

*Meeting called to order at 16:05 hours by Chairman Hamilton
5 members present (Hamilton, Wilson, Cady, Carnevale, Larson)*

Secretary report: Minutes of 11-10-16; Motion to accept by Wilson, Seconded by Cady: Unanimous

Treasury report: Radio Committee account is at \$9,081.61 (plus \$2500 donation), paid 1 bill for \$240 to Worad for Work on 7-0

Radio Status:

Southbridge Fire and link – OK
Mendon Tower – OK
Oxford Tower – OK
Charlton Tower- OK
Radio Tests- Responses are very good

Old Business

- Mark Cady did some research and found the District owns 22 portable radios that can be flash upgraded to work on the Worcester system in its current configuration. The cost per radio would be \$100, for a total of \$2,200. The alternate plan would have cost \$800 to \$1,000 for each radio upgrade.
Motion: Wilson seconded Larson: To pay for half the cost, if the District 7 Chiefs are willing to split the cost: 4 for, 1 abstain (Cady)
It was decided that 7 radios would go on each Comm unit (all 14 on FC2 for now until FC1 is back in service), 1 in the MVU in Sutton, and 2 each to Auburn, Leicester and Millbury, as they routinely respond to Worcester.

New Business

- Reorganization: Since this was the first meeting of the year, the organization of the Radio Committee was discussed. The Committee felt things were moving smoothly and should remain the same. Motion: Wilson seconded Larson: To keep current Committee members and positions: Unanimous
- Discussed monthly radio tests. District Chief Castell did a role call test December 24th from Northbridge to test the standby equipment that can still be activated if necessary. Jim noted that there were 2 incidents where Leicester and Worcester did not answer a county band call to request apparatus. They have been answering most of the tests, however.
- The replacement of Field Comm 1 was discussed at length. The truck the committee had been waiting on, from the Mendon Fire Dept., has been delayed. We will have to move along shopping now to get one as soon as we can.
- Some further discussion on the backup control point. The orange channel is not available at some potential sites. Mark explained that Worcester is planning on tying in the orange channel to Worcester through the State Police trunk system. That will make it available if Worcester is considered and allow some other options with orange.
- The recent fire in Oxford was discussed, specifically the mayday that went out on the orange channel. Ways to prevent that were discussed and some further research on radio options will be done before the committee makes some recommendations to prevent a tragedy.

Motion to adjourn: Wilson seconded Carnevale, unanimous

Adjourned: 17:00 hours

Next Radio Committee meeting scheduled for Thursday March 9th, 2017, 4:00 pm Oxford Fire Headquarters.

Rich Hamilton, Chairman