



Chippewa County Central Dispatch

Board of Directors

Meeting Minutes

April 29, 2025

4:00 p.m.

Sault St Marie Police Department.

- I. Call meeting to order - Meeting called to order at 1602 by Board Chair Greg Postma
- II. Roll call – Present – Fire Chief Ed Miller EMS (Rep), Asst/Chief Ray Baker, Citizen Rep. Tom McKee, Sheriff Mike Bitnar, Undersheriff Ryan Herring, MSP Lt. Robert Allen, County Administrator Kelly Church, Bay Mills Indian Community Police Chief Ronald Carrick, Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians Police Chief Bob Marchand, Greg Postma, Sara Ostwald, Sault Ste Marie Police Chief Wes Bierling, Ray Baker and County Commissioner Jim Traynor.
- III. Introductions - Completed
- IV. Additions or deletions to the meeting agenda - Addition of Net Motion Discussion.
- V. Approval of the agenda - Mike Bitnar made a motion to approve the agenda, and Bob Marchand supported the motion. On a vote, the agenda was approved unanimously.
- VI. Board Appointments –
 - Board Chair Position - Wes Bierling nominated Greg Postma for Chair, and Rob Allen supported the nomination. No other nominations were put forward. On a roll call vote Postma was voted board Chair unanimously.
 - Board Vice Chair Position – Ron Carrick nominated Jim Traynor for vice chair and Mike Bitnar Supported that nomination. No other nominations were made. On a roll call vote, Traynor was voted in as vice-chair unanimously.
- VII. Review and approve minutes from 12-18-24 - There was not enough attendance for a quorum meeting, so the minutes were not approved at the last meeting. Ron Carrick made a motion to approve minutes; Mike Bittner supported it. On a vote, the motion carried.
- VIII. Review and approve expenditures and monthly revenue - Expenditure/Revenue was reviewed by Postma

A motion was made by Tom McKee to approve the expenditures, and Mike Bitnar did support the motion. On a vote, the motion passed.
- IX. Public Comment - None
- X. 911
 - a) Bi Monthly Report and Call Volume Reporting – Stats and reports Given
 - b) UP 911 Authority project for new CAD system – Funding update given and progress on selection given
 - c) Operations Manager Report – Staffing. Fully staffed with 2 in training. Discussed length of training.
 - d) EMD (Emergency Medical Dispatching) – Training extensive, Latency Fixed
 - e) Ice storm briefing- power outages
 - a. We dodged a lot of the storm

- b. Cloverland response was amazing across our counties
 - i. Always available to us- stayed in constant contact with dispatch and PIO
- c. We did declare for fuel to get Cloverland fuel since they fuel from public sources
 - i. We got a call from Lansing asking why we declared
 - ii. We did so to try to get fuel to the area since Mackinac County was low and was coming north to get fuel supplies.
 - 1. We were told by Lansing if we pulled back our declaration they would then give fuel to Mackinac County so we pull our request and then shortly after the bridge was opened so we were able to get fuel coming north without needing the fuel from the state
 - iii. First responders were covered for fuel as we had some locked away but looking for Cloverland to get fuel so they could continue forward progress in the storm cleanup
- f) CAD issues/ Emperic
 - a. Power outages effected the systems more than we thought they would've
 - b. Almost a daily battle to get all software fixed and more issues are coming from it everyday it seems like
- g) 800mhz Migration- paging- Luce County- Chippewa County- Encryption
 - a. One more fire dept to go live in this batch (Rudyard) then everything west of I-75 will be live
 - b. Luce County going live tomorrow
 - c. Per Bay Mills fire seems to be clearer
 - d. Timeline for east side: possibly mid May we will get our deposit, we will then order the pagers and then a week or so after we get them they should be able to be handed out since we already have all of the hex dex codes.
 - e. Schools are looking to go move to 800 radios as well soon
- h) OES Tower VHF Replacement Return and waiting for new fix
 - a. Not pleased with Elcom
 - i. We got the new radio and it did not work so Elcom pulled it out and put the old radio back in
 - ii. Elcom then called and said they could not put in the new part back in due to snow drifts around the tower
 - iii. We then called to check in on the status a few weeks ago and they informed us that they gave our new radio to Smithers
 - iv. Once Elcom gets the replacement radio they will be sending it to us to get it fixed
- i) Full building UPS- status
 - a. Bid is done
 - b. Waiting on the bid for electrical work
 - i. Lots of wires need to be moved and bigger project than anticipated with backup panels needed along with a hard shut off point
- j) MPSCS agreements/ review & resolution request
 - a. Done about 20 years ago brought to us by MPSCS
 - b. Two agreements to discuss
 - i. Sugar Island tower
 - 1. Until this year MPSCS was responsible for work/maintenance
 - 2. 14,000 a year to cover maintenance fees
 - 3. Have to add AC unit to the tower per MPSCS
 - 4. We still cover generator and propane fees
 - ii. Radio maintenance fees in the center
 - 1. Expected just need to be approved
 - c. Need to make agreement to take these issues to the board of commissioners to read so we can sign off on them
 - d. Motion by Jim Traynor seconded by Ray Baker
 - i. All approved motion to take it from this board to the board of commissioners
- k) Increase surcharge from 2.25 to 2.75 – discussion
 - a. For all cell phones in the county
 - b. Surcharge has not been increased since 2018 with inflation

- i. Would use the increase for the need to upgrade consoles in the center
 - 1. Control panels are going out and the only company that sells them is in Sweden and the language barrier makes it difficult to get new parts
 - 2. One position is being held up with phonebooks and 2x4's to keep it level
 - c. New contract at the end of this year for the dispatchers
 - i. Anticipated ask for an increase in wages
 - d. The current ballot that was voted on last is that the county board can increase the surcharge up to 2.75 without the need for a new vote to the public.
 - e. Right now with current surcharge at 2.25 we bring in approx. \$840,000 if we bump it to \$2.75 per line we would increase to about \$1.1 million a year
 - f. Operating cost is 1.1 million roughly a year for our center
 - i. State funds are dropping every year and are expected to continue to do so
 - g. May be asking Luce and Mackinac Counties for an increase next year
 - i. Bumped both counties last year. We did not do increase them this year but plan to do it for 2026
- l) Discuss meeting times
 - a. Does the 1500 and 1600 alternating times work for everyone?
 - i. 1500- 1600 seems to be the best times for most of the group
 - b. Will leave 2 at 1500 at dispatch and 2 and 1600 in the Sault for the upcoming year.
- m) Next meeting June 24th, 2025 at 1500, Chippewa County Central Dispatch
- n) Net Motion & Core
 - a. Net motion is intrusion detection
 - b. Core is the tunnel for talon
 - i. Number of licenses specific to personnel and mdt's

XI. Committee Member Comments

Ed Miller reports that Soo Fire Radios are getting closer , early June or before then. Will get training going on and get them out to every one.

XII. Adjournment - Motion by Mike Bitnar to adjourn. Supported by Ed Miller. Meeting adjourned at 1646.



Greg Postma, Director
Board Chair

Jim Traynor
Vice Chair