seconded to approve for Lieutenant Chris Fluellen to be the alternate for the City of Scappoose on the Advisory Committee. Is there any discussion? Hearing none, all in favor signify by aye.

Shelley Hennessy 06:48

Aye.

Rob Anderson 06:49

Aye.

Henry Heimuller 06:49

Aye. Opposed, same sign. Motion carries. Thank you, Chris. appreciate you doing that and welcome aboard.

Chris Fluellen 06:55

Thank you, sir.

Henry Heimuller 06:56

All right. Moving right along here into our financial reports. We'll have our Budget Variance report first. Nancy, anything out of the ordinary that we should be aware of?

Nancy Edwards 07:10

Nope, everything's looking good. You have just the month of November in front of you.

Henry Heimuller 07:13

Okay.

Rob Anderson 07:15

Chair, I move to approve the Budget Variance report as presented.

Henry Heimuller 07:19

Is there a second?

Shelley Hennessy 07:20

I'll second.

Henry Heimuller 07:21

Moved and seconded to approve the November Budget Variance report as presented. Is there any discussion? Hearing none. All in favor signify by aye.

Rob Anderson 07:29

Aye.

Henry Heimuller 07:30

Aye.

Shelley Hennessy 07:32

Aye.

Henry Heimuller 07:33

Opposed same sign? Motion carries. Now is time on the agenda for the approval of the check register. It was presented in our packet.

Rob Anderson 07:47

So Mr. Chair, move to approve the expenditures starting with check number 31115 through 31182, oh correction, 31183. With the electronic transfers and payments for a grand total of \$364,368.23.

Henry Heimuller 08:11

Is there a second?

Shelley Hennessy 08:12

I'll second.

Henry Heimuller 08:13

Moved and seconded to approve the approval of expenditures as presented. Further discussion? Hearing none, all in favor signify by aye.

Shelley Hennessy 08:23

Aye.

Rob Anderson 08:23

Aye.

Henry Heimuller 08:23

Aye. Opposed, same sign. Motion carries. Okay Nancy, you want to talk about the transfer of funds?

9:11a.m. Flatt arrived.

Nancy Edwards 08:31

Included in your packet is a motion to be read into the minutes to transfer funds to our Reserve funds from our General fund.

Henry Heimuller 08:40

Okay, and the purpose of this is?

Nancy Edwards 08:42

It's per our budgeted appropriations.

Henry Heimuller 08:44

Okay.

Rob Anderson 08:47

So moved.

Shelley Hennessy 08:48

Second.

Henry Heimuller 08:52

Just a note for the record that we're welcoming Jeff, into the meeting. Thanks for being here.

Nancy Edwards 08:57

Rob, can you actually read the...

Rob Anderson 08:58

Yes the ...

Nancy Edwards 08:58

Yes, please.

Rob Anderson 08:58

So yes. Chair, move to transfer 1,100,000 from the General fund to the Equipment Reserve fund, and 100,000 from the General fund to the Revenue Loss Reserve fund, as appropriated in the 2022 through 2023 fiscal year budget.

Henry Heimuller 09:18

Thank you. Second stands?

Shelley Hennessy 09:20

Yes.

Henry Heimuller 09:20

Okay, it's been moved and seconded to move, to transfer the 1.1 million from the General fund to the Equipment Reserve fund and the 100,000 from the General fund to the Revenue Loss Reserve fund as appropriated in the 22-23 fiscal year budget. Is there any discussion? Hearing none, all in favor signify by aye.

Jeff Flatt 09:39

Aye.

Henry Heimuller 09:40

Aye. Opposed same sign. Motion carries. Okay 2023 business mileage rate.

Shelley Hennessy 09:40

Aye.

Rob Anderson 09:40

Aye. Mr. Chair I move to approve the IRS reimbursement rate for mileage per the IRS 2023 guidelines, which increases three cents per mile this year.

Henry Heimuller 10:03

Is there a second?

Shelley Hennessy 10:04

I'll second.

Henry Heimuller 10:05

Moved and... 65.5 cents now, moved and seconded to approve the new IRS standard mileage rate for 2023 as described. Is there further discussion? Hearing none, all in favor signify by aye. Opposed same sign. Motion carries. Okay. Mike, are you going to do the GFOA presentation for us? Man, this is amazing.

Shelley Hennessy 10:25

Aye.

Jeff Flatt 10:25

Aye.

Rob Anderson 10:25

Aye.

Mike Fletcher 10:40

It is. So I'm happy to announce to everyone that the District has received, for the 21st time, the National Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from the... who are these folks, these are the...

Henry Heimuller 10:55

Government Finance Officers Association.

Mike Fletcher 10:58

Thank you. For everybody, GFOA congratulates all budget award winners for presenting and preparing a high quality budget document that meets program criteria and striving to improve budget transparency in their community. Each year only 1700 awards are presented and this District has received this award for 21 years consecutively. This is a direct result of Nancy Edwards and really Maryjo's hard work in the development of our budget. So, congratulations!

Henry Heimuller 11:37

Good work you guys! (applause) I remember a time when Columbia 9-1-1 was the only agency in the county that received this award. And I think it's something that many of our districts and agencies including Columbia County, have strived for. And a lot of it has had to do with the leadership of Columbia 9-1-1, especially Nancy, being really focused on doing things to the standard that produces this reward. So I think we've run out of wall space haven't we?

Mike Fletcher 12:12

We'll have to go around the corner.

Henry Heimuller 12:14

We'll have to start sending some to Nancy's house for it. Okay, congratulations. Good work, you guys. Okay. Next topic, which is a big topic, is our NextGen Radio System discussion. You know, we've had this conversation for five years, talking, planning, trying to figure out what we want to do, to move into the next generation, what we're going to do for a new radio system to take us hopefully another 20 years down the road. And, and man, we've, we've chewed a lot of cabbage on this. And hopefully, hopefully, we can get some consensus and move toward that. So, Mike, I think I'm gonna kick it to you, if that's alright. So that we can talk with that, you know, you can talk to your Advisory Committee, folks and we can hopefully come up with some kind of consensus here today as a direction that the Board should proceed in as we move forward.

Mike Russell 13:14

I agree. That's, that's what I'd like to get out of today's meeting and so thank you, Chair Heimuller. I was remiss, there's actually nine folks online, I didn't realize that when we were introducing each other, can you go ahead and read off who's online, please?

Nathan Hughes 13:29

Yes. We have call in user, citizen, Brian Greenway, Brian Pixley, Earl Smith, Steven Lougal and Will Steinweg, and Griffith.

Henry Heimuller 13:42

Can we bring those folks up on the screen?

Nathan Hughes 13:46

No. Unfortunately, it's just the video feeds that go up.

Henry Heimuller 13:49

Okay.

Nathan Hughes 13:49

We're still kind of getting used to this.

Henry Heimuller 13:51

So, this... okay. All right.

Mike Russell 13:52

Yeah, that's why I didn't, I thought there was nobody online. So anyway, I appreciate that. Thank you. Yeah, I just wanted to start out by saying, take a little Chairs privilege here. So this is my, starting my fifth year here in Columbia County. And one of the things that struck me when I first got here was the strong coordination/collaboration between agencies within the county. There's nothing like it, honestly, that I've seen in the state. The way we work together, the way we function, the way we collaborate. It's really incredible. And I'm hoping that the establishment of those relationships over these, all these years, we can come to and work towards a solid recommendation for the Board today. And looking forward to Rajit's presentation, and hoping that we can come together behind a solution and once a decision is made by the Board that we can support you going forward. It's going to be a multimillion dollar ask of the taxpayers, so I think it deserves the time and effort that it's taken. But, we need to move forward and support the Board moving forward. And so, I'm hoping that's, that's my hope for this meeting today. And so, look forward to your presentation. And with that, Rajit, would you like to begin or Mike, did you have any?

Mike Fletcher 15:23

Just couple, couple points. Rajit, we've asked, just for a reminder for everybody, the District contracted with Federal Engineering a couple of years ago to represent us, to guide us, to educate us, and ultimately to give us a recommendation, regardless of what it may be. And that's what they're here for. They've been paying attention to all of our conversations for these past two years. I forward them, your comments, your questions, input from across the board and they're here to again today to help facilitate this conversation. We are asking Federal to be the facilitator to your dialogue. We're hoping that you guys engage in questions, hopefully, being able to provide you answers. We specifically did not invite the vendors here. We want a free and open conversation without any awkwardness. I did ask Ron Polluconi to join us. He's the manager of the WCN system, that's specifically here to answer questions that either Federal does not know, the inner workings of the WCN system and certainly, none of the vendors have that deep of understanding of what that solution, potential solution provides to the users. So with that, I'm going to turn it over to Jeff and Rajit to guide us for the next couple of hours I hope.

Rajit Jhaver 16:58

Great, thank you. So to kind of take a step back as far as the process that we've undertaken, over the past couple of years, like Mike said. We were initially retained to come up with a needs assessment based on the stakeholders. So we had interviews, we had site visits, and so forth. We then went ahead and came up with, based on Mike's guidance at the time, four different alternatives that we looked at for the Columbia 9-1-1 District. And we came to this Board, I want to say it's probably been a year and a half at this point, and presented that and gave our opinion, as far as what would be the best alternative of the four. And to kind of go over those four real quick again, was, was a VHF system, 700/800 MHz system that would be just Columbia 9-1-1's and then two of the regional systems, one being WCN and the other CRESA, as far as joining a regional system to provide enhanced coverage and enhanced functionality and interoperability. And the outcome of that overall alternatives report and what we presented was to join a regional system for a number of factors, including the, already the installed base and coverage that a regional system would provide, the level of support and maintenance that would be provided as well. The fact that a new core would not have to be purchased, which is again a cost savings in addition. All the, and all these are essentially add up to cost savings. And a new core, so not a new core, but leveraging existing cores of the regional system. And not to mention the level of interoperability that would be achieved, would be immeasurable compared to other ways

of interoperating. Of course, if you go, you can have ISSI connections and so forth, but these regional systems, including WCN have established connections already with the state, with the City of Portland, and so forth. So allow all the public safety users on the system to be able to interoperate with whoever you choose to and we've set up talk groups and so forth. So for those reasons, we, that was our opinion and our professional opinion and recommendation. After you know, all these sessions and kind of time and all the information flow. We as a Federal Engineering still stand by the thought process of joining the regional system based on new information that has come up from being able to purchase equipment, from Clackamas as well as, you know, the, the effectiveness of joining a system such as WCN, essentially what we did the full analysis and so forth before it stands to this day and I think one thing that was very clear over the past month or so, as you know, the stakeholders have very concrete coverage needs, and rightfully so. And so one thing we had done during the conceptual design was really to be able to design to those needs with, with a number of additional sites, regardless of whichever direction the county, district, the district went. So one thing is clear that regardless of the decision made here today, and the approach is definitely that requirements for that particular vendor or vendors needs to be established. And we of course, can we talked to Mike and that's something we can do based on our work with the district to make sure that the, the needs of the stakeholders are met. Because it's very clear, just having one vendor do something and another vendor do something, it just it doesn't work, it doesn't work for the stakeholders, it doesn't work for the decision making process. And so whatever direction is chosen, those requirements can be easily established by us because of the fact that we've gone through this process with the stakeholders and understand what those coverage needs are, and can articulate that in the form of specifications that need to be adhered to. So obviously, I'm thinking right now of coverage, that there's other requirements as well. But coverage, we know, is really the biggest issue with all the public safety users having gone through this process over the last couple of years. And then we want to make sure that that's addressed by whichever sys...respective of what system ends up being the right system for Columbia County 9-1-1. With that said, that's kind of a broad overview. Obviously, we are open to taking questions on any topic. And, yes, sir?

Joel Medina 21:47

Joel Medina of Columbia River. I, you know, we've had a lot of stuff thrown at us. Over the past few months, main questions that I want to know is what's behind the curtain? In other words, from Federal Engineering's position, I hear Motorola, I hear Tait, I hear everybody - what are we missing? What are we not hearing? There's gotta be something, there's got to be a so what at the end of the road. Is there anything that we should know that we don't know yet?

Rajit Jhaver 22:14

I mean, so speaking to those particular and you're probably referring to like the presentations and the emails and stuff? Yeah. I mean, then that's kind of what I was, I appreciate you bringing up the question. That's part of what I was trying to explain is that it was very clear from both those presentations, that there was aspects of an overall solution that were missing. And so not to say they can't be done, it's just to your point of what's behind the curtain. That's where the specifications are very important, because it addresses not just radio needs, did not address it, not just subscribers, it addresses the backhaul. It addresses the site infrastructure. That's, that's a fairly expensive cost component that was represented in different ways by the various vendors that have presented. So it really would be a full, holistic solution to your point. So if there isn't anything when you when you're in contract, whether it's to join the WCN or go at your own, that contract would be very binding, and would cover all the aspects so that there is not that where's the gotcha, where's the what's the missing piece? And that's, that's a fair comment, because I think each one of these has certain aspects that are, you know, missing in certain ways. And that's something that when we went through the conceptual design process, we were clear to include all aspects of the microwave, the radios, the actual radio infrastructure, the actual structure development. And again, I'm not saying that's going to be the final design, because obviously, the

final design is going to be based on the vendor, they're going to have to adhere to the requirements that are put forth. Yes sir?

