

**MINUTES OF THE
GOVERNMENT COMMUNICATIONS TASK FORCE**

Wednesday, June 5, 2013 – 2:00 p.m. – Room 445 State Capitol

Members Present:

Sen. Wayne A. Harper, Senate
Chair Rep. Brad L. Dee, House
Chair Sen. Ralph Okerlund Rep.
Spencer J. Cox Rep. Mark A.
Wheatley Chief Chris Burbank
Commissioner D. Lance Davenport
Sheriff David Edmunds Chief
Michael H. Jensen Chief Terry
Keefe Chief Mike Mathieu
Chief Mike Navarre
Mr. Ken
Petersen
Deputy Warden

Jerry Pope Mr.
Steven H.
Proctor Ms.
Tina Scarlet
Sheriff James
M. Winder

Staff Present:

Mr. Joseph T. Wade, Policy Analyst
Ms. Victoria Ashby, Associate
General Counsel Ms. Tracey
Fredman, Legislative Secretary

Note: A list of other present, a copy of related materials, and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at www.le.utah.gov.

1. Committee Business

Chair Dee called the meeting to order at 2:14 p.m.

Chair Dee distributed and introduced "Public Safety Communications in Utah, History" and "Draft: Utah, We Have a Problem (Opportunity): Goals for the Task Force" and asked task force members to read them at their leisure and to offer input to the list of goals at the next meeting.

Chair Dee also referenced "State of Utah, Department of Public Safety 9-1-1 Committee Legislative Report FYE 2012," which was distributed by Ms. Tina Scarlet prior to the start of the meeting.

2. Introductions

Task force members introduced themselves and commented on their interest in the task force.

3. Purpose of the Task Force

Chair Dee indicated that the purpose of the task force was previously discussed, and reminded task force members to read the distributed materials.

4. Utah Communication Agency Network

Mr. Steven Proctor, Director, Utah Communication Agency Networks, distributed and presented "Utah Communications Agency Network (UCAN)." Mr. Proctor reviewed the history of public safety communications needs and the development of the UCAN system. He discussed technologies in use, needed upgrades and expansion to complete a statewide system, and the cost of the upgrades, which require a sustainable funding source.

5. Unified Fire Authority

Chief Michael Jensen, Unified Fire Authority, briefed task force members on the challenges the Unified Fire Authority faces having members in both Utah and Salt Lake Counties, due to the two counties being on two disparate communications systems. Chief Jensen noted that the wildland emergency responders operate a VHF system and that there is little probability of the wildland system being changed to a digital system, because the VHF system is used nationwide. He also raised the question as to what the funding source should be to sustain a statewide system.

Battalion Chief Warren James distributed and reviewed "Unified Fire Authority Communications Capabilities" and commented on the equipment currently in use by the Unified Fire Authority.

6. Valley Emergency Communications Center

Mr. William Harry, Executive Director, Valley Emergency Communications Center, presented "Utah Public Safety Answering Points: A Report to the Government Communications Task Force." Mr. Harry described and briefed task force members on the public safety answering points (PSAPs) and their roles and responsibilities within Utah's public safety radio communications system. He also discussed the transition from the legacy E9-1-1 audio based system, to the next generation 9-1-1- data based system, which will have the capabilities to receive not only audio messages as the legacy E9-1-1 system now receives, but will also receive texts, photos, video, and other digital communications.

Mr. Harry distributed and referred to "Utah Dispatch Centers and PSAPS" and a map labeled "Utah – Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) Locations Statewide" during his presentation.

7. Office of the Sheriff

Sheriff James Winder, Office of the Sheriff (Salt Lake County Sheriff / United Police Department), noted that the Salt Lake County Sheriff's Office and the United Police Department are two separate entities that overlap in particularities of their work. He described the radio systems used by both departments the specific capabilities of each and compatibility of each one with another. Sheriff Winder indicated that there is a need for a uniform statewide communications system that would enable more efficient communications throughout the state while allowing local jurisdictions to maintain control of subsystems in order to meet needs specific to their areas. He also noted the need for a back-up system, and suggested bringing to the task force technical experts to present options for consideration.

8. Salt Lake City Police

Chief Chris Burbank, Salt Lake City Police Department, noted that Salt Lake City is fully integrated into UCAN, and that there will soon exist the capability for the entire state to interface with the new digital system being put into place.

9. Future Meeting Dates

The next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, July 10, 2013, at 10:00 a.m.

10. Other Items / Adjourn

MOTION: Rep. Wheatley moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Chair Dee adjourned the meeting at 4:08 p.m.