

**Call to Order:**

Curtis Powell called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m., in the Portage County Annex Building, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Conference Room #5.

**Approval to the Agenda:**

Curtis Powell asked if there were any additions or corrections to the agenda. There being none, a motion was made by Carol McLaughlin (Price) and seconded by Gary Heschke (Waupaca) to approve the Agenda. All were in favor.

**Adoption of Last Meeting's Minutes:**

A motion to approve last meeting's minutes was made by Bill Breneman (Taylor) and seconded by Mike Soucy (Lincoln) to approve the minutes. All were in favor.

**Introductions:**

All present were asked to introduce themselves and state their name and county or organization that they represented.

**Election of Officers:**

To fill the vacancy for the NEWCOM Vice Chair nominations were opened. John Sweeney (Oneida) nominated Brad Henricks (Langlade), Mike Soucy (Lincoln) second the nomination. No other nominations were made. All were in favor of Brad Henricks (Langlade) for NEWCOM Vice Char.

**Status of Obey Appropriation:**

The U.S. House of Representatives has approved the NEWCOM request for \$150,000 in next year's budget to help start in linking two counties together by microwave links. It should be noted that the Appropriations Bill must still be approved by the Senate and signed by the President before it becomes law.

**Status of OJA Proposal:**

NEWCOM requested 1 million dollars to develop interoperability links from County Public Safety Answering Points (PSAP) in NEWCOM using IP technology. The State's proposal has been cut and they are looking at adjusting or cutting the proposals that have been submitted. OJA will let NEWCOM know when the decisions are made.

**Committee Reports:**

Strategic Plan Committee

The Strategic Plan Committee submitted a draft version of NEWCOM Strategic Plan. The committee asked the group to review and make any changes or corrections. Any changes should be emailed to Andy Faust.

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee and no new sources of funding to report. They will continue to monitor state and federal grants.

### Communications Committee

Erik Engel (Wood) reported that Wood County is looking into mobile data. He is currently researching different mobile data systems. He reported that a master switch which could be located in the NEWCOM region might be a benefit the whole group as a future hub from radio and mobile data linking.

Erik also reported that there is some new VOIP technology that allows the routing of existing cell phones through that existing radio systems.

### Liaison Committee

The Liaison Committee report that NEWCOM needs to continue to keep the State informed on what we are trying to do as group. We need to make the State aware that we are going to continue to move forward with our local and regional radio systems in the NEWCOM area. NEWCOM is willing to work with the State so that there is not two regional radio systems built in the NEWCOM region.

### **NEWCOM Budget - Bills:**

NEWCOM Bank Statement showed a current balance of \$4,303.15.

The following bills were submitted:

1. \$216.87 for supplies, copies, and postage.
2. \$2,500 for staffing of the NEWCOM group.

Motion was made by Dave Mason (Marathon) and seconded by Frank Szczepawiec to pay the bills. All were in favor.

The budget for NEWCOM was set at \$300 per county. Motion was made by John Sweeney (Oneida) and seconded by Gary Heschke (Waupaca). All were in favor.

### **Vendor Discussion:**

Andy Faust discussed that many vendor have contacted him about the NEWCOM group. Andy Faust suggested that NEWCOM have a vendor day to allow vendor to present suggestions and ideas to the group and allow NEWCOM to ask vendors questions.

It was suggested that NEWCOM send members to National Emergency Number Association (NENA) and Association of Public Safety Communications (APCO). With counties currently sending staff to the both of the following it was suggested that those staff members collect information on communication technology and report that back to the NEWCOM group.

### **Other Business:**

It was discussed on how often the NEWCOM Board should meet. It was decided that Board should meet in July for their annual meeting and meet again in February.

It was also decided that the NEWCOM "Users Group" would meet every other month. This meeting would consist of general discussion and be a more informal meeting. At this meeting counties would give updates of current projects and discuss current communication issues. All are welcome to attend these meeting, but Board members are not required to attend.

There was also discussion of how well the MARC repeaters have worked in NEWCOM. Langlade County use theirs after a recent tornado and Wood County used their during a search for a missing child.

**Adjourn:**

A motion was made by Jim Clark (Portage) to adjourn the meeting and seconded by John Sweeney (Oneida). All were in favor. A tour of the Portage County 911 Center was given immediately following the meeting.