Joel Medina 22:21

Yes.

Jeff Pricher 23:53

Well, I, Jeff Pricher, Scappoose Fire. I appreciate my colleague asking that question. I think it's very important. So, I'd like to expand on that just a little bit. To be more specific, there have been a lot of pros talked about. I want to hear about the cons. I want to hear about the negatives. Sometimes we get lost in all of the greatness when we're looking at a system we can invest in at a reduced rate. Please don't mistake, the intent of my question. As we make a commitment we get behind supporting Columbia 9-1-1, I need to make sure that I'm going to my bosses and our community and saying we have vetted everything. So again, understanding the negatives, the cons of going with some of these systems, I think is kind of what we want to know.

Rajit Jhaver 24:51

Yeah.

Jeff Pricher 24:52

In addition to that, you had mentioned something about binding contracts. One of our biggest fears is getting lost in the mix. If we are to join with another agency, it is paramount that we have a vote at the table. There are lots of agreements and examples, at least on the fire side of things, on how when one agency has a large stake in a project, no decisions are made without involving all of the stakeholders regardless of who, quote unquote owns the system. And for our communities, investing in technology, which changes rather quickly. I want to make sure we don't end up in a situation where all of a sudden, we're going to be stuck with a bill and in 10 years, or even eight years - oh, you got to upgrade now. So that's, that's our question.

Joel Medina 25:57

If I may just tag on to my esteemed colleague here from Scappoose.

Rajit Jhaver 26:00

Sure.

Joel Medina 26:01

Because what I don't understand, and maybe your opinion, how could there be so much difference in the two presentations? I mean, the dollar... mind you there's significant difference.

Rajit Jhaver 26:13

Oh, yeah. And, and absolutely.

Joel Medina 26:15

Why? I mean...

Rajit Jhaver 26:16

Because...

Joel Medina 26:17

If we're asking for it, we're asking for one thing. And we have come to a consensus that this is what we're looking for. Why is there such a difference?

Rajit Jhaver 26:24

And it's a great question. It's because the product, it's the process that's being undertaken. There's really two processes here that can be undertaken. And hopefully we'll answer your question as well. The one process of building your own system really needs to go through an RFP process because right now you're getting information, differing technologies, differing designs, and all that from various vendors because they're not adhering to a technical specification, that's part of a request for proposal. When they do that, that makes that balance out and basically, levels the playing field for all aspects of the criteria you care about as first responders. What's your coverage going to look like? What's your capacity? What's the interoperability? Is the backhaul going to be reliable at a five nines of reliability. So, these are all aspects. That's what you're seeing various dollar views. Some vendors are not including the site infrastructure costs, others don't have microwave. So there's, there's pieces completely missing, kind of, to your point earlier, Chief about what's behind the curtain? Well, there's a lot. Because right now, it's just information coming at you without a set of requirements that they're adhering to. When you go through an RFP process for that case, for the case where you're building your own system. You would have multiple vendors, maybe not just one or two you've heard from but others that would perhaps be interested in responding to the RFP and providing a design that meets your needs, providing a cost element that obviously, when you're in a competition, which is what a RFP process is, people do sharpen their pencils. And then you have the ability to as whoever the selection committee is to be able to identify what are the pros and cons with, of course, assistance from, from your consultant, as far as what are the pros and cons of each design and cost and then make a decision that way. Right now, you, there's no one level playing field because everyone's just providing you with quotes on this and that and it doesn't, it doesn't have all the elements that you would need in order to make a conservative decision for that piece of it.

9:31am Peterkin arrived.

Mike Russell 28:39

So, is that the next step?

Rajit Jhaver 28:41

So...

Mike Russell 28:42

Is that would be an RFP process? Because part of this process...

Rajit Jhaver 28:45

Yeah.

Mike Russell 28:46

is that we said there's this opportunity to buy Motorola equipment.

Rajit Jhaver 28:50

Yes.

Mike Russell 28:50

And so that locks us into Motorola.

Rajit Jhaver 28:52

Correct.

Mike Russell 28:52

So if that, that's what's conflicting for me is that it wasn't, I wasn't under the impression we were gonna go with an RFP process. I thought we were gonna go either with a sole procurement, sole, whatever it is.

Rajit Jhaver 29:06

Directed procurement.

Mike Russell 29:07

Yeah, direct procurement.

Rajit Jhaver 29:08

Yeah.

Mike Russell 29:08

Or go with a cooperative purchase agreement?

Rajit Jhaver 29:15

Sure.

Mike Russell 29:15

Or something like that. So that's, that's what's conflicting for me. It sounds like some of the smaller decisions we make lock us into a direction.

Rajit Jhaver 29:23

Sure. So to your point, so when I'm explaining the process, I was just trying to address why, the question of why they're getting varying things. My again, our opinion has been and continues to be is to join a regional system. So as a result of that, to your point sir - yes absolutely, you would then have a directed procurement. And again, because of the advantages of joining the regional system, in our opinion, and again, some of that stuff that, as far as votes and all that, I will let Ron speak to because he'll know the ins and outs of the WCN to satisfy some of the gentleman's questions on far as how, how does that work as far as once you're part of the WCN, how does it evolve? And how do you have a vote? And how do you, and very good questions, and I'll defer to Ron in that. But from a perspective of the step before that, as far as joining a regional system such as WCN, I think there's, there's numerous advantages and which we, of course, articulated in our conceptual design. But one of them is, of course, there's already an existing footprint, which you're adding to, so that again, helps to alleviate the cost, you have a great support mechanism, that you're not, your initial to, so the point is your cost sharing some of that support because there's X number of sites, and yes, you're adding some sites, but you know that helps from that perspective. There's already a core, which is a very expensive portion of a system that you're tying into, that already has ISSI connections to various other entities that again, is another cost saving. So for all those elements, and not to mention, as you go into trying to fund this thing, a regional system gets a lot more grant funds than a 'go at your own' system. There's proof across the country on that. So for a number of these reasons is why we believe a directed procurement to join the regional system is WCN, is the right approach. But I also wanted to explain why the differences are happening from what they're seeing from Tait, Motorola, others, at this point - it's simply

because it's not been a streamlined process in terms of them responding to a set of requirements. So that's why you've seen varying differences between them and you can get lost in it.

Jeffrey Pare' 31:34

You saw one presentation, that was current, different set of rules. And you saw another presentation that was from an RFI, what was two years ago?

Rajit Jhaver 31:43

Right.

Jeffrey Pare' 31:44

Different set of rules. Very confusing. I'm sitting in the audience, I do this for a living and I'm... wait a minute, this doesn't make sense and then started looking into it. Okay, we have two different sets of rules here. So you saw two different presentations, which I'm sure confused a lot of people. If we do a directed procurement, as far as the county wants to go, there's still a set of rules. You guys all have to get together. And we'll come up with a set of rules - it has to do this. And you can direct it towards a benefit. Because there's certain benefits. You have to weigh all this out. And we can do an RFP, and everybody gets it. Or you can do a directed procurement. Still a set of rules, still a contract, still have to meet the needs of the first responders and the citizens.

Joel Medina 32:32

In an effort to direct things towards the vendor, where I'm losing it is, how can there be such a difference in coverage between the presentation from Tait and the presentation from Motorola if we're all asking for the same thing? I want you understand that I asked that, not on behalf of myself necessarily, but on behalf of public safety - that means police and fire. Because Columbia River runs the I30 corridor.

Rajit Jhaver 32:58

Sure.

Joel Medina 32:58

So, we're gonna get good coverage no matter what. But I can tell you this, if I'm a police officer and I'm up on ScapVern Highway or somewhere up there and I'm sitting by myself. And all the sudden I pull somebody over, my radio better work. And so those are, because and it's because, we run in pairs, fours and sixes. If you're a police officer, you are all by yourself?

Rajit Jhaver 33:20

Oh, absolutely.

Joel Medina 33:21

So I'm compelled to ask the question - why is the coverage difference so different?

Rajit Jhaver 33:25

Simple answer, because there was no set of requirements provided to them. I didn't provide a set of requirements and specifications. I don't know what information they used. It sounded like Motorola looked at RFI stuff from a few years ago. Tait, I'm not sure how they were directed, as far as the coverage. So I can tell you at this point, we were not involved in any set of specifications. And that's where I get back to an RF... if it was an RFP process that they were responding to, there would be a set of specifications and it wouldn't just cover coverage, to your point Chief, it would cover all aspects of user needs that we've gathered over the last

few years, and basically allow the users to then decide, okay, this is the coverage requirements we had, this is vendor ABC, this is what they've provided and then make an informed decision based on that. What, what I, unless there's some set of documents, I'm not aware of, that's the reason why you're seeing two very disparate set of coverage from what you saw back in December from Motorola. Yeah because, because I mean, you're talking about Motorola... Chief, Chief...

Joel Medina 34:27

I'm sorry.

Mike Russell 34:32

Chief Deputy Davis has been waiting.

Rob Davis 34:34

My turn.

Joel Medina 34:35

Yeah, my guest.

Rajit Jhaver 34:36

Yes sir?

Rob Davis 34:37

I guess I have three, three things. And one of those. And I appreciate you bringing up the coverage map right, because what we saw was, was vastly different between presentations. Chief Marks and I both brought up the fact that we know today, that we have additional coverage above and beyond what the Motorola presentation showed. We know that because I can drive into those areas where that presentation showed zero coverage and have a great link back to the WCN network and hear everything perfectly and transmit from the location.

Rajit Jhaver 35:06

Sure.

Rob Davis 35:06

So, we know that it's better than what it is. And I think that speaks highly that maybe that wasn't a level playing field.

Rajit Jhaver 35:12

Absolutely.

Rob Davis 35:13

I guess my next question and Ron, this may be for you, I know from a fire standpoint the concern is if we join a regional network such as WCN, if in five years, you guys decide, hey, we're doing something different, and we can't afford that right, I think this goes back to Chief Pricher's question is, how do we, if we join that regional network, how do we get a seat at the table to be a part of that solution in going forward, as obviously we're investing a significant amount of money for, for a smaller county into joining that, that system, and I'm all for joining a regional network, I think it's the right thing for us to do based on some of our needs. But I do understand where the other chiefs are coming from in saying if we if we buy in, how do we know that we're not just gonna get pushed out and shoved into something else later.

Ron Polluconi 36:02

So first of all, WCN, it sounds like it's a tightly coupled entity, but in reality what it is, is a partnership between three entities. So WCN is nothing more than a very abbreviated way to say there's three cooperating governments - WCCCA, C800 group and Newberg. And it just was too much to say all the time so we abbreviated. So it's not really anything other than abbreviation of those, of that partnership. Each of the entities if you will, within that partnership own their own, own and operate their own stuff. Newberg owns and operates their sites, site in this case. They manage and own their own dispatch center. Their backhaul segments that they tie into the system are theirs. If they chose at any one time - I'm using them just because it's the easiest one to address - if they chose at any one time to go their own way, all they would have to do is buy a core, plug it in, have a nice day; they're on their own. There is no table that anyone sits at because there is no governing body. It's three cooperating government entities and the agencies that exist within, or are supported by, because they're kind of focused around the PSAPs if you will. So that's, that's been the way that it's been organized. And C800's in the same boat. If they chose to pull the plug, they would increase their costs to separate their core, because it's a backup instead of a primary, and so they would just add some cost to that. They would disconnect if they chose to, and go their own way. WCCCA could at any time, if they chose to, do the same thing. But it's in no one's best interest to do that, by virtue of the fact that all of that overlapping coverage, and all that support, and all of those cost benefits are the reason for the relationship. There is no governance, if you will, involved in the process. It is a sharing of technology. So, I, probably answering your question as well, sharing of technology, sharing the processes, leveraging a single core system, whatever that core system is, whether it's a fire station alerting, radio, paging, all of those systems, it's just a way to leverage the investment. But it doesn't mean that anybody can't walk away or choose a different direction. We've chosen again to save money by, if you will, purchasing power of the three entities, whether whatever the contract is, whether it's Motorola, or again, going back to fire station alerting, whatever and then leveraging the technologists that we have supporting it. Rather than each group having their own technology group. There's a major economy scale that you get by having a central organization. I know you guys understand that. The test equipment, vehicles, personnel, all of that training. But in the end, there, there's nothing that binds, would bind you, other than what benefit you would seek for the purpose of interoperability, leveraging coverage, leveraging systems and reducing costs. If that, if that doesn't work, then obviously it's, you can be your own entity in whatever shape and form you might want to. So you've been, you've had your hand up a lot back there.

