

**MINUTES OF THE  
GOVERNMENT COMMUNICATIONS TASK FORCE**  
Monday, September 16, 2013 – 9:00 a.m. – Room 445 State Capitol

**Members Present:**

Sen. Wayne A. Harper, Cochair  
Rep. Brad L. Dee, Cochair  
Sen. Ralph Okerlund  
Rep. Spencer J. Cox  
Rep. Mark A. Wheatley  
Chief Michael H. Jensen  
Chief Terry Keefe  
Chief Mike Mathieu  
Deputy Warden Jerry Pope  
Mr. Steven H. Proctor  
Ms. Tina Scarlet  
Sheriff James M. Winder  
Captain Alan Workman

**Members Absent:**

Chief Chris Burbank  
Sheriff David Edmunds  
Chief Mike Navarre  
Mr. Ken Petersen

**Staff Present:**

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

**Note:** A list of others present, a copy of related materials, and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at [www.le.utah.gov](http://www.le.utah.gov).

**1. Committee Business**

Chair Harper called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. Mr. Doug Chandler, Director, Information Technology, Department of Technology Services, came in place of Mr. Peterson.

**MOTION:** Chief Michael Jensen moved to approve the minutes of the August 22, 2013, meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

**2. Utah State Tax Commission Discussion: Historical Data and Analysis of 911 and Certain Other Public Safety Fees**

Mr. Gary Ricks, Office of Fiscal Analyst, distributed a handout that was also distributed in the August 22, 2013, meeting, "911 & Certain Other Public Safety Fees."

Mr. Barry Conover, Executive Director, Utah State Tax Commission, explained that the distribution of funds is a significant challenge because telecommunication companies change accounting firms. These new firms then make misallocations on the returns, which leads to inaccurate distribution of funds to the jurisdictions. He further explained the corrections that were made and the difficulty in monitoring to assure the allocations are done correctly.

Sheriff Winder asked what the incentive is for the telecommunication companies to collect the fees from users. Mr. Scott Stevens, Revenue and Distribution, Utah State Tax Commission, explained that by statute they are allowed to keep around 1 ½ % of fees collected.

Rep. Dee requested information as to which jurisdictions are receiving fees to distribute and which Public Safety Answering Points (PSAP) are receiving fees directly.

### **3. Unified Statewide 911 Legislative Report from 2012**

Ms. Tina Scarlet, Executive Director, Weber Area Dispatch 911 and Emergency Services District, presented and explained a power point presentation "Utah 911 Committee Legislative Report FY 2012 Overview." Ms. Scarlet noted the purpose of the committee is to provide vision and leadership, to support cities, counties, regional and local 9-1-1 authorities in their efforts to improve and modernize their 9-1-1 systems to ensure that everyone can call for emergency assistance. The presentation also included the responsibilities, goals, progress report, and challenges of the committee.

Ms. Scarlet noted a possible spike in the need for training with the implementation of Next Generation 9-1-1 technology.

Ms. Scarlet addressed the need for possible legislation to bring current policy up to date, which includes the evolving new technologies.

Ms. Scarlet explained that out of 38 PSAPs only six are Next Generation 9-1-1 capable. She further noted that there would be a substantial cost to update all PSAPs to Next Generation 9-1-1 and even more costly in rural areas. Rep. Dee mentioned the possibility of consolidating some PSAPs in order to cut costs to make Next Generation 9-1-1 available to every area in the state.

### **4. Examination of Costs: Budgetary Estimates for System Replacement**

Mr. Doug Chandler, Information Technology, Department of Technology Services, presented and explained a power point presentation "State Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC) Task Force Findings August 2008." Mr. Chandler stated the objectives of the report were to identify radio technology and spectrum needs of all first responders, identify current funding mechanisms, and create recommendations for future funding models. Mr. Chandler noted that the estimated costs in the report were five years old.

Rep. Dee questioned the status of combining Department of Technology Services with Utah Communications Agency Network (UCAN) in order to create one entity overseeing state-wide radio communications as discussed in the 2013 Legislative Session. Mr. Steven Proctor, Executive Director, Utah Communication Agency Network, noted that because of the high cost associated with benefits and retirement packages a decision on how to move forward had not been made.

Mr. Proctor presented to the committee a power point presentation "Where We Are Today, Budgetary Costs for the Future, UCAN Presentation." He explained what has been done since 2008, including growth, investments, call traffic, and costs for systems updates.

Rep. Dee stated that the legislature would be looking for innovative ways to help fund the cost of a new updated radio system in partnership with local law enforcement agencies. Rep. Dee noted the critical need to update the system.

### **5. Report from the Technical Working Group**

Chief Warren James, Communications Chief, United Fire Authority, reported on the work of the Technical Working Group. He stated that in a recent meeting objectives were discussed that were to be addressed. The process was narrowed into the following three phases: 1) Development of a state-wide 9-1-1 system; 2) Improvement and upgrade of the state-wide radio system; and 3) Follow-up projects. He reported that recommendations by the group would be brought to an upcoming meeting.

**6. Other Items / Adjourn**

Chair Harper announced that the next meeting will be Oct. 10, 2013, at 9:00 a.m.

**MOTION:** Sen. Okerlund moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Harper adjourned the meeting at 11:10 a.m.