

*Meeting called to order at 16:09 hours by Chairman Hamilton*

*7 members present (Hamilton, Wilson, Meskus, Cady, Liard, Maynard, Normandin )*

*2 guests present: Steve Tancrell, Gary Fleischer*

**Secretary report:** Sent electronically. Motion to accept: Maynard 2<sup>nd</sup> by Cady; Unanimous

**Treasury report:** Per D7 Treasurer Bill Kessler: \$11,983.26. Motion to accept: Meskus 2<sup>nd</sup> by Normandin: Unanimous

**Radio Status:**

Southbridge Fire and link – OK

Charlton Tower- OK

Radio Tests- Tests have been consistently good, a couple of off tests due to being on backup radio

**Old Business**

- Paul Maynard gave an update on FC-1, there is no charger for the 7 Motorola XTS2500 portables  
Motion by Normandin 2<sup>nd</sup> by Maynard: to purchase adapter cups for the current chargers, no more than \$200:  
Unanimous, Mark Cady to arrange for those. Paul asked about what to do with the old Worcester 800 mhz portables, the committee felt there was nothing else that could be done with them, they could be disposed of. They will also need a case for a V-Tac repeater, the committee will try to find one. The truck will need lettering, Paul Normandin passed on a request from Chief DiFronzo for pictures of the truck to standardize graphics with both Comm Units. He requested an antenna tester, Jim felt he had one Paul could use.
- New members discussion: Motion by Normandin 2<sup>nd</sup> by Maynard: To accept Steve Tancrell, Uxbridge Fire Deputy Chief, on the Radio Committee: Unanimous (Will be brought to D7 E-Board for vote)
- Rich gave radio and frequency updates for Northbridge and Douglas

**New Business**

- Discussion on the District 7 Air Light truck radios. After much discussion on the present radios and what the committee felt it should have, it was decided it would be beneficial if the truck had more capability due to the towns and cities it could be responding to. Motion by Wilson 2<sup>nd</sup> by Meskus to apply for Homeland Security money for a Motorola tri-band radio: Unanimous (Paul Normandin to follow through on the grant). Note: Truck will be called Leicester Rescue 2.
- Rich brought up for discussion the thought of adding LPS-7 to the District Control Point. He felt every dispatch center in the district has it except Southbridge Fire (because it is primarily used for police communications) and towns have still been routinely using it for mutual aid fire requests. It could be used to monitor those transmissions and would be available as a backup in the event of a county radio failure. Paul N and Mark will work on a price to add that to Southbridge. Jim brought up the future of the 33.62 county radio system. Most manufacturers are phasing out lowband equipment and although we have a strong system now, at some point there may not be any equipment available. Mark explained the present state of the Orange system and his thoughts on where we should be going with the system. Mark will bring some information to the next meeting about equipment we should be looking at. He also explained the Charlton radio expansion and the work being done on a radio tower. There is room for an antenna for the district use. The committee felt it could help in a future project. Motion by Cady 2<sup>nd</sup> by Normandin to purchase an antenna, cable and accessories for the tower at no more than \$1500: Unanimous.
- Jim brought up filling the second vacant slot on the committee. He felt Worcester Special Operations Chief Gary Fleischer, who was present at today's meeting, would be a good fit. Motion by Maynard 2<sup>nd</sup> by Meskus: To accept Gary Fleischer to the Radio Committee: Unanimous (Will also be brought to D7 E-Board for vote)

- The Chairman had a proposal from Two-Way Radio Service to build the second V-Tac repeater, this would be V-Tac 37, at a cost of \$1,170.00. Some discussion followed. Motion by Normandin seconded by Maynard: 6 for, 1 abstained (Wilson), passed.
- Gary Fleischer let the committee know Rich Fisk has left as Director of Communications for the City of Worcester. Mike Shanley has been named Acting Director.
- Millville Fire has licensed a pair of VHF frequencies for changing over to a full repeated system, 159.3675 – repeater input, 155.1075 – repeater output, no tone squelch decided yet.

Motion to adjourn made by Maynard, Seconded by Meskus

Adjourned 17:20

Next Radio Committee meeting scheduled for Thursday May 10th, 2017, 4:00 pm Oxford Fire Headquarters.

*Rich Hamilton, Chairman*