Jeremy Hasenkamp 39:55

Jeremy Hasenkamp. I spent 18 years out here as a state trooper and I worked all over the state on the SWAT team so I've experienced interoperability switching radio stations and all that. I worked a lot in Washington County and Portland quite a bit. And I'll be honest, the Motorola system there locked a lot of users out. There was not a lot of input into interoperability with the other systems; people coming on to that. We were actually denied radios because our agency wouldn't put up the money for the user fees for the, having pack sets, and pack sets and mobiles on there. We actually had to get grants at some point just to put 800 radios to get coverage on Highway 30 for backing up in Portland because the systems couldn't talk. So, I guess my question is, has that improved? And when you guys did your survey, talking to these folks, did you also ask a question of how much operability with Washington County and Portland do we need? Or do we need more interoperability with the partners out here? I still work as a reserve out here. Interoperability with partners such as CRPUD, which you know, is going to have to have some sort of radio network, the school districts. And when you look at that, as those folks being partnered more so than Washington County or Portland because I can think of, you know, unless I was near Sauvie Island, or going in, there is very few times that I need to actually have interoperability with Portland, where we couldn't have an interoperability channel or a patch done to deal with it. So I guess that's my question to you when you guys did your interoperability study, did you look at those things as well? And then my second question to follow up to that is, hearing you say about an RFP,

what's the, what's the reason for not going forward with that, so that we can look at all the systems and get everybody doing a presentation that puts... you know, I'm a business owner now. I'm all about numbers and making sure what we have. Everybody's giving me all the information so that we can look at it, because, again, direct purchases sometimes can lock you into something that may not be the best for going forward for the county. So, I guess I'll leave that with you folks on, on both those questions.

Ron Polluconi 42:01

I'll answer the first question.

Rajit Jhaver 42:02

Yeah, sure.

Ron Polluconi 42:03

Let me catch your first question. I try to put it in the frame of time, when were you having issues as far as radios being?

Jeremy Hasenkamp 42:12

Well, I left the state in 17.

Ron Polluconi 42:14

Okay, so this was the old analog system.

Jeremy Hasenkamp 42:17

I know how quickly stuff changes, you know, even in last year it has, since the presentation or since you put the presentation together? I'm sure technology is eons ahead. So that's why I guess, you know, my main thing would be to ask why not go forward with, as a taxpayer here in the county, why not go out for another new RFI and/or RFP, other than I get it with circumvent work, make it easier. But if that saves taxpayers on the back side and looking at something that's going to go for 10 to 20 years, why would we not look at what that, what those options are?

Rajit Jhaver 42:50

You want me to take that one?

Ron Polluconi 42:52

You do that one.

Rajit Jhaver 42:52

Okay. So to your point, so one of the things about obsolescence and stuff, and I think it answers the Chief's question to - is it true that you have a system upgrade insurance plan with...

Ron Polluconi 43:03

We have an SUA and SUS.

Rajit Jhaver 43:05

SUS? Yeah. So part of this concern, which again, we have lots of clients that have made major investments in infrastructure is, that is a refresh of the equipment over periods of time. So it helps to keep the system more up to date, and so forth. So, so that part I wanted to just get out before I answer the gentleman's question. So as far as the RFP process versus a directed procurement, you're right, if you're looking to build your own system

and RFP, as I mentioned earlier in our discussion, is the right approach. As far as taxpayer and saving money, if you're looking at the cost component, it's very hard to make a case that RFP would be a more cost effective solution than joining a regional system for the various reasons I've pointed out. One is there's already a fairly good coverage footprint. I know, it's only on the southern part of the county, but there is a coverage footprint that provides coverage so it makes it that there's less investment required by Columbia 9-1-1 District in order to meet the coverage needs of the first responders. Number two is there's already an existing core, which as was mentioned here is a very expensive piece of the architecture of a system. So as a result, you have that cost saving as well. There's the maintenance cost savings. You're not, if you build your own system you have to maintain the system all on your own, as opposed to the economies of scale that are garnered from a regional system. So those are three of the big ones. Not to mention the ISSI connections if you do want to connect with other partners, and again, when we did the assessment, we were looking at interoperability amongst the public safety agencies within Columbia County primarily, but there was needs brought up where they would love to have, even if it's not communicating with other folks, be able to roam to certain other areas, whether it's prisoner transport or whatever, to be able to have that connectivity back to their dispatch in which you would have from a system such as WCN.

Jeremy Hasenkamp 45:01

Did you guys look at, again the state system has issues or whatever, but it seems like we're talking about leveraging tax dollars. And having partnered with ODF and all these others that have stuff here, did you guys also look at an interoperability with the state system and having our system with augmenting what the state system has?

Rajit Jhaver 45:22

Go ahead. Yeah, go ahead.

Ron Polluconi 45:22

So right now... I'll get that one. Right now we have an ISSI with the state. So that's one means of interoperable communications.

Jeremy Hasenkamp 45:30

But I'm talking about their microwave and all that, because I can tell you back in...

Mike Russell 45:34

So I wanted to just interject I, I'm sorry to do this, but I, we need to limit the conversation to the Advisory Committee members. And I appreciate the questions, but this is the Advisory Committee to provide guidance to the Board. So I want to limit it to Advisory Committee members. Thank you.

Mike Fletcher 45:53

I need to jump in for just a couple seconds here. One, after I make my comment, I'm going to turn into Nathan because I'm guessing we have Advisory people with comments, questions. So and then second, I will address when I started here, I did an interview of every single public safety agency in the county, to your point. Who do you, what do you do today? While you may be a fire department, you have the same overall mission, but how you do your mission can differ greatly from the Columbia River Fire to a Mist-Birkenfeld. I did those conversations and surveys. Who do they talk to today? Who don't they talk to, but they would want to talk to in any new system? That, all that data has been collected, collated and provided? That's for every single agency. We Columbia 9-1-1 was formed by the voters of this county to do really three or four things. That was, take 9-1-1 calls, emergency calls for service, take non-emergency calls, and dispatch police fire and medical. That is our mission. That is Columbia 9-1-1's mission today. We don't exclude anybody else from joining our system. If

the Parks Department, the Port, PCC, a school or a school district, or all of them want to join - absolutely, we're not opposed to that at all. What we are required to do is to provide service to our core mission partners; that's police, fire and medical. And that's what we're funding a system for. Others can join on. We have no problem with that.

Mike Russell 47:44

So yes, online. Let I, Chief Pricher had his hand up a little while ago. Did you still have a question?

Jeff Pricher 47:50

I'll wait for our colleagues online.

Mike Russell 47:52

Thank you very much.

Nathan Hughes 47:53

Mr. Pixley, your turn?

Brian Pixley 47:57

Thank you, I have a comment and also a question. So my comment is, it's very easy to look at a map of Columbia County and see what the major thoroughfares are on that all connect to Highway 30. When both Tait and Motorola did their presentations, there was pretty glaring difference in coverage. And when I asked Motorola about that, they said, "Well, there should be coverage there." You know, when my deputies are out on Scappoose Vernonia Highway or Apiary, they need to be guaranteed they're going to have, when they push that button to talk to dispatch or one of the other agencies, someone's going to come, someone's going to actually acknowledge their need for help. And I just don't, didn't feel that we got that with Motorola. So why would we ever potentially join, to sign on with a contract with a company that can't guarantee the coverage that we need here in Columbia County? But my question is, just talking about interoperability, couldn't we have the same kind of interoperability with either company - either Tait or Motorola?

Rajit Jhaver 48:59

So, I'll take your first question, I guess first. So again, Motorola, at least to my knowledge, we did not provide any type of specifications, whether it came to coverage or any other key aspects for first responders in this county to adhere to. To your second part of your first question, why would we sign up to a contract, we as your consultant would make sure you would never sign up to a contract with anybody that does not meet your needs. And how we would do that is to make sure that the design that's proposed meets, checks all the boxes and meets all the needs that are in the specifications, and then go through the negotiation process to iron out any, any other loose ends before you sign a contract that then has to be adhered to because there's coverage requirements. So they have to do coverage testing to show that they meet those requirements, should they not, they would be deficient on the contract and then have to, the contract language would specify they would have to - at their own cost - beef up the coverage to meet the requirements. And I'm just giving coverages as a requirement, that would be the case for pretty much all other aspects. Again, so there's a lot of steps between, again, I'm not sure what requirements Motorola was given, if any, but there's a lot of steps between where we are today and actually being under contract with a vendor, that we would make sure to protect Columbia County's interest and make sure that the requirements are met as specified, and are adhered to before contract signing. So that, any follow up to the first question?

Brian Pixley 50:38

No, thank you.

Rajit Jhaver 50:39

Okay, second question. Sorry, what was the second question again?

Brian Pixley 50:44

So, you guys talked a lot about, about interoperability... wouldn't we have the same,

Rajit Jhaver 50:46

Oh yeah, that's right. Yes.

Brian Pixley 50:50

the same or the same options or access with, with either, either system?

Rajit Jhaver 50:55

Yeah, yeah. So, so fair point. So if you're looking at it from a vendor by vendor, absolutely, they'll adhere to P25. P25 offers a lot of options that we've talked about here today, in terms of interoperability, in terms of having even differing manufacturers for different types of radios, it's a standard. It was developed for public safety by public safety for that exact reason. The connectivity of the ISSI connections to whether it be state or other regional partners, should they be important, can also be done by any of the vendor's systems. What I think we're talking about today with the specific WCN example, was those interoperability connections are already established. So not to say that any other vendor cannot do that. It's just that there's, there's already established connections so should Columbia County Public Safety be a partner in that system, they would essentially have access to all those established connections and be able to roam across all those areas and talk back to dispatch here. And also, of course, if needed, interoperate with any other partnering agencies, in those in those jurisdictions. So that's, I just want to clarify, yes, P25 allows for interoperability that, that's a staple of the, of the platform, it's just the way it's already set up, is really what we're trying to point out. Sheriff, Sheriff...

Jeffrey Pare' 52:18

In looking at the...

Mike Russell 52:19

Sheriff Pixley, one of the, I had the same observation as you. And it was obvious to me, just as a layperson, that Motorola would need to add more radio sites to provide the coverage that we saw from Tait. So that's adding more costs, because, you know, they were heavily focused on using existing sites, Motorola was, and so it was obvious to me that if we were going to get the same coverage. Tait proposed 14 sites and so obviously, I think Motorola would have to build more sites as well. So, and that's not what we got and so going back to the RFP discussion that would level the playing field and we could see the, the comparisons on two systems that are, how many ever systems, are presented to us through an RFP process would kind of clear that up. It was very confusing, and it is backwards.

Jeffrey Pare' 53:20

It did, it did offer or introduce a whole level of confusion Motorola had a request two years ago, two years plus ago, along with all the other vendors, there was an RFI I believe, before we were involved, you know, respond to this set of rules they did. And that's what their presentation was about. And then another vendor came in with a different set of rules, and did their presentation. So, you're looking at apples and oranges here.

Mike Russell 53:47

Yeah, no. I think, I think we got that.

Jeffrey Pare' 53:49

We all know that...

Mike Russell 53:50

There's more questions online there.

Nathan Hughes 53:53

Yes, Griffith asks...

Mike Russell 53:55

And I got you Chief.

Nathan Hughes 53:57

What is the estimated yearly cost to our taxpayers per 100,000 for all options?

Mike Fletcher 54:06

Could you repeat the question again?

Nathan Hughes 54:08

What is the estimated yearly cost to our taxpayers per \$100,000 for all options?

Henry Heimuller 54:15

And who's asking the question?

Nathan Hughes 54:17

Griffith.

Mike Fletcher 54:19

So, we don't know yet. In part of our conversation internally and with Federal Engineering, if we do an RFQ, an ITB, an RFP, whatever vehicle to get to a specification that needs to be met. It's more than just radios and radio sites. It is civil engineering. It is civil construction. It is backhaul. It's radio consoles. It's subscriber radios. There's just a trainload of things that you have to develop an estimated cost, a budgetary number. All of that, and then what we would do is get all those costs associated to those things, we would take it to Special Districts Association, which is what we belong to, they have a whole department that does nothing but financing for Districts. They tell us, based on the budget number, what we can expect, whether we do a GO Bond, or if we did a special option levy, we can have conversations about grants, we can talk about all the different funding models, including financing. There are government loan processes that we could leverage. Several vendors offer loans to pay for the system. So all of that is a question mark yet, because we don't have that bottom number; what is the total. We have to get to that number first, and then we can figure out what the, the taxable rate is per, per 1000 for a homeowner?

Mike Russell 56:03

Any other online questions?

Nathan Hughes 56:05

Nope.

Mike Russell 56:06

So, I think Chief Pricher was first and then...

