

# DU-COMM

## DuPage Public Safety Communications

420 N. County Farm Road, Wheaton, IL 60187

(630) 260-7500 Main

www.ducomm.org



### FIRE OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE - Minutes

Thursday, February 15, 2024 – 08:00 Hours (after FSA meeting)

DU-COMM, 420 N. County Farm Road, Wheaton, IL 60187

#### 1. Call to Order

Chief Tanner called the meeting to order at 08:01 hours.

DC Brian Becker  
Chief Matt Beyer  
Chief Rob Schultz  
DD Jason Day  
Acting Chief David Godek  
Chief James Lahanis  
Chief Spinazola  
Chief Chris Clark  
Chief Rich Cassady  
DC Jeff Buccola  
Chief Eric Fors  
B/C Scott Gray  
DC George Hyland  
Chief Mark Bozik  
DC Brandon Mitsuka

Bartlett  
Bloomingtondale  
Carol Stream  
Carol Stream  
Clarendon Hills  
Darien-Woodridge  
Downers Grove  
Glen Ellyn  
Glenside  
Glenside  
Hanover Park  
Lisle-Woodridge  
Lombard  
Roselle  
Villa Park

AC Joe Levy  
Chief Patrick Tanner (Chair)  
DC Jeff Keefe  
Chief Robert Brill  
DC Peter Vassios  
Chief Steve Evans  
Chief Rick Sanborn, Jr.  
DC Bret Mowery  
Interim Director Jeanine Krull  
Acting DD Tyler Benjamin  
Acting TSM Erik Maplethorpe  
MIS Mgr. Scott Klein  
Training Coord. A. Schretter  
OM Steve Pirog  
Exec Sec. Kimberly Regalado  
DD of Ops Matt Theusch

Warrenville  
West Chicago  
West Chicago  
Wheaton  
Wheaton  
Winfield  
York Center  
York Center  
DU-COMM  
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#### 2. Approval of Meeting Minutes:

##### A. January 18, 2024

Chief Evans made a motion to approve the January 18, 2024 minutes, and Chief Spinazola seconded. Motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

#### 3. Peer Review

#### 4. Reports

##### A. Staff

Interim Director Krull noted Tyler Benjamin is the Acting DDO and Erik Maplethorpe is the Acting Technical Services Manager, and Director Robb will return next week. Interim Director will remain as a consultant remotely from Nevada.

##### B. ETSB

Matt Theusch stated he is available if anyone has questions.

##### C. MABAS Divisions (2, 10, 12, 16)

No information to report.

##### D. Apparatus Changes

No information to report.

##### E. Committees

A. Fire Marshal Meeting – February 7, 2024 was cancelled.

##### B. Fire Standardization Committee

Chief Spinazola noted definitions were discussed. Hotels and motels put in as multifamily instead of commercial. If need to change your response, send it to Chief Evans and Chief Tanner.

## 6. Old Business

### A. Radio Replacement

Interim Director Krull noted at the Chiefs Operations meeting there was discussion about radios. Chief Tanner stated the need to choose one radio or the other. Firmware update by Motorola is due by April 1, 2024. Motorola must make changes to meet the standard. Nineteen items of concern to be addressed. Understand the unsafe things that were put into the radio including volume control, automatic channel selection, and hazard zone. Need to make an informed decision. Reach out to John Sullivan from Addison, Jim Connely, Pat Joel, and Chief Dina with questions. Chief Tanner doubts all nineteen items will be addressed.

Matt Theusch noted the antenna test was completed yesterday and data sent to product engineering group. New vehicles will be given a radio and require a site visit. Spec sheets compare not a lot of difference-Military standard on both, Non NFPA radio's channel selector on the speaker mic has VKG, not working as well as it should. Radio distribution is on pause.

## 7. New Business

### A. Fire Channel – Patch

Interim Director Krull noted concern that 20 minutes of monitoring was missed because one TC was monitoring two fire channels. This was discussed years ago, and there was no decision or desire to consolidate fire talk groups West and North. The resources for Fire West include two agencies, Bartlett and Hanover Park and the dispatching of Hanover Township. The need to readdress this issue is paramount to ensure we are operationally and fiscally successful.

Tech Manager Erik Maplethorpe provided the group with a power point which outlined the technical issues and the talk/dispatch time for each channel. The low call volume on Fire West supports consolidating Fire West and Fire North. Discussion ensued.

The trial plan was presented. Hanover Park and Bartlett would be moved to Fire North. Staff have been working with Hanover Township to use IamResponding as a means of notification, eliminating their tones during the 30-day trial. The idea is to get a realistic picture of the talk time on the channel.

DU-COMM staff has been working with the ETSB to ensure PURVIS does not re-tone calls on Fire North. As the center will be monitoring three channels vs. four, the additional TC will be utilized for assisting during busy times and covering breaks.

Steps for permanent change- The permanent move of a transmitter requires FCC approval. Licensing can take up to two months. If the trial is successful, a permanent solution will be implemented. This would include moving a transmitter. Direction was given to TM Maplethorpe to begin this process, understanding if the decision is made not to move forward, we can cease the licensing process.

Adding two agencies to Fire North will mean additional radio traffic. The need to be mindful of radio transmissions was discussed. Not all units need to transmit enroute, etc. Only pertinent information should be relayed over the air. Units should use their MDTs. Concerns were raised about TC's not giving pertinent information over the radio, which has caused the fire units to use additional radio traffic asking questions, etc. It is not best practice or safe to have fire units responding reading the additional comments/notes while enroute. Discussion ensued. Interim Director Krull stated this will be addressed with staff and agrees information that is important to the fire department's response should be given over the radio in a timely manner.

## Other Business

## 9. Adjournment

At 9:34 a.m. Chief Tanner made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Chief Bozik seconded. The motion was approved by voice vote. Meeting adjourned.

The next Fire Operations Subcommittee meeting is March 21, 2024 – 8:00 a.m. at DU-COMM.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Kimberly Regalado*  
Kimberly Regalado