

Rural Fire Radio Communications Steering Committee Minutes
Tuesday, July 12, 2022, 6:30 P.M.
Emergency Management Office
1200 Radcliff Street, Suite 200

Advanced public notice of the meeting was posted on the County-City Building bulletin board, and the Lancaster County, Nebraska website and emailed to media on July 6, 2022, and published in the Lincoln Journal Star print edition and website on July 9, 2022.

Present: Richard Hollman, Hallam Rural Fire District; Josh Maurer, Hickman; Eric Johnson, Firth Rural Fire District; Tim Nalley, Adam Matzner, and Bill Nalley, Southwest Rural Fire; Jim Densberger, Jared Ritze, and Steve Schmalken, Malcolm Fire District; Jared Rains, Waverly Fire District; Tim Norris, Bennet Fire District; Bill Austin, facilitator; and Sean Flowerday, Lancaster County Board of Commissioners

1. Notice of Open Meetings Act

Hollman opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m. and announced the location of the Open Meetings Act.

2. Roll Call

Hollman called the roll for those in attendance and introductions were made.

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes for June 14, 2022

MOTION

Johnson moved and Schmalken seconded approval of the June 14, 2022, Rural Fire Radio Communications Steering Committee Meeting minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Discussion on Utilization of Informal Bidding Procedure for Selection of Radio Consultant

Hollman began discussion on what he would like to see in a new system including affordability, county-wide, user friendly, low maintenance, upgradeable, interoperability with neighboring counties, expands channels on what is currently being used, separate page system.

Flowerday added that an informal bid by True North had been received.

Austin said that while in the process of reworking the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) he found out from Norris that a proposal had been received from True North. Since there wasn't a formal RFQ out yet and a proposal was received, Austin consulted with the Lancaster County Attorney's Office as well as David Derbin, Chief Administrative Officer for Lancaster County. It was found this may not cause issue as the proposal was lower than requirements set forth by the Lancaster County Purchasing Act to create a formal proposal. With American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) requirements and County Purchasing Act requirements in mind, it is felt that the informal bidding procedure from like companies without releasing an RFQ may be a better and quicker avenue. Next step would be to send the proposal to the

County Purchasing Agent who would collect the remaining 2 out of the minimum 3 required informal bids that are under \$50,000, then come back to the Rural Fire Radio Communications Steering Committee to make a selection. After a consultant is decided by the Steering Committee it would go in front of the Lancaster County Board for approval.

MOTION

Norris moved and Johnson seconded to continue with the informal bidding process under \$50,000. Flowerday offered a friendly amendment to the motion that a consultant that bids here, will be precluded to being a vendor to provide it later. The friendly amendment was accepted.

Johnson, Maurer, Ritze, Matzner, Rains, Densberger, Schmalken, Norris, Flowerday, and Hollman voted yes. Motion passed 10-0.

5. General Discussion of Issues Moving Forward

Johnson asked if Lancaster County owns all the towers that are available or are they excluded. Currently, it is unknown by anyone in the group, Flowerday said he has not heard of anyone coming to the Board regarding towers, therefore he doesn't believe Lancaster County owns them.

6. Discussion of Next Meeting Date

The next meeting will be held on August 23, 2022, at 6:30 p.m.

7. Adjournment

MOTION

Johnson moved and Schmalken seconded to adjourn at 7:12 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Submitted by Saige Walker, Administrative Secretary to the County Board