Jeff Pricher 56:08

So, a couple of thoughts and then I'm gonna get back to some questions specifically for Federal Engineering. You identified not too long ago, that there were no standards. As our vendor working for Columbia 9-1-1, why? You started out with this whole process giving us comparisons of apples, oranges and onions. Why? We're back in the same boat we were when you were talking about owning our own 800 system, VHF system, or, you know, sharing an 800 system. And even with the sharing 800 system, it was all over the board. I gotta tell you, I'm really frustrated. I'm also frustrated because I started out by asking you a question about negatives. Tell me the cons. I haven't heard one con from you yet. All I've heard is positives. I don't disagree that there are positives. Believe me, I know the positives. I am very appreciative that our Chair, the Sheriff and Vernonia and other agencies have also shared that there are vast differences with these coverage maps. And I'm gonna come back to that because I think moving forward today that speaks volumes. With regards to our friend from WCN, I'm very concerned about joining with another agency, and let me give you an example. You know, we talk about interoperability. There's a gentleman in the back that, that talks interoperability; that's really important for some of us. I don't want to speak up for Vernonia. But they do a lot of interoperability with Banks Fire, which is on the WCN system. We have to interface with Portland and Tualatin Valley. Because of the lack of cooperation with WCCCA, which shares technology components with everybody in this room, we had a situation where patient care was delayed almost an hour, maybe a little bit longer, because somebody refused to be a partner agency. So when I asked you, you know about guarantees with us having a seat at the table, we talked about technology changing, that is really important. And I want to make sure, I want to guarantee that, that happens moving forward if we were to work closely with our agency. Now moving forward, if we were to join the WCN system, one of our interoperability problems would go away, because the challenge that we have is WCCCA's not able to talk on the VHF radios; there's no link and that was a big part of that. But, there were workarounds that they were refusing to consider. Based on the great work that the Columbia County 9-1-1 staff was pitching for on workarounds, they just were like, "yep, we're not doing it." So that is a concern for, for us. I'm also concerned for us in this meeting because the, the premise of this meeting, you know, based on what Mr. Russell was hoping to bring us together for, was to give direction to Columbia 9-1-1 because we need to, we need to move forward on this. And all I've heard today is there's no standards. And until we can come up with a standard of what the expectations are, what we want to see for coverage - do we need more towers? How can we make a decision on whether to, you know, go with this Motorola system or do an RFP? I mean, I'm all about the deal. And I think, you know, everybody in this room is considerate of that. But if we're talking about how we would buy into this Motorola system, but have to add a couple towers to get the coverage that we need - we gotta look back at our Federal Engineering partner and say, "Why aren't you guiding us and saying, 'Well, guys, these are set of standards that you need'." Now, maybe you didn't get that direction in the beginning. But, look at all the people in this room, our time is valuable and where I sit today, I can't make a decision based on what my other colleagues are sharing. So I'm hoping you can answer a couple of these questions.

Rajit Jhaver 56:46

Sure.

Jeff Pricher 57:13

But I'd also like to throw out maybe we need to come back when Columbia 9-1-1 says, "Here's the standards, does everybody agree to them?" Okay, what do we need to do to get this standard? This is what the costs are. Because right now, the costs are going to be all over the board.

Rajit Jhaver 1:01:20

Sure, so first of all, we are not been part of the process, aside from showing up in December. So we've we're not the ones who solicited basically proposals from Tait or Motorola so that we haven't even been under contract with you guys, for a few months at this point. We're doing this for, you know, just relationship purposes. So to that effect, as far as the process, again, I think I laid it out pretty clearly here, we would hopefully then be under contract and put together specifications that would be as you refer to the standards, to be able to then solicit actual proposals to be able to adhere to a system that meets the District's needs. So our, our professional opinion, again, is for obvious reasons to join a regional partner, because regardless, those specifications might be the exact same as they are for an RFP. The difference is the cost effectiveness. And I understand there's other aspects of it, which I can't speak to, and Ron can, as far as the, you know, vote and all that I know, he's done a good job of speaking to that. But I'm talking about the upfront actual aspects of coverage, interoperability, sharing of the core, and so forth, we get, we would write those specifications and put it together and make sure that the vendor adheres to it when you enter into a contract. So as far as why are there not, typically the standards don't get developed before we actually go out to solicitation. I was not involved, and we were not involved in the solicitation for Tait. To me, they're unsolicited proposals, because I was, I was not involved with Motorola or Tait to provide a thing. Which, again, I think, if you take that out of the equation, basically, we're following the process that was set forth by this Board a while ago to kind of come to an agreement on which direction to take so we can go to those standards and put that solicitation together. As far as budget, I mean, we all, we provided budgetary costs in the conceptual design; they're still in that ballpark. The exact as, I completely agree with Mike, you're not going to know exact numbers until you go out to the solicitation. Things are changing so much with inflation, it's, the more you delay of trying to get this number, that number is going to be outdated six months from now or a year from now. And no vendor, I've been dealing with vendors, they're not even agreeing to price points more than three months, because their costs are rising as well. So there is a fact of yes, ballpark numbers, sure. But, the exact numbers you're not going to get until you get into a, get a proposal with that from, from any vendor. They'll give you probably a 90 day lock in and then you get to go through negotiations and you sign the deal. That's how the process works. You know, it's become even more difficult over the last couple of years with the way supply chains and costs and so forth have risen. Whereas, three, four years ago, I could probably give you a number it would probably be still applicable a year from now. Now, that's not possible due to the impacts of what's happening in the world.

Mike Russell 1:04:24

Chief Medina.

Rajit Jhaver 1:04:25

Yes.

Joel Medina 1:04:25

Which is, which is a point that I've said all along. Is that we need to make some kind of a decision. Okay, we need to make some kind of decision because we've been kicking this can down the road for so long.

Rob Davis 1:04:38

I one hundred percent agree.

Joel Medina 1:04:39

And, and, you know, we will and I mentioned this at the last meeting that we had, until I have a radio in my hand, even if we were to decide something right now, you're looking at best case scenario, three years.

Rajit Jhaver 1:04:51

Absolutely.

Rob Davis 1:04:52

Probably.

Joel Medina 1:04:52

And we got this, this economic downturn that is obviously coming. Okay, so those are all factors. But, in all that in the presentations, listen, and with all due respect to the vendors, I get it. They want the business. So they're going to present it, however it is in their best interest. And I'm, I understand, I understand. But, to be honest with you, I don't care what's in the best interest of the vendors. I care what's in the best interest of public safety. Because in that, in the cost projection they put up, for example, Motorola stated they were going to leverage all the current 9-1-1, Columbia 9-1-1 sites that we had and add two sites. Okay, well, if you compare that to what Tait, Tait said that they were going to use five of the Columbia sites and build nine more sites. Well, what's that gonna cost? How is that gonna work out? Because I mean, I understand and I agree with Chief Pricher, we haven't gotten everything. I understand and I remember from the very beginning Federal Engineering said that the standards don't come up until system design moves forward. When system design moves forward the will know the standards. And I get all that, which is why I would say to the Board, we need to make a decision. But to those ends, I mean, I mean, there are so many holes. And again, I, if I was a CEO of either Motorola or Tait, I would, I would applaud any one of those companies, because they did exactly what they, what they were going to do. They, they presented a pie in the sky, unicorns and rainbows. You know, I mean, you know, we hear that from, from one I hear, "Oh, the radio is going to be \$431 per radio". That doesn't, that doesn't seem accurate. That's not what I've heard before, you know. Motorola's gonna give us radios. Tait, we gotta buy our own. I mean, you know, I mean, it's like, it's like, it would be like, if I know you're offering oranges, I'm gonna say, "Yeah, well, I'm gonna peel the orange for you". I mean, but at the end of the day, certain costs are what the costs are.

Rajit Jhaver 1:06:54

Sure.

Joel Medina 1:06:55

Right, so what I would, what I would beg the Board on, beg the Board, is to not kick the can down the road anymore. Remember, we've got three years, three years, before we can hold a new radio system in my hand to give to my guys. And that's best case scenario. I made the statement, and I heard crickets when I said, "Realistically, we're probably talking five".

Rajit Jhaver 1:07:25

If you, if you build your own, it will probably be closer to five. If you join WCN, depending on the number of sites, it probably be closer to three because again, established stuff. So yeah, anywhere three to four, maybe five is on the long side, but it's probably two and a half, three year minimum, you know, rollout. Especially for the coverage needs you have and so forth. And to your point, absolutely, Chief, I mean, my notes, you know, again, from Tait, and I, again, I'm not trying to speak for them or anything, but I've taken notes as well. And all in when you factor in the site improvements, the subscriber radios for the numbers you need, I mean, it's about a \$25 million commitment for the Tait proposal. And Motorola is, again, had a lot of deficits, I can't even come with the number because their coverage was obviously woefully inadequate for what, what it is. And, and again, those are two things that are what I call unsolicited proposals. But I'm just, I'm just reflecting to what

you're saying, I'm in one hundred percent agreement with, because by getting this information, all it, I feel it just muddies the waters as opposed to just taking a direction and moving forward.

Joel Medina 1:08:29

Absolutely. And that, and that's what I want them, that's what I specifically wanted to make sure that was communicated to the Columbia 9-1-1 Board. And I get it and I understand. Here's the deal, we have to do something. For the love of God, we have got to do something.

Mike Russell 1:08:46

Agreed.

Henry Heimuller 1:08:47

I think I communicated that to you all at the very beginning of this meeting.

Joel Medina 1:08:47

It's time.

Mike Russell 1:08:51

Yeah, yeah so...

Rob Davis 1:08:53

I guess my thought is, especially for Advisory Committee, we just talked about how, whether we buy Motorola or whether we buy Tait, right, those systems are interoperable. We're talking the same bandwidth of service, right. And we, what we got was two different maps that showed two different levels of coverage. And clearly, one of those has to be skewed. If we're talking seven 800 megahertz, stuff that works together that is interoperable. If one map can show us that it has this phenomenal coverage, then the other map has to be capable of providing the same coverage. It's the same stuff. It's not like we're talking VHF and seven 800 and two completely different bandwidths that don't work the same. So I feel like some of us are really stuck on this map problem, which we've talked about for at least eight months that we are not going to get that until we have a direction and a system chosen and we get to contracting to build a system. If you're talking seven 800 megahertz and one map looks really good and one map looks like crap. Either somebody's lying, or the one that looks like crap can be just as good as the one that's phenomenal.

Rajit Jhaver 1:10:10

Yeah, just based on number of sites.

Joel Medina 1:10:10

Amen.

Rob Davis 1:10:10

We're not talking multiple systems here.

Jeffrey Pare' 1:10:12

I see your, your frustration here. You want answers. But we haven't asked the questions yet. We've got to get the requirements. You can give them to somebody. Either release them to everyone, or do an ITB to Motorola.

Rajit Jhaver 1:10:12

Correct.

Mike Russell 1:10:26

Yeah, so can we, can we talk about that a little...

Rajit Jhaver 1:10:27

And you can do an ITB to Motorola or directed procurement. If you're not happy with it, then you can always go to RFP after. And again, I'm not trying to delay the process Chief, but I understand that the fastest path, the most cost effective is in our opinion, that.

Mike Russell 1:10:40

Directed.

Rajit Jhaver 1:10:41

Correct.

Mike Russell 1:10:41

Okay, so that's my question. So I think what you're hearing from the group is we would, we would prefer an RFP process. Let's level the playing field. Let's get those standards. Specifications ironed out. Mike I don't think, I don't think that's accurate, though.

Joel Medina 1:10:50

No, that's not accurate. No.

Rob Davis 1:10:59

Here's the thing. We sat in that presentation with Tait and Tait through a \$6 million number on the presentation. And I had to unmute from my office and go, hey, I've just done some, some quick math, which I'm not a math whiz, my numbers like 26 million dollars, not six. Tait's trying to sell us a radio that's not even on the market. It's not even out of testing. We don't even know if it's available.

Joel Medina 1:11:22

Or if its public safety certified and compliant.

Rob Davis 1:11:26

As a fire agency, there is honestly one radio that I want to put on my people, and it has a big M on it because I know that it works. I know that it's tested, I know that it's on the network. I worked in Washington County. I was there when we, I remember back when we originally went to 800 96-97 and having to manually switch channels to go to repeater channels, because that's how we made it work in the hills. Right? I was there when we made the switch to phase two digital, and it works. The coverage in my fire district is far better today on WCN then it is on CCOM.

Joel Medina 1:11:33

Because here's the deal...

Rob Davis 1:11:48

That's just the facts.

Joel Medina 1:12:02

And I agree with the Chief in, we're not talking about Jose's radio freakin' service. We're talking about Motorola here. Okay. And what it seems to me is that Motorola did a presentation, somehow Tait was aware of what Motorola's numbers were going to be, and they just undercut them. That's what it feels like. Because I mean, there's, there's just so many holes, and so many things that's left out of one, which is what I was saying, the towers is misrepresented, the radio costs is misrepresented. I mean, it's and that's what you do when you're trying to get business. I applaud their business sense. But as a, but as a firefighter, you got to give me something that works. And we need to make a decision. And we already, and we have, yeah, we have champagne taste. We have a beer budget. There are, we already know there's, there's an incredible amount of savings that we're going to get with Motorola. We know it, it's there. Let's make a decision. Let's do something and get things done.

Mike Russell 1:13:01

Ok Chief...

Henry Heimuller 1:13:01

Pardon me. Mr. Co-Chair? Let's go ahead and listen to our legal counsel.

Mike Russell 1:13:03

Yes?

