

Subject: Digital Radio Fiasco

From: Frank Benn <11-17@nsfd.net>

Date: 1/3/2016 6:45 PM

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BCC: 11-0 David Livermore <nsfd110@yahoo.com>, 11-1 George Flaughter <nsfd111@yahoo.com>

Dear Commissioners:

If, while reading this, you perceive that I am frustrated and angry, you are correct. If you are surprised, one or more of your employees has failed to keep you informed.

For over a year, you have ignored the extra danger Isabella County officials have injected into Nottawa-Sherman Fire Department emergency operations. For over a year you and your employees have shown little or no concern for our safety. We had a reliable communications system. Now, after you authorized the expenditure of tens of thousands of taxpayer dollars, we have a less reliable system which increases the danger to those of us who respond in an effort to help people we may not even know.

We expected you, our elected officials, to have more respect for what we do and the risks we take even if most you have never, personally, taken those risks (John being the lone exception). We assumed that you would be concerned for our safety even though you lie safe in your bed at night while we drive our trucks through blinding blizzards to help our citizens. Instead, we remain more endangered than we were 15 months ago. There are no valid excuses. We had a good system and you allowed it to be degraded at tremendous taxpayer expense. As I dig further into the history of this fiasco, the smell of a rat (maybe 3 or 4) gets stronger. My disappointment has turned to disgust and the disgust to anger.

Even though I'm old enough to be a grandfather to all but a few of them, these fine men and women you have allowed to be placed in greater danger are like brothers and sisters. Five are former students, making our bond even stronger. This week, I will begin my quest to make things right.

I am a safety officer for our department. This is a safety issue. There are federal and state departments that deal with workplace safety issues. Later this week, I will meet with my attorney to decide which agencies are likely to provide the swiftest help and whether the best course of legal action will be through district or federal court. Be assured that I have the financial resources to see this through. You have only to speak to someone who knows me well to confirm my resolve.

It should not have come to this and would not have if you had cared enough about our safety to take action. You might still have time to do the right thing, voluntarily, without conflict. I still have hope that you will. Once this can of very rotten worms is opened, the lid won't go back on quickly.

If you still don't understand why you are getting this email, visit the [Web page](#) I am constructing in preparation for a social media campaign when, or if, I need help from the citizens we assist.

Please don't bother to reply to this email. It will be a waste of your time and mine unless you have a "fix" that will occur before the end of the month. We've already heard too much useless rhetoric from your employees.

Frank E. Benn
Firefighter/EMT/Safety Officer

Nottawa-Sherman Fire Department

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The only thing more expensive than education is ignorance.

- Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790)

The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is
for good men to do nothing.

- Edmund Burke (1729-1797)

A MAJOR INCENTIVE FOR CRIMINALS:

Law abiding citizens are almost always unarmed.

THE SAFEST PLACE TO COMMIT A CRIME:

A "no gun zone".

"The right of self-defence never ceases. It is among
the most sacred, and alike necessary to nations and
to individuals..."

-James Monroe,
President of the United States, 1818.

Smith & Wesson: One of the best life assurance
companies in the world.

<http://www.bennsci.com>

Yellowstone National Park pictures.

<http://www.nsfd.net>

Nottawa-Sherman Fire/Rescue