

April 24, 2007

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE FIRE TASK FORCE

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Fire Task Force convened at 8:40 a.m. on Tuesday, April 24, 2007, in the second floor conference room of the South Bay Regional Public Communications Authority, 4440 W. Broadway, Hawthorne, CA.

ROLL CALL

Present: Battalion Chief Ken Shuck, Manhattan Beach Fire Department
Captain Brian Scott, Hermosa Beach Fire Department

Absent: None.

Also Present: Executive Director Ralph Mailloux
Operations Manager Janey Hall
Personnel/Training Manager Bonnie Agee
Technical Services Manager Jose Rivera
Communications Supervisor Gary Stevens

2. ACTION ITEMS

2a. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – OCTOBER 24, 2006

The Fire Task Force minutes of October 24, 2006 were approved as written.

3. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

3a. Executive Director Mailloux reported that the Authority's 2007-2008 Budget will be presented for the Board of Directors' consideration in May.

3b. Executive Director Mailloux offered updated information on the status of the Infrastructure Upgrade Project. He advised that the contract for the build out of the Grandview site has been awarded and the request for proposals for radio equipment at Grandview have been distributed; that the Gardena Police Department site is completed; that one-half of the funding for the Punta Place site was included in the 2007-2008 Budget and Authority staff is pursuing grant monies for equipment at Punta Place, the structure at Punta Place will be above-ground and Authority staff has located two sites – one private and one commercial -- which could be used in lieu of the Punta Place site.

3c. Executive Director Mailloux noted that the Authority recently hired two new communications operators, and is fully staffed at this time. He announced that Communications Supervisor Michel will be leaving to become a police officer with Culver City Police Department; that John Krok was promoted into the Communications Supervisor position; and that, to form an eligibility list, the Authority is offering a written examination for the position of communications operator.

3d. Executive Director Mailloux advised that fire training has been completed and there will be a meeting on Friday, April 27th, to discuss various options for the fire-only position. He noted the need to integrate fire training with the member departments (i.e., incident command system training etc.).

Battalion Chief Shuck commented on the Authority's successful fire training program, noting that it is apparent when a non-fire person is working the fire board.

3e. Executive Director Mailloux related his understanding of the Redondo Beach Fire Department's continued interest in the Authority providing their emergency 9-1-1 dispatch services.

4. **ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION**

4a. Battalion Chief Shuck voiced his appreciation of the excellent vehicle installations by the Technical Services Department.

Due to interoperability issues, Executive Director Mailloux suggested that the Manhattan Beach Fire Department consider replacing their command vehicle radios with Tait radios.

Battalion Chief Shuck explained difficulties when using the direct channel mode and he suggested that a policy on when to go to direct channels be developed.

Technical Services Manager Rivera clarified that the police departments often use direct channels, but they cannot be monitored at this time. He said that grant monies might be available to purchase equipment to make direct channel monitoring possible and that it would cost approximately \$80,000 to build out one channel, with an initial start-up cost of approximately \$12,000 to \$15,000.

Because of the cost, Executive Director Mailloux entertained the idea of building out the channels in phases, beginning with Fire One.

4b. Technical Services Manager Rivera advised that Authority staff is installing a Bi-Directional Amplifier (BDA) system at the new Manhattan Beach Public Safety Facility and that staff is examining the idea of combining the BDAs at the Facility into a single antenna system. Recommendations related thereto will be provided to the City.

4c. Technical Services Manager Rivera advised that, as previously requested by Battalion Chief Shuck, Authority staff has located an incident clock that can be modified to accommodate Manhattan Beach Fire Department's needs.

Battalion Chief Shuck expressed his appreciation of staff's efforts in this regard.

4d. Personnel/Training Manager Agee explained delays in the West Net upgrade.

Battalion Chief Shuck suggested a conference call with West Net, particularly since his discussions with Tiburon about West Net have been poor. He voiced his concern that only about 50% of West Net's many capabilities are being used at this time and related his certainty that response times could be further reduced if more of the capabilities could be utilized. Battalion Chief Shuck described a problem at Manhattan Beach Fire Department whereby red lights go on when the 0600 morning tone test is activated for Hermosa Beach.

Authority staff will look into the problem and report back to Battalion Chief Shuck.

4e. Communications Supervisor Stevens related information he obtained at a recent Tiburon Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) Steering Committee meeting, including that Tiburon is developing a 24/7 records management system (RMS) for fire that will integrate with the police RMS.

Executive Director Mailloux suggested that Battalion Chief Shuck contact Tiburon to examine their RMS.

4f. Captain Scott announced that Interim Chief Jerry Gomez will replace Hermosa Beach Fire Chief Russell Tingley, who is retiring effective May 15, 2007.

4g. Captain Scott related the Hermosa Beach Fire Department's plans to evaluate various brands of portable radios.

Executive Director Mailloux recommended that Hermosa Fire look into Tait radios.

4h. Battalion Chief Shuck expressed his pleasure that Redondo Beach Fire Department is going to UHF, which will put all of Area G on a UHF platform.

4i. Battalion Chief Shuck advised that Area G is close to cutting a deal with L.A. City Fire Department to provide rapid intervention crews (RIC) on big alarm fires and, in return, Area G will provide L.A. City Fire with five-engines, two medic units and a battalion chief for immediate need emergencies at LAX.

4j. Battalion Chief Shuck mentioned Manhattan Beach Fire Department's plans to purchase thirty portable radios from Downey. They will need to purchase smart charges for the radios.

Technical Services Manager Rivera related his understanding that the portable radios Manhattan Fire plans to purchase from Downey are ISIS radios, which should be programmed by Glendale.

4k. Battalion Chief Shuck advised that additional fire units will now respond to 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th alarm fires; that 2nd alarm fires will no longer be designated as "move up;" and that, instead, a notification for "station cover" or "move-up" will be made.

4l. With regard to the upcoming brush fire season, Captain Scott affirmed that Hermosa Beach Fire Department will have an engine stocked and ready to go on obvious red flag days.

5. **ADJOURNMENT**

At 9:50 a.m., the meeting was adjourned to Tuesday, June 12, 2007, 8:30 a.m.