Michael Peterkin 1:13:06

First, I apologize for not being here on time. I'm usually half hour early. And you know that if you're not a half hour early, you're late. I was a half hour early, I thought. So again, I apologize. I'm new to this and so I'm not going to try to say that I know all the history, but I'm experienced in contract work in construction procurement. I have a suggestion as we have worked through this issue, and that may be a two pronged approach. And Rajit I'd like you to jump in here and supplement this and also Mr. Polluconi. First of all, I think we need a path, one path forward, that would be based on some premises that this District joins WCN. WCN takes, or excuse me, we negotiate with the C800 and have that equipment that's surplus, taken, given back to Motorola. Now this is really an important component. Motorola has said that they would honor the pricing, the 2017 pricing plus the 40% discount. Now, the reason that we have not done any temporary agreement with C800 is because we thought that there's a better solution. That solution is transferring that equipment back to Motorola. Motorola packages it up and then we get the warranty, we get the complete system. Rajit can help us do the specifications. So that's number two. Okay. So, premise one, WCN. Premise two, get that equipment back to Motorola, package it up and they present pricing, coverage, equipment, the entire criteria. And that's my job. That's Rajit's job. It is, this Board's job is to evaluate the contract particulars. It has to be complete, and it has to address the coverage needs. It has to address the issues that you guys have raised compatibility, and so on and so forth. Now, once we have the Motorola proposal that's based, and then this whole, we can write this up. There's two things that Motorola has offered. And, Mike, I'd like you to address those, because you've spoken to Motorola and that is one, short-term upgrades to the system, and also radios. Because those are the two additional issues that this package is the way forward is going to go. Now before Mike addresses that. So, that's option number one. And we can address that - Federal Engineering, myself, partners, WCN - we can all put that together as a package and have a presentation and support that. If the Advisory board and this Board chooses to take an additional step, once we have that system or that proposal in place that's comprehensive and complete, you could always send out an RFP for competitive, because Tait is going to create the new, a new system, they won't have the, the benefits of the equipment that C800 is offering. And so as I have thought about this last night and listened, this is something that it seems to me workable, because if the Motorola, WCN path forward is possible and it gives you safety, coverage, compatibility - the price savings are millions, are potentially millions of dollars because of this garage sale on the available equipment. It's, it's a unique

situation that supports perhaps a single source contract. However, if you know, once that package is put together, there can be an RFP and Harris and Tait could choose to make a competitive bid and then we could all have another meeting to resolve it. So that's the path forward, at least, I would like to see from a legal standpoint and a productivity and a timing, because this does need to get done. Rajit...

Rajit Jhaver 1:19:34

That's exactly, you put it much more eloquently than I could. So yeah, I agree with that. And that's what I was just mentioning is because to your exact point, you could, you could take that path, make a decision on 'is this the direction that the group wants to go?' and if not, I mean, nothing's binding until you sign on the dotted line, right. So at that point, of course it would be the most time effective, cost eff... we believe, but if the group doesn't feel that way at that time, the decision can be made, 'okay, we got this information, great, but we think, you know, we can do better', whatever the case may be. More likely than not, that won't happen, but that option is there. Then you go through an RFP process, which is a longer process, and but it does, to your point, allows other vendors to be able to respond and so forth. And, yeah, that, to me, that's a very feasible path.

Michael Peterkin 1:20:26

And in your experience, single source procurement under those circumstances is certainly feasible and it's appropriate?

Rajit Jhaver 1:20:36

Yeah, absolutely given, given the exact set of circumstances that you clearly articulated. Absolutely. We did something similar, a few years ago in the city of El Paso, where they had existing equipment and we did a directed procurement to that vendor as well, just because of the cost effectiveness of being able to leverage that. They had not built out the sites or anything, but they had the core and a lot of the equipment related to that. And that was a far, far faster process, just because we were able to leverage that. And fortunately, and in this case too, that vendor, in this case, it will be Motorola, would be aware that should there, to your point, yes, C800, and so forth, but the overall package has to be in line with the, with the costs and so forth. And if they are somehow trying to do some major markups they are, they are aware that, hey, we will go to RFP because you're not the only game in town. And that, just that fear alone I've seen has worked in the past. And if it doesn't, again, we have the option to go to RFP.

Mike Russell 1:21:38

Chief Pricher.

Jeff Pricher 1:21:40

So Mr. Chair, I appreciate what counsel just shared. There's a lot of value to what you said. And my colleague from Columbia River made a very valid point, we've got to move forward. What are the decisions that we need, what is the decision today that needs to be passed on to the 9-1-1 Board? Are we just supposed to guide them with saying WCCCA, we own our own system or CRESA? Or am I missing something? And then the second thing is, for the record, nobody's said anything about negatives yet.

Henry Heimuller 1:22:21

Mr. Chair can I, can I just step on that for just a second. Jeff, you're right. And you know the thing, from Henry's perspective and from Henry's perspective only, is I've been looking for that same exact answer for five years. What is it exactly? Now, keep in mind, in the last year, we've dropped VHF out of the question. So in four years, it took us that long to truly pull that off of the table. So now we're to where we are here today. And my, the bad thing about being around a long time is your remember stuff that was said 20 years ago, and 20 years ago this Board, the 9-1-1 Board was told 800 does not work, nor will it ever work in Columbia County. That's

why we had a VHF system then. Times change, equipment changes, technology changes, all of that stuff. But I keep asking the same question that Chief Medina talked about at the very, very beginning of this, what's behind the curtain? What don't we know? What, what are the, what are the downfalls. The one downfall that I see that this Board would have to take on as a liability, or potential liability, is we build this thing out, we get Federal Engineering, we get all the pros that really know what they're doing to build this thing out and we flip the switch on and one of y'all calls up and says we can't talk on highway 47 in Mist. And, and we can't fix it. We can't adjust it. We can't make it work. And then we, this Board, has to drop another million bucks to put a tower someplace to fix that problem. Those are things behind the curtain that we also don't know, from the fiscal responsibility of this Board, because some of it is truly an unknown. And I don't know how we get all of the negatives, Jeff, I know there's going to be some. You know, there's going to be some. We all know there's going to be things unforeseen no matter how good we plan this thing. I'm not sure how we get there, because that also is what we've been spinning our tires on for all of these years is, the fear of the unknowns to a large degree. So...

Jeff Pricher 1:24:33

Mr. Heimuller, real quick. I appreciate what you're saying. I don't disagree with that. But at no point has anybody said one negative about potentially going with CRESA. Don't you find that odd? I find a lot of it odd. Absolutely, yes. So then what are we supposed to do to our taxpayers and the communities when we do have an uh-oh and it comes back to the record and we say, "Hey, we're asking these questions, we didn't get anything."

Mike Russell 1:25:07

Chief Medina.

Joel Medina 1:25:09

Okay, we're all a little naive and foolish if we think that no matter what we decide we're not going to get an uh-oh. Seriously. I mean, that's ridiculous to think that, that, that no matter what we decide, we're going to have hiccups and challenges. We're talking about radio communication here. It isn't like I'm running two cans and a string and I can tell I mean, I can see it. Now, the, the issue, the issue, I think that the I'm gonna beseech the Board is that we've got two factors. You know, Henry, I agree with everything that you're saying. And I value, I speak to Chief Pricher a lot because the organizational knowledge that exists is key to us making a good decision. We got two things that are going to kill us right now. And I see it, I see it coming. Remember, I come from a major metropolitan area, there's two things that are killing us right now. The first one, we have no control over, it's time, no control over that. The second one is money. And I'm looking at the discounts and the equipment and see, and I get it, you could give me a five million dollar house for free right now and I wouldn't be able to afford the taxes. I wouldn't be able to keep it. You know, and again, let's, let's, let's remember, we're talking about Motorola. We're not talking about some fly by night company.

Rob Davis 1:26:34

What I think, Chief Medina, you, you hit a really good point there is that we're talking about all the potential hiccups in building this new system. Let's not forget the amount of hiccups we have in our current system. We have terrible radio coverage in, in Scappoose for God's sakes. The other day on ScapVern I couldn't talk on Tac3 on a mobile.

Jeffrey Pare' 1:26:53

So, I'd like to address that because...

Rob Davis 1:26:56

But my point is, we got all these hiccups that we're already having. And we're stuck on the potential hiccups from getting something brand new. We have to stop forgetting that what we have now is falling apart.

Rajit Jhaver 1:27:06

And potential hiccups, I mean, we've seen a lot of implementations and yes, there's you know, and we because we've seen so many we try to avoid the pitfalls, but there's always going to be some hiccup here and there. But to your point, Chief or Board supervisor, is that those things like oh, well the coverage is not going to work here and we can't have that with the first responders. Absolutely, you can't. But the good news is with, the vendor builds out the system. There's coverage acceptance testing. You do not need to sign on the dotted line to accept a system until all the requirements we, when we put a thing together, there's also something called a compliance matrix. And the compliance matrix has all the requirements - capacity, coverage, all these aspects. And when they sign up for, the vendor signs up for them and says yes, I comply, I comply, I comply. That then will become part of the legal contractual package that goes into the contract. They're going to build out the system. Yes, we'll have a hiccup with some site taking longer. And there's going to be things that happen from that perspective. But the hiccups of the system not performing as was required and expected. That is not, that is a no go. That, that means that, that system is never getting signed off until the vendor corrects those deficiencies. And to the point is that, that system will be better than, than the system you have today, in every aspect. That's, that's what we've heard from the stakeholders. That will be what's in the, in the, in the system requirements - whether it be coverage requirements, capacity requirements interoperability. So I just want to make sure that, that I can't predict what's going to happen during the deployment, but I can say that we have never had a client except a system that has not met all the needs that were listed and complied to by the vendor.

Henry Heimuller 1:28:46

Just need to make sure that list is good to start with.

Rajit Jhaver 1:28:49

That's the key, and we have lots of years of experience. And we are continually evolving that. Not only taking your requirements, but we know some of the, the vendors take certain shortcuts, but we make sure that those types of requirements are solidified. And of course, everyone here has the opportunity to review it before it goes out to the vendor. So I want to make sure that this is not just FE going off in our corner. I mean, yes, we have the, we have the expertise, we have the knowledge, but we want to make sure that the stakeholders have the buy in to say yes, this is exactly what we need. And this is what we want the vendor to propose.

Michael Peterkin 1:29:24

Rajit, if I could, excuse me, Mike. Look it, it's our job to make sure that the contract and the specifications meet the needs of the owner, which is the Board right here. And that means compliance and warranty. It means performance and warranty. Whether it's a building in downtown Portland on specifications and, or whether it's the old Oregon iron building ships for the Navy. It's all about contracts, performance, specifications, warranties and if you have a good company. Because the warranties and the contract is only as good as the company, the contractor or in here, in this case Motorola, and we all agree that Motorola, Motorola is a good company. I think Tait's a good company, from everything I've heard. And I'm not saying that they're not. We're just looking at this going forward. And so, to, you asked the question, what do you, what should the Advisory Committee advise, make a suggestion to the Board? Well, if you want to get this moving forward from a timing standpoint, authorize or excuse me, suggest to the Board to pass a resolution to have a proposal put together that encompasses the, just as I mentioned earlier, the WCN, the C800 equipment issue and to get Motorola locked down into the specifications, including what they're giving, coverage, price, so on and so forth. And then I was

gonna have Mike talk about this interim. There's some real potential for interim solutions or system upgrades. Mike, would you address that so they know.

Mike Fletcher 1:30:00

So I'm gonna go backwards just a little bit because we were talking about us spinning our tires for literally years, and was directly related to the bands. There was a whole conversation amongst this group, about VHF versus seven 800 versus hybrid, blah, blah, blah. No vendor in the past, no vendor today will guarantee coverage in VHF. So that was the experience years ago, that would be our reality today, if we say we want a VHS system. Even in the hybrid system that we've talked about, regardless of who the vendor is, we're talking about a hybrid. The vendor is not going to guarantee the coverage for performance in the VHF system, at least that portion of it. Tait, Motorola will guarantee performance and coverage based on the design that we all agree upon. They are the experts. I'm not, the Board is not. And so we'd be relying on them to develop the specifications. Me forward thinking, this body needs a voice at the table when we develop those specifications and expectations. So I'm already trying to formulate how to do that because a committee of 30 is like herding cats. But I'm formulating an idea of how to form a workgroup, a separate subcommittee of the Advisory Committee to help me help Federal to develop the specs, and requirements that you guys need. So, there's that.

Mike Russell 1:31:55

Mr. Anderson.

Mike Fletcher 1:32:15

I just want to mention, I hear us talk about coverage and talking about what it could be what it wouldn't be. And doing the spec is, Mike hit it and you hit it too, is the reason VHF went out the window is because we could not get a performance bid back, that the vendor would stand behind and guarantee for coverage. Correct.

Rob Anderson 1:33:59

So we went to the 800, 900, 700 spectrum, looking at it, because each vendor says we will produce a map, we will give you the cost for that and if it does not meet that, then the vendor, on their dime, will make it work.

