

**Subject:** Re: Digital Radio Fiasco

**From:** "Margaret A. McAvoy" <mmcavoy@isabellacounty.org>

**Date:** 1/3/2016 8:17 PM

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

**CC:** George Green <ggreen@isabellacounty.org>

Mr. Benn -

Thank you for the historical information.

I have been in contact, by phone and in meetings, with your Fire Chief Dave Livermore. He he is up to date on the current status of the FCC application and other possible options. The Chief and I last spoke on Wednesday, 12/30/15.

I assure you, I am personally involved in this issue and committed to resolving it.

Margaret McAvoy

*Sent from my Verizon Wireless 4G LTE DROID*

On Jan 3, 2016 8:05 PM, Frank Benn <11-17@nsfd.net> wrote:

Dear Ms. McAvoy

It has been over two weeks since our last communication. Nothing has changed with our hand-held radio coverage and no solutions have been offered.

At 0130 yesterday morning, while most other people in our county were deep in REM sleep, we were paged for an incident in northwest Coldwater Township. Since he lives in that area, our assistant chief, George Flaughter, was first on the scene. He was the only person attending to the patient. Once contact is made with a patient, continuous care must be provided. It's the law. He could not communicate with Central Dispatch or the rest of us with his hand-held transceiver. Responding from Weidman in our light rescue vehicle had no idea what was happening in that house. The situation was exacerbated by the fact that we were traveling over icy gravel roads. Other personnel responding in their personal vehicles would not have been able to hear the transmission even if George had managed to access the digital system because our pagers are not digital receivers and only our officers carry the digital hand-held transceivers.

Imagine your liability if George had been harmed due to the failure of the digital system. Imagine the consequences of the rest of us walking into a domestic violence situation without warning. Surely you must realize that nearly every residence in our coverage area houses at least

one firearm. When we arrived, it was immediately evident that the incident residence was no exception to that generality. Fortunately, they turned out to be nice, non-aggressive people and George was in no danger. Once again, I assure you that we will attempt to defend ourselves, if necessary.

Let me address your FCC comment from your last email. **“...awaiting approval from the FCC regarding a intended solution...”**. I have seen no evidence that anything has actually been requested from the FCC or that there is an "intended solution". Almost exactly 25 years ago, we were told by Pro Comm personnel that we could not get our own VHF repeater license from the FCC because there was a shortage of frequency allocations. Hearing that declaration, a new radio technician (a member of our department now living in the Detroit area) who had just opened a radio service shop in Weidman, did the research and filed the application for our license. We got the license while there was still snow on the ground in 1991. Myself and other NSFD personnel, under the direction of our technician, spent hundreds of hours with torches, hacksaws and welders repairing the tower sections of the previously owned tower our technician had acquired. When the ground thawed we dug the huge holes and poured the footings around the anchors for the tower guy cables and for the base of the tower. Four months after applying for our license we had the tower erected behind our station and our repeater operational with hand-held coverage throughout most of Isabella County and eastern Mecosta County. We had accomplished what Pro Comm had said couldn't be done. Additionally, a review of the service statements from Pro Comm led us to believe that we had been substantially overcharged for most equipment and services. I, and my technician friend, have little reason to trust Pro Comm or anyone who associates with them. I suspect you may agree with me after this situation has been thoroughly investigated. Incidentally, my friend's daughter is on a figure skating team with Jeffrey Fieger's daughter if that name means anything to you.

Isabella County has the funds necessary to fix the problem quickly. I am a safety officer for our department. This is a safety issue with life threatening ramifications. 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 action will be through district or federal court.

Please don't bother responding to this unless you have a "fix" that can be accomplished before the end of the month. This will most likely be the last communication you will receive from me, personally.

Frank Benn  
Firefighter/EMT  
N.S.F.D.

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.nsfed.net>

Nottawa-Sherman Fire/Rescue

<http://www.appletreequilts.com>

Machine quilting services & more.