

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE FIRE TASK FORCE**

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The Fire Task Force convened in a regular session at 8:40 AM on Tuesday, November 1, 2011, in the first floor conference room at the South Bay Regional Public Communication Authority, 4440 W. Broadway, Hawthorne, CA.

ROLL CALL

Present: Battalion Chief Frank Chiella, Manhattan Beach Fire Department
 Chief David Lantzer, Hermosa Beach Fire Department
 Battalion Chief Ken Shuck, Manhattan Beach Fire Department
 Battalion Chief Breck Slover, El Segundo Fire Department

2. **ACTION ITEMS**

2a. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES – September 6, 2011**

Page 1, No. 4a, of the Fire Task Force minutes of September 6, 2011 was modified to delete, "Communications Technician Shearen."

The Fire Task Force minutes of September 6, 2011 were approved as modified.

3. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Executive Director Mailloux reported on the equipment replacement funds available to the member cities due to reimbursements for the State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSGP) for the Punta Place Infrastructure Upgrade Project. He asked the Fire Task Force representatives to let Authority staff know how the funds should be divided up between their fire and police departments. Executive Director Mailloux provided input on the completed negotiations with the Teamsters' bargaining group and the Executive Committee's adoption of Resolution No. 283, Rules & Regulations, which replaces Resolution No. 40.

4. **ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION**

4a. Chief Lantzer requested updated information on the Firehouse records management system (RMS) integration into the computer aided dispatch (CAD) system.

Executive Director Mailloux advised that Hawthorne Police Department is now the liaison with Tiburon and that he will contact Captain Mike Ishii to obtain updated information.

Battalion Chief Chiella related his understanding that Manhattan Beach Fire Department would also like to implement the Firehouse RMS. He suggested that all three of the member fire agencies do so and, emphasizing the importance of responsiveness, that the Authority host it for them, with the member cities sharing the maintenance costs.

Battalion Chief Slover agreed to the importance of a RMS system that all of the fire departments can use.

Executive Director Mailloux explained that he is in the process of obtaining a quote from Vector Resources to maintain the Authority's information technology (IT), which is currently being handled by Hawthorne, who has made much progress in this area. He entertained the idea of obtaining a quote from Vector Resources to set up a new RMS system for use by all of the member fire departments.

4b. Battalion Chief Chiella advised of on-going problems with Manhattan Beach Fire Department's mobile data computers (MDCs) dropping out. Emphasizing the importance of planning for the future, he highlighted the bigger issue of the forthcoming narrow banding mandate, which will necessitate Manhattan Beach Fire Department to purchase some new MDCs.

Technical Services Manager Rivera offered updated information on the Authority's continued efforts to rectify the problems with Manhattan Beach Fire Department's MDCs. He affirmed that the Authority will fund the replacement modems and be reimbursed by the cities.

Executive Director Mailloux called attention the costs of the infrastructure network, improving the network should degradation occur as a result of narrow banding and using an 800 MHz channel for data and wireless air cards.

Technical Services Manager Rivera advised that the Authority has been mandated by CLETS to make upgrades to run security updates regularly and that a form of wireless at fixed locations will be part of this solution.

Battalion Chief Shuck said that, until this time, he has been comfortable that narrow banding is on track. However, it now appears that everything is behind the curve and there is somewhat of a crisis where narrow banding is concerned. He noted that Manhattan Beach Fire Department relies on Authority staff for advice on the most current equipment.

Executive Director Mailloux explained that the newest MDCs purchased by Manhattan Beach will function with narrow banding; that equipment becomes obsolete very quickly and many of Manhattan Beach's MDCs are very old and cannot run Mobile Com without new hardware; that the Authority's resources for equipment recommendations are very limited; and that Tough Books' MDCs are not as costly as some other options and Amrels should also be examined.

Battalion Chief Slover related his understanding that El Segundo Fire Department prefers Tough Books.

Technical Services Manager Rivera suggested that the member fire departments use one model of MDCs, such as Tough Books or Amrel, and he voiced his understanding that Gardena Police Department is going with Tough Books. With regard to narrow banding, he encouraged the member departments to begin transitioning as soon as possible to avoid being inundated at the end of the year.

Executive Director Mailloux called attention to the difficulty of the member fire departments agreeing on which MDC model to purchase. He affirmed that Authority staff will examine any ideas introduced by the member agencies and will organize/host a narrow banding meeting for Area G representatives in the near future.

Battalion Chief Shuck called attention to the need to be prepared for the automatic vehicle location (avl) system.

4c. Battalion Chief Chiella advised that El Segundo Fire Department is not participating in the new fire station order for dispatching . He asked how difficult it is to make changes to the run cards.

Executive Director Mailloux explained that changes to the run cards require the member fire chiefs' approval.

Battalion Chief Slover stated that El Segundo Fire Department has continually opposed fire station ordering and the fact that it was a surprise has been more of an issue than anything else.

Battalion Chief Shuck pointed out that the Fire Task Force has discussed this topic in length over much time.

Noting the importance of consistency, Battalion Chief Chiella related his understanding that the fire station order is being discussed by the member fire chiefs.

4d. Battalion Chief Shuck mentioned that it will be necessary to replace Manhattan Beach Fire Department's portable radios in a few years.

4e. Technical Services Manager Rivera provided updated information on the status of the alpha paging system.

Executive Director Mailloux advised that testing of the system should begin by the end of the year.

5. **ADJOURNMENT**

At 9:55 AM, the meeting was adjourned to Tuesday, January 3, 2012, 8:30 AM.