Mike Fletcher 1:34:15

Yep.

Rob Anderson 1:34:15

And so, when I hear some discussion here about saying, well, what if we find there's a hole here, what are we going to do? Well, that's part of the acceptance testing; that it's going to be the responsibility of the vendor to fix that hole.

Mike Fletcher 1:34:29

Correct? That is correct.

Mike Russell 1:34:33

What are the risks of going to WCN?

Rajit Jhaver 1:34:38

The risks?

Mike Russell 1:34:38

Yeah.

Rajit Jhaver 1:34:39

So, kind of get into the, the negatives, I guess? Yeah. So I mean, the front end, we outlined this in the report, because we did have pros and cons for each aspect. And really the biggest risk or con is you don't have full control, right?

Mike Russell 1:34:42

Yeah. Right.

Rajit Jhaver 1:34:54

That's truly the one. Because we have so many clients across the country and we have this conversation very often. And it's really, there's no one silver bullet. If there was everyone would be doing it. So, the, all the benefits that we've talked about and I kept hearing, we haven't heard the negatives. Well, the benefits for one is kind of the negative for the other. So, we can kind of talk about both scenarios. But the real negative on the, on joining a regional system is really the, you don't have the one hundred percent control. So that, that's really the biggest risk for, for the Columbia County. On the other side, all the benefits of WCN are now cons of doing your own. You're going to have additional sites, because you don't have any coverage footprint. You're gonna have additional maintenance costs, because you don't have the economies of scale. You're going to have to buy cores, because you don't have a core to leverage. You're going to have, if you still choose to have those inner connections to other systems, ISSI, that's another additional cost. So all the, all the benefits of one become the negatives of the other. And that's really how these kind of work out. If there was one that was just everything was a pro and nothing was a con. You know, we would tell you that but that's the, that's the reality.

Rob Davis 1:35:21

That'd be suspicious.

Rajit Jhaver 1:35:42

Yeah, you'd be suspicious. Yeah.

Mike Fletcher 1:36:07

I would challenge the people to be specific. When you say lack of control, what does that really mean to you? What is the fear of control look like?

Mike Russell 1:36:18

For me, it's upgrading. So I hear this tossed around that WCN or WCCCA are 10 years ahead of Columbia County and where we're at, and so we would be 10 years behind. So they want to upgrade their core and suddenly it knocks our ability to talk off. You know that's the, that's the fear.

Rajit Jhaver 1:36:37

So, two things to that. One is you'll obviously have the latest and greatest equipment installed. And then the other thing is that what we talked about earlier, the software update, the system update; those are core and other features that even, even things like switches and routers, they get updated on a biannual, or maybe every three years whenever. So those... every two years? Thank you, sir. Every two year basis. So again, not to say you're getting a full forklift. We know the repeaters going to be in place, they will get firmware upgrades, and so forth. But keep in mind, and I know this fear, because we've dealt with so many clients that have joined regional systems, and they all have a common, common concern. Keep in mind, and I think Ron spoke to this clearly, it's in everyone's interest to, just whatever financial stuff you have the fear in the back of your head,

everyone, every government agency that's part of that system has the same fear. So typically, and you can speak to maybe how it works, but you know, whatever that maintenance cost model and so forth. It's, it's putting funds into different buckets are whatever, whether it's the system upgrade assurance, or this and that, but there shouldn't be any massive forklift because we're already P25, phase two. That's the latest and greatest. There's no phase three right now anywhere on the horizon. If it is, the vendors are smart enough to try and leverage their existing installed base because trying to, trying to go to any client as a vendor, and I think you were talking about dollars and cents, and say, "Oh, you spent 20 million dollars five years ago? Now you got to spend another 20 million dollars to go to the latest and greatest - that's not going to fly. So there's, there's business reasons also where you feel, okay, there's not gonna be a forklift. Now, what's the typical life of a system? Not, it's not 25 years anymore, I'll be honest with you. You know, one hundred percent system, you know, if you get 15 years out of it, great. And, and what is that next system going to look like? I don't know. You know, writing is not on the wall yet as to what that's going to look like, but at least for this type of money to say, okay, I can I can get 15 years, when it's built and turned online out of it. I mean that, that I at least can, can, can say that, that, that's a valid forecast.

Mike Russell 1:36:39

The other concern is going to a subscriber model. So cost that my department's not incurring now, we would start occurring. So that's, that's another concern is that we go with WCN and suddenly, we're okay, now we're being charged for each radio...

Rajit Jhaver 1:39:04

Right.

Mike Russell 1:39:05

and per month, and that's a budget item that gets added.

Rajit Jhaver 1:39:09

And that's valid. But then the offset to that is, and again, I don't have the dollars to compare, but valid point, but that those dollars are going for something, it's not, WCN is not a for profit entity. That money is going to build out, improve the system. It's going to actual maintenance and other aspects of the system. I'm sure Ron can speak to more about but that's a, again, I'm not going to compare exact dollars and cents, but to the point I was trying to make earlier. In general, when you have one entity owning just their own system, those costs are going to be higher because you're now not having that economies of scale or sharing those costs over a larger platform. So that, that's, that's typically a true statement. So even though you'd have the subscriber costs, which I agree it's another budget item you have to budget for and it's on an ongoing basis. The offset is, if you build your own system, you're going to have some costs as well and probably going to be higher. So either way it's going to, it's going to be a model that, yes, these systems, unfortunately, the newer systems do have more of these costs with associated with, you know just, just maintenance and upgrades and so forth, because they're much more computer based as opposed to the existing systems that are in place.

Jeffrey Pare' 1:40:19

And you don't have the infrastructure to support yourself right now. Right? You go to somebody else for support.

Jerry Cole 1:40:24

Mike, may I make a process suggestion?

Mike Russell 1:40:29

Sure.

Jerry Cole 1:40:30

I don't know if you know who I am, but I've got some experience and just public process and stuff, actually used to be on the Board of Directors for 9-1-1 with Henry. We got a whole big, huge check the first time we upgraded back over 20 years ago.

Henry Heimuller 1:40:47

Yeah, federal government.

Jerry Cole 1:40:48

Great experience. But just looking from the outside in, and this isn't any input on the radio stuff at all, this is just processing, you can take it, or leave it. If 435 House members could vote 15 times to elect a speaker, okay. Thirty members could come to some sort of a conclusion, it might take a few votes. But what I would suggest, is one of the Advisory Members, make a motion, get a second, see if the sticks, discuss that motion and move forward.

Mike Russell 1:41:25

Yeah, I appreciate, I appreciate the advice.

Jerry Cole 1:41:28

Otherwise, we're talking about the same thing all...

Mike Russell 1:41:28

Yeah, yeah. I appreciate the advice. I want to get there too. I think it's important that each member, though, have an opportunity to ask their questions, and so I want to get through everybody's questions. And then we can go to... yeah.

Jerry Cole 1:41:29

but that will help...

Mike Russell 1:41:37

I think we're getting there. So, I appreciate your patience. Chief Medina.

Joel Medina 1:41:46

Okay. I mean, and I understand Chair, Chairman, what you're trying to let everybody voice. But what I don't want to happen is exactly what Commissioner Heimuller just said. That we're going to spend another 20 years deciding on what we're going to do.

Mike Russell 1:42:02

Yeah, no one's interested in that Chief.

Joel Medina 1:42:04

So, here's what I'm saying. On behalf of Columbia River, that covers St. Helens, Columbia City, Prescott, and Rainier, I would ask my public safety partners to advise our Advisory Committee to move forward and give the recommendation to the, to the 9-1, to the Columbia 9-1-1 Board to make a resolution as was stated right here. The safeguards that Mr. Peterkin has said is going to protect us. You know, and like we've already said, it doesn't hurt us anything until we put our name on the line. So we could spend another 20 years saying what ifs

and what ifs and what ifs. Or exactly what the Mayor of Rainier just said, we could just as an Advisory Committee, tell Columbia 9-1-1, let's go. Let's go. Then we talk about that one motion. If we have anything else to talk about, and we move on. I'm telling you, that if, I'm saying that I can't have my people go three, four years without good communications. A lone officer has to be panicking right now, I would. So again, I would ask my public safety colleagues, that, that's what we should do. Go, go, go.

Mike Russell 1:42:10

Deputy Chief Davis is next.

Rob Davis 1:42:49

Yeah, I'd like to make a motion on behalf of the Advisory Committee, and that is that we advise the Columbia County 9-1-1 Board of Directors here that we sole source the Motorola solution and join the WCN network.

Joel Medina 1:43:48

I second that motion.

Mike Russell 1:43:50

It's been moved and seconded to sole source to Motorola and join the WCN network. Any discussion?

Jeff Pricher 1:44:04

Mr. Chair, question.

Mike Russell 1:44:06

Chief.

Jeff Pricher 1:44:06

I guess this is for the group. Would it be more appropriate in calling the question to just leave it with going with the WCCCA system and let the 9-1-1 District and the subcommittee vet out what a standard is? Which platform to go with? So at least they can get marching orders to move forward?

Rob Davis 1:44:30

I don't think so. Because I think we have, we have to get, if we don't make a move soon with C800, we're going to lose that equipment. And we're going to lose the discounts that we're seeing. We know what the benefit is of purchasing that equipment at the current buying power, 2017 prices and a 40% discount. We know that, that the equipment that they're offering can be split up farther than it currently is. We're actually getting more equipment, in theory, more operational, capability out of what we're purchasing then, then what we need. And so I think if we, if we're not specific in this motion and driving that direction back to the Board of Directors, we're, we're like kind of half kicking the can at that point, instead of going all in and saying, this is the direction we have to go and we have to move.

Joel Medina 1:45:18

I agree with my colleague, my colleague there from, from Vernonia. I think that this is the way that we need to do. I, I believe that there's enough safeguards, and it doesn't really tie our hands into anything. But at least we're demonstrating not only to the constituents, but to our members of our organizations, that we are moving in a direction. That we are going to tackle this. That we're not going to spend 20 years to try to make a decision. I mean, again, we could what if this forever? I say we vote. And then we make a decision, because that's what we get paid to do. And then we go to Colombia 9-1-1 and then just see what happens. Rather than,

than, I mean, we're starting, we're starting, I'm starting to feel like we're the UN. Like we say wait, until we say wait again. I mean, we...

Mike Russell 1:46:10

So it's my observation that the conversation today has been dominated by the fire service. And I have not heard, except for Sheriff Pixley, anything from public safety. So if there's anybody from public safety that would like to say something, now's the time.

Chris Fluellen 1:46:27

All right, I would like to.

Mike Russell 1:46:28

Lieutenant.

Chris Fluellen 1:46:28

Yes, yes. It's great to be here, guys. All right. So I'm new to the area. Obviously, I do not know that particular (inaudible) that we have. But just a little bit about me. One thing I learned in my past 10 years law enforcement, and being deployed overseas to Iraq, my most important piece of equipment here is my radio, on hundred percent. And, as any good public servant, as a police officer I try to do my research. And just looking at things at face value here, to me it looks like that Tait will offer the best coverage to my officers. Just, this is just me coming from outside in. So that's, that's my biggest thing. And when I think I can see as well as to, I know for a fact that there's gonna be calls that no matter what system you go to, there are still gonna be calls coming there. As a business owner, I learned that. You just take my wife (inaudible). And then secondly, what it comes down to as well, just really understanding that whoever we go with, they need to be held accountable, going forward, when it comes down to it. So just from my perspective, and just looking at the coverage maps, based on the information I've seen, it looked like Tait would have the better coverage for our officers. Because when it comes down to it, if you're in a DV situation or received as a threat, you don't care who the provider is, once you got that coverage, reach help, and comes to back us up. That's my two cents. It's, I'm glad to be here, guys.

Joel Medina 1:47:49

You know, I appreciate the statement that the Lieutenant just made. But as, as, as the, as my colleague from Vernonia said, 800 coverage is 800 coverage. We're gonna get to, we're gonna get, we're gonna get the coverage that we're gonna get, because we're going to verify that in the contract that the coverage has to be what the coverage has to be.

Mike Russell 1:48:06

Agreed.

Joel Medina 1:48:07

So the other thing is, is that are we, this is the question that I have for as an Advisory Board.

Mike Russell 1:48:12

Actually, we have a question online first Chief.

Joel Medina 1:48:14

Okay, but are we going to kick the can down the road? Or are we finally going to make a decision?

Mike Russell 1:48:19

I don't mean to...

Joel Medina 1:48:20

I understand.

Mike Russell 1:48:20

shut you down. I'll get back to you. We just have something on, online.

Nathan Hughes 1:48:25

Go ahead Greenway.

Brian Greenway 1:48:27

Yes. Can you hear me?

Mike Russell 1:48:28

Yes.

Brian Greenway 1:48:29

So, Mike, to your point on some, a little background, everybody's given it. I have over 36 years law enforcement experience. And just like Chief Medina, I came from a major metropolitan city of 2.2 million people. Prior to that I worked in a smaller agency in Illinois. We have reached paralyzation through over analyzation. And we did a sense of urgency to move this project forward. I will tell you that I am partial to Motorola and the St. Helens Police Department. My 36 years of vast law enforcement experience, the majority of police agencies across the United States use Motorola for a reason. If you've, and you can Google and look back at Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department where I served honorably for 25 years, and I was the incident commander on our nation's worst active shooter incident; we had Motorola. The one time the city of Las Vegas went to a different radio system, it was called Desert Sky. And it failed miserably, putting officers lives in danger on a daily basis, to the point where we had to go back to Motorola. So, the St. Helens Police Department votes with Chief Medina. Move this project forward. Make a decision, and we support the Motorola radio company because they have been proven in our profession, time after time to be reliable. And that's all I'll say about that. And thank you, chief Medina, for your candor and your moving this forward because it's painful, that we have so many resources in our county sitting in these meetings time after time. And again, we overanalyze, we paralyze and we're afraid to make the decision. No matter what radio system you go to. No matter what database you go to. You're going to incur problems and you just work through them. But the St. Helens Police Department, because our current radio system has adjusted our training and policy, which is impacting our residents. We now have to have two officers on a call that, to ensure, that in case we have radio failure, they have immediate backups. And what that does, is that delays the response to our citizens of St. Helens, and they shouldn't have to put up with that type of service. So, thank you for letting me speak. Thank you, Chief. So we have a motion on the table still, just to remind everybody sole source to Motorola, join WSN. Chief Medina.

Joel Medina 1:50:35

So, I, that's it. I mean, we're here now. This is the gut check moment. This is a moment when leaders make decisions. I'm gonna say, go. Go, go, go.

Mike Fletcher 1:51:00

Nathan.

Mike Russell 1:51:00

Nathan.

Nathan Hughes 1:51:01

Go ahead Pixley.

Brian Pixley 1:51:04

How long, if we go with Motorola, how long is it going to take to stand the system up and get operational?

Rajit Jhaver 1:51:12

It really depends on the number of sites. But I think what we've talked about here - two to three years is probably, I mean in my opinion, probably reasonable. A lot of the work is going to be on the, just the site piece of it, because obviously you have to deliver the coverage. The actual joining the WCN part is the easy part, right. I mean, there's some work there. I don't want to minimize that, between maps and so forth. But really, it's on that piece. So yeah, I would say probably two to three years.

Mike Fletcher 1:51:36

Can I jump in here for just a second?

Rajit Jhaver 1:51:38

Yes, yes sir.

Mike Fletcher 1:51:38

I'm gonna leverage Ron. We go back to the December 1st meeting. Chief Medina made a strong statement at the end of that meeting about our current system - keeping it alive and functional, during whatever construction project we're going on with which, with any vendor. But that got me thinking. What could we do? And it changes, how to keep our current system up, depending on the path that this body takes. If, the motion is sitting on the table here for Motorola and WCN; there's a potential solution to at least help us with a crutch in the interim. So, I've had conversations with Ron, with Motorola. If we look at those three surplus sites that C800 is offering to us. We did get confirmation that, that third site can be ours. There was, that was still in the air for quite a while. But they've made the final decision, we can have it if we want it. To go back to what Motorola shared with us. Those three sites were designed for a much larger system, capacity-wise. So for us, we can take one site and it splits into two. So, three sites turn into six. Okay. Can we take one of those sites and stand it up here at Columbia 9-1-1? Well, sure. We have construction taking place as we speak at our Meissner site. Could we take one and stand it up there? Sure, we can do that. It'd be fairly quick and everything's relative, but can we take those two sites, tie them to the current WCN system? We know that there's coverage in the Vernonia area, it bleeds over into the Mist-Birkenfeld area. We know from Scappoose Fire's experience, it really does flow Highway 30, all the way up to about really where we are today in this building. But if we stood up a site here, stood up Meissner, can we tie to the WCN system to help bring us up? There's a whole conversation about subscriber ratings. We're working through that conversation - how to get some radios tied to our current system, tied to the WCN system. It's, this is all very high level interim right now, but those conversations are taking place to help stand up, and I'm gonna turn to Ron and...

Ron Polluconi 1:54:35

So we've got, in addition to the three sites that are part of the last element of construction, we have two, what are called ASRs. They're a standalone trunked repeater site. Those were demonstration sites that we put in place to allow folks to understand the transition to digital - how it sounds, how it behaves. Those are in

addition, or separate to, the three sites that are being offered for, for sale and use. Those sites very minimally, would need to be upgraded and added to the system. It's a very simple connection because they are standalone systems; they're not voted. And they're way, again, not way more, but more capacity than would necessarily be needed. But, could be put in to provide coverage into some specific areas; whether those areas are the most appropriate. We were just talking about one here and one at Meissner, that would allow for a transition. It's important to recognize the most flexible element of your, your system though is going to be the radios and what you, how you structure those radios and how you specify them. So given your, your particular, I'm getting, this is probably not the best informed understanding of your operational requirements. But you've got a lot of folks that are on, still on VHF that you interact with. Whether it's the state, whether it's an adjacent county, but you have that need. Plus, if you're going to make a slow transition, you're going to need VHF capability anyway, in the radios you deploy. So looking at that, I think you want to take a two pronged approach. First, see what kind of coverage you get from those two sites and see if that's an adequate way to make a transition, in addition to the coverage that's already provided by WCN. So it's going to leave gaps, it's just, would it be enough to take that and then leverage your remaining VHF resources to fill those holes knowing full well, that you would have to, potentially have to change your, your band and your channel in order to interoperate with one another. So that's important to recognize. Tying the two systems together could be done at your dispatch center. So in other words, if you, if we put, you picked 11 talk group's channels in the trunked environment - just another way to say that, and I'm making that up, I don't know what the right number would be - you would have to decide which ones you would want to tie to the remaining VHF resources so that when someone was on the trunked 800 system, they're also simultaneously working on the VHF channel or channels that would be assigned to that. That way, you wouldn't have to be thinking too much about dialing around a lot, you would just have those tied together. If you're on 800 side, you know where your VHF channel would be that would be on that same, if you will, talk group or channel. So, it would be easy to make that transition. And I say easy from the standpoint of equipment availability and technologically. But there are some elements, going back to your 'what are the negatives', the infrastructure isn't there to tie everything together right now. So there's costs and time associated with putting the infrastructure in. The infrastructure would be some sort of backhaul. You had a hand up, sorry.

Mike Russell 1:58:17

So, we're still in discussion on the motion. Would like to move towards the vote, but Chief Pricher.

Jeff Pricher 1:58:24

So, a couple quick questions. One, when, I just want to make sure, with the motion that's on the floor, when there is a yes vote, will there be work on the back end to determine what that level of coverage is going to be? We want to make sure that's clear. Because if we say we're just buying Motorola equipment, you know, one of the things that, that is important for us is that coverage. So I just want to make sure that, for the record, to move forward with this, this Motorola equipment, we're still going to say, hey, you know what, we're probably going to need to add a couple of towers.

Henry Heimuller 1:59:04

And it's important also for you to know, it's important to us. It's actually just as important to us. Because not only we as a District want to provide good service to you and the people who call for help, we don't want to hear any complaints. We'd just as soon be patted on the back and say, "Hey, you did a great job, this working great". So I would say that this Board is going to be following that line of thinking hardcore because we want to do it right once, that's all.

Jeff Pricher 1:59:35

That's why I was asking the question. I just want to make sure it was clear.

Mike Fletcher 1:59:37

Absolutely. So, I'll just jump on that. Should this vote take place, giving us direction. A lot of work starts, but it's earnest and it's pointed. And so it would, we would work with legal counsel, Federal Engineering to develop and, and you, as the users to develop those standards and specs. What that does, the initial vote is making a commitment. Listen we, we're not signing a contract with Motorola or anybody. We're developing a pointed, vendor specific solution to develop based on performance standards, and all the stuff that goes with it. So we can come back to the Board and you, with budget numbers. That's, that's giving us the green light to push ahead.

Jeff Pricher 2:00:33

My second and last question, and I think I'll have enough information at this point. I unfortunately was not able to make the last meeting, but it's my understanding that the system that was proposed is a hybrid system, or is it all 800?

Mike Fletcher 2:00:47

So, again, that's part of our conversation with Motorola. So I did hear something different from after that December 1st meeting. And the question isn't, it's a valid question - what's the point of staying on hybrid, doing a hybrid versus just making it all seven 800? That's a question that we're going to go back to Motorola. They're prepared for that, to answer that question. So there's first thing, that means is there additional cost to switch those two sites that were identified as being VHF to seven 800? Yeah, there's a different cost. What is the delta between VHF versus a new VHF for those sites, versus 800? There is a difference, but I don't have that number today. However, all that being said, there is advantages to still having a VHF layer within our system. The primary would be all seven 800. But there's, there's legitimate reasons to keep a VHF player for capacity, for mutual aid, obviously. But if there is a, you know, a big event out here, gives us capacity to patch additional interop between others coming into the county. So there is, there's a whole method to the madness there.

Ron Polluconi 2:02:12

There was a lesson that we learned on the Clackamas side, primarily, but also on both sides, when we had the fires. The national interoperable resources, which are available tend to be replicated a little bit too much, perhaps, because they're not regulated. And so those resources get consumed very quickly. Licensed, and particularly VHF licensed frequencies, have a benefit that if State fire comes in, or the Federal resources, whatever come in, ordinarily, they're bringing a cache of radios that are wildland-based cache. And that's normally going to be VHF. If you have a conventional VHF overlay, and it's licensed, in other words there's not gonna be somebody else using it in that kind of environment, then you have the ability to patch in those Federal or State resources that could come in with those caches and patch them into your trunk system and have that ability to deal with it. Whether that's lesser of an impact to law enforcement, but because typically, law enforcement comes in multiband radios, but fire brings in large VHF caches when they bring in a large configurate around, from around the nation. So I think, from our perspective, systemically, we are in the process of finishing up that VHF element after the lessons that were learned through the last fire, and basically the landslides, landslides and all the everything else that ensued after that. Where you're bringing in additional resources that, that is a fairly important thing to think through and make sure that, I mean, you don't need ubiquitous coverage. It's going to be in your wildland areas mostly that you care about. But at least I would recommend you consider that in, in your design as you're putting that together.

Mike Fletcher 2:03:58

And that's an asset that we own. So, we're not reinventing the wheel. We already have the frequencies. We have the sites. What would it take to just refresh the hardware to keep it usable for another layer on the seven

800 system? I have another question for Rajit and or Ron or Mike. The question of joining any regional system - Is the WCN system unique and unusual? Is, are there other examples either locally, regionally or nationally that accomplish the same things? This, WCCCA's not, and the WCN system is not unique in that sense?

Mike Russell 2:04:48

No, no it isn't. Lane County. The Seven Counties, the LRIG.

Ron Polluconi 2:04:53

Southwest Seven LRIG.

Mike Russell 2:04:55

Yeah, it's not, not uncommon.

Ron Polluconi 2:04:57

Frontier, which is a central off of Highway 84 South. Frontier system, three county. Umatilla, Morrow.

Mike Fletcher 2:05:06

Umatilla and Morrow is a joint...

Ron Polluconi 2:05:08

Joint system. Frontier is a joint, three county system.

Rajit Jhaver 2:05:12

ECSO.

Ron Polluconi 2:05:13

Yep.

Mike Fletcher 2:05:13

Yep.

Henry Heimuller 2:05:17

Looks like Nathan has a...

Mike Fletcher 2:05:20

Nathan.

Nathan Hughes 2:05:22

How are we making a decision when we've spent close to two hours saying we still don't have all the needed information? What is the total cost for Motorola? From Steven.

Mike Fletcher 2:05:33

That will depend on the design.

Joel Medina 2:05:35

Yeah. We've been saying that from the beginning, that we cannot determine the specifics until we go into a design process.

Rajit Jhaver 2:05:44

Correct.

Mike Fletcher 2:05:44

Correct.

Michael Peterkin 2:05:45

And again, I'd like to emphasize that Rajit and I have to get this done. He's, He's the, the expert on specifications. If we negotiate and get this package put together, and we present it, and it doesn't have the coverage or the specifications, then it's a no go. But until we get that process done...

Mike Fletcher 2:06:14

We won't have a dollar amount.

Michael Peterkin 2:06:15

Right. So we're gonna have coverage and processes, and equipment, and price - that's our job. And that's what we want to go do to get this moving forward.

Rajit Jhaver 2:06:28

Right.

Joel Medina 2:06:29

So again, to clarify, Mr. Pete, Peter...

Michael Peterkin 2:06:33

Peterkin.

Joel Medina 2:06:34

Peterkin. I got it, Peterkin. We are not encumbered or tied to anything, we're just making a decision to move forward.

Eric Smythe 2:06:42

A recommendation.

Michael Peterkin 2:06:43

And give us, yes, because you are making a recommendation to the Board. The Board will then pass a resolution to say, team, go get this done, put together this burden of proof on how this is going to work with WCN, with Motorola, with everything that will work for the ultimate providers. Because in the end, as all of you always say, it's about safety. And until we get to that point, we won't accept the contract. And so this is merely the first step and we've got to get this done. Because until this Board passes a resolution, then we're at a standstill. We don't want to be at a standstill, we want to get this process done. And in the end, if the whole Motorola WCN concept doesn't work, we'll tell you or you can vote against it.

Mike Russell 2:07:45

I guess that's where, yeah. We're not voting on cost. We're not a, we have to separate the cost right now. And...

Rob Davis 2:07:52

We're giving direction.

Mike Russell 2:07:53

And so, you know, in our experience and what we've seen Tait looks less expensive than Motorola. So that's why committing to a more expensive option is hard for some people. I just, making a general comment.

Joel Medina 2:08:06

Yeah, but there's a lot of holes in the Tait number.

Greg Brody 2:08:08

This is probably a question for Mike. But what is a realistic timetable for us to get all this back for, to know? Are we talking six months, a year? What are we talking about to design this?

Mike Russell 2:08:08

So, so we have to separate the cost right now. We're not talking about cost yet. Chief.

Mike Fletcher 2:08:24

You must be reading my mind, I was actually going to ask what's realistic to, for legal me, you.....

Rajit Jhaver 2:08:32

so, and then it obviously takes time for the vendor side. So let's say things move forward, I'll put a scope of work together for you, that'll take a couple of weeks to get through. Then hopefully, by the end of the month, we can get started, let's say February 1st, we get started as a team. You know, to do a proper job and get inputs and so forth. I mean, we have a lot to go on, because we have history with, with Columbia. So maybe, maybe takes about six weeks to eight weeks to really get a comprehensive product put together. Then we have to release it to the vendor. It takes, for them to do a good job, I think 60 days is probably warranted. And then, and then it comes down to the fine tuning, the negotiation. That can take, I mean, probably at least another couple of, so I mean, six, six months seems like a reasonable, I don't think, if it takes a year, we have a lot of stumbling blocks along the way, in my opinion. Six months seven, you know, something in that neighborhood to get to a decision point where you're like, are we signing this thing or not? And this is, you know, they'll have all the coverage maps and all the, all the, all the pieces of the puzzle, so to speak. Should be, for you to make an informed decision, I would think that would be, so let's say, you know, we probably be somewhere in the late summer timeframe, I think, at that point. Maybe September at the most. Yeah...

Mike Fletcher 2:08:33

to start the process?

Jeffrey Pare' 2:09:47

This isn't our first rodeo. We've been in business for 40 years. We've done over 2000 projects, close to 2500. And they've all been successful. So, we've, we've been through this before.

Rajit Jhaver 2:09:59

Yeah. We won't, we won't let our clients sign on the dotted line if we're not we, this is our reputation on the line as well. Right? So you have many different factors here. I think what was mentioned here, like you won't want to build a system that you guys are not happy with; I hundred percent agree. If it's not better than your old system, it's a failure. So that, that's, that's a true statement. And yeah, so we'll, we'll do our due diligence on, on our end. I know, the whole group here will do their due diligence when all the information is brought forth to them. And, and then hopefully, if things are the way it seems, then that built implementation timeline we talked

about, will start, you know, sometime this fall and move forward. So and maybe they, you know, maybe things are better from a supply chain, all kinds of things can happen in the next few months as we're going through this process. So, again, I'm cautiously optimistic.

Mike Russell 2:10:50

Any other discussion before we vote? Thank you all, appreciate that. So, let's go to vote. I'd like to count votes. I don't necessarily need to know who votes what I don't want to do a roll call. But I do want to count votes. So, raise of hands in the room. And if we can raise hands in the, on the, online as well. So we can just, at least, count hands. So all those in favor of the motion to sole source to Motorola, join WCN, raise your hand. All those in favor 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8. Online?

Nathan Hughes 2:11:40

Nothing yet.

Mike Russell 2:11:40

None.

Earl Smith 2:11:45

You can count plus one.

Mike Russell 2:11:47

Plus 1. Nine for. All those against, please raise your hand 1, 2, 3, 4.

Henry Heimuller 2:12:05

You just have one Nathan?

Nathan Hughes 2:12:08

Two now?

Mike Russell 2:12:09

Five.

Nathan Hughes 2:12:15

Three now.

Mike Russell 2:12:16

Six. Any abstentions, raise your hand. Nobody abstaining?

Nathan Hughes 2:12:36

Nope.

Mike Russell 2:12:38

Motion passes nine to six. So Board that would be our recommendation to you from the Advisory Committee.

Henry Heimuller 2:12:52

Okay. Thank you, Mr. Chair. With that, I'll go ahead and ask for Board discussion here from the 9-1-1 Board. We've heard a lot of, a lot of information here today. I would say it's a lot of sausage making that goes into this. We've spent a lot of time on this. Maybe we, maybe we have over analyzed. Maybe we have, maybe we've

done it just the right amount. Maybe we've done all of this. Certainly we've done it for all the right reasons. But you know, I feel like none of us, whether we're a user agency, or the Board here, has had all of the information. And I don't think we have it all here today yet. But we certainly have a recommendation that heads us down a path of getting much more of those boxes filled in I think. But anyway Board, is there a desired motion or do you want to discuss this before we go to a motion? Your choice.

Rob Anderson 2:13:59

Protocol procedure, I would ask Mr. Peterkin repeat his recommendation on how we move forward because he's going to be able to articulate it much better than me at this point.

Henry Heimuller 2:14:10

Thank you, Rob.

Rob Anderson 2:14:11

And I'll, that'll end up being a motion.

Henry Heimuller 2:14:13

Okay.

Michael Peterkin 2:14:15

The motion is first that Columbia 9-1-1 would join WCN. Number two, that the District would negotiate a transfer of the available equipment of C800 to Motorola. Number three, that the District enter into negotiations with Motorola and as a premise that the C800 equipment is purchased at 2017 prices with a 40% discount. And that the contract proposal would include all equipment, service, price, number of radios, coverage, towers, and all other elements that Federal Engineering would include. Number four, that, it would be a negotiations of short-term upgrades to better the current system using the equipment that is now available from C800. And number five, to negotiate the possibilities of Motorola and radios to supplement the current system, again during the interim.

Henry Heimuller 2:16:26

Do we want to formalize our relationship with Federal Engineering at this time? It seems like that's been kind of a time and materials thing. Now, have we received anything like that? I mean, we definitely, we need that aspect as well.

Mike Fletcher 2:16:43

In our original agreement with Federal we broke it down into three phases. And so what Federal is prepared to do is, and the District is prepared to do, is move into Phase Two, which is to act as our agent for design, assist with design and procurement. So Rajit and I will work on a statement of work and then following cost that we will come back to the Board in February. We should have that by February.

Henry Heimuller 2:17:16

Okay, so, so we'll formalize that at our regular meeting next time?

Rajit Jhaver 2:17:17

Yeah.

Mike Fletcher 2:17:17

Correct.

Henry Heimuller 2:17:17

Okay. All right. And I'm assuming, Mr. Peterkin, that you want all of those as separate motions? And I mean, is that, can we put that whole package together, we've talked about this whole thing as a big package. So I don't know that we've left out any of what the expectations are.

Michael Peterkin 2:17:39

Is the, the resolution would be to follow up on the quote with Motorola, the WCN package, as I have stated. And that the Board would instruct staff, legal and Federal Engineering to pursue that, and then report to the Board once they have completed the work and they can make a proposal to the Board. And then the Board can resolve it, review it with the Advisory Committee, and we hope to get a unanimous recommendation...

Chris Fluellen 2:18:24

Why you looking at me?

Unknown Speaker 2:18:25

Because you're the new guy?

Michael Peterkin 2:18:25

You're a Lieutenant, what can I tell you? That's the idea.

Henry Heimuller 2:18:35

Rob, does that meet the intent of your proposed motion?

Rob Anderson 2:18:37

My motion is to, as stated, items one through five, by Mr. Peterkin.

Henry Heimuller 2:18:43

Okay.

Michael Peterkin 2:18:45

The Motorola, WCN option.

Henry Heimuller 2:18:50

Okay, is there a second?

Jeff Flatt 2:18:51

I second.

Henry Heimuller 2:18:53

Okay, it has been moved and seconded. And I'm not going to go through that 15 minutes again. But we're talking about the Motorola option that's been presented, which will include all of the negotiations with Motorola, the C800 equipment, including the potential transfer of said equipment back to Motorola so that it can become part of the package, partnership with WCN, the portable radio component and tower integration of that, then in partnership again with, with Federal, and WCN to make all of that stuff happen to fix all of our radio problems henceforth, forever and ever. Is there any further discussion on this? And if we had a bottle of champagne, I'd crack it here we ever actually get to a yes on this. Mr. Anderson.

Rob Anderson 2:19:50

Speaking of, for discussion still...

Henry Heimuller 2:19:54

Yes.

Rob Anderson 2:19:55

Couple questions. Just wanted to verify how many members are there on the Advisory Committee?

Henry Heimuller 2:20:03

Pass that to the Advisory Committee Chair.

Rob Anderson 2:20:05

How many agencies are represented?

Mike Fletcher 2:20:07

Twelve...

Rob Anderson 2:20:10

Because we have 15 votes.

Mike Fletcher 2:20:15

What's our cap, is it 12 or 13?

Mike Russell 2:20:17

I was just looking at that.

Nancy Edwards 2:20:17

Ask Maryjo.

Mike Fletcher 2:20:20

Actually, Maryjo's counting.

Rob Anderson 2:20:21

Okay.

Mike Russell 2:20:21

Correct. That's the number I got. I was looking at the rules and regulations of the Committee. The, and I'm assuming these are up to date, I don't know for sure. But we have five with at least one representative of fire, one representative of law enforcement. So, this says five, so. But we operate as each member agency has a vote, that's how we operate. So as far as number of agencies 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17. Seventeen.

Henry Heimuller 2:20:49

Okay. So we're all square with votes.

Rob Anderson 2:20:52

So, two undervotes.

Mike Fletcher 2:21:10

Mike, I got another process suggestion.

Mike Russell 2:21:23

He's the Chair now. He's the Chair.

Jerry Cole 2:21:25

So, you got, you got to vote...

Henry Heimuller 2:21:29

Jerry, point of order. I'm sorry, I would, you know, I would appreciate your input. However, we're in discussion on a motion that's in front of this Board.

Jerry Cole 2:21:36

I apologize.

Henry Heimuller 2:21:38

So, we got to follow through with that. Further discussion on the motion? Hearing none.

Rob Anderson 2:21:44

I just want to advise or say that the Board has heard, and the end users and the committee will definitely be heavily involved in ensuring that the RFP does have a performance bid spec for coverage. That message is received loud and clear.

Henry Heimuller 2:22:02

Is there further discussion? Hearing none, all in favor signify by aye. Aye.

Jeff Flatt, Shelley Hennessey, Rob Anderson 2:22:08

Aye.

Henry Heimuller 2:22:09

Opposed, same sign. Motion carries. All right, do all that stuff. Do it fast and make it cheap.

Rajit Jhaver 2:22:21

Right.

Henry Heimuller 2:22:21

And make all these folks happy and serve our public well. That's what we really want, alright. Okay, thank you. Thank you all for your input. This is very important. Glad we finally got here. Okay. Other, other items of business before we adjourn. Agenda items. Does anybody have anything for the February 23rd meeting that needs to be discussed here today? Hearing none. Other business or member comments. Mr. Anderson? SDAO conference coming up, correct? That's, yeah, next month. Shelley?

Shelley Hennessey 2:23:02

Just glad we came to some solution and hopefully it makes everybody happy in the end.

Henry Heimuller 2:23:03

Jeff?

Jeff Flatt 2:23:13

Appreciate everybody's time. And it's nice to finally get some direction moving forward.

Henry Heimuller 2:23:19

I, I just like to say that I know that we've got some forward movement here. But I'd also like to point out that, you know, the City of Scappoose has put a lot of energy into this discussion. And the whole, you know, whether it was solicited or unsolicited, and all this other stuff, that doesn't make a lot of difference to me, other than the fact that the conversation got started. And it got reinvigorated and it got people in the room. And, and there was energy because of that. So regardless of whether we end up with anything to do with Tait or no Tait or whatever, I would just have to say that, that the work that the city put into this and the school districts input and reaching out to the State Senator and Representatives and all those people that have come into this room, I'd say, you know what, thank goodness, because the bottom line is, is this Board as most Boards around the county suffer from a lack of anybody paying a bit of damn attention, and we come here and we're lonely, and, and we don't get a lot of input. So, whatever it takes to get people involved and engaged and asking the questions and all that kind of thing is all okay, and it's all good. And so, Alex, I appreciate that and you can pass that on that I don't think that all of that was, all that energy was wasted at all. Quite the opposite, I think. Anything else from staff?

Mike Fletcher 2:25:00

No sir.

Henry Heimuller 2:25:01

Okay with that Mike, unless you have anything else for the Advisory Committee, I guess we'll just go ahead and adjourn the whole shootin' match.

11:28am Adjourned.