

Subject: Re: Follow-up MPSCS concerns in Isabella County

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

Date: 3/27/2016 6:13 PM

To: "Stoddard, Bradley (DTMB)" <StoddardB@michigan.gov>

CC: 11-0 David Livermore <nsfd110@yahoo.com>, 11-1 George Flaughner <nsfd111@yahoo.com>, 11-10 Dan Mills <danm@michco.com>, 11-11 Randy Hall <gearhall@netscape.net>, 11-12 Jamie Smith <jamiesmithbuilders@yahoo.com>, 11-14 Keith Mills <kjmills2011@gmail.com>

Mr. Stoddard,

Thanks for responding to my email.

The simplest approach would be for you to respond to my inquiries/concerns via email. However, if you are hesitant to put your answers to my questions in written form, we can do as you suggest.

If we meet in person I will have others present at the meeting and the meeting will have to be after 1700. If we converse via phone, I will need to record the conversation. My memory isn't what it used to be and I want to be able to rely your comments accurately. Again, written answers would be a simpler approach and more easily reiterated, but verbal comm will work. The after 1700 parameter is because I'm usually 25-100% of the available crew between 0500 and 1700. I make an effort to stay close to home during those hours because we have no full time staff.

Meeting in person will require the presence of other interested parties (e.g., Chief Livermore, other NSFD officers, fire board members, township supervisors). The cost of acquiring a completely new set of mobile and portable radios and buying into the MPSCS 800 MHz system is daunting, to put it mildly. We just invested a stack of kilobucks in the MotoTRBO system which we now know isn't recommended for public service use. Coming up with an additional \$150k might prove difficult.

Regarding a phone conversation, I've responded to 3 incidents today and the day won't be over for six hours & change. Last week we responded to 17 incidents. I'm providing this data because I don't answer calls when I'm on a run unless it's from someone participating in the event. Unless you're an amateur radio operator, my cell phone is the only reliable way to reach me (406 223 0396). You will have to leave a message because I don't answer calls from numbers not in my contacts file. In any event, I'll return your call ASAP.

Most of us really don't care what system we use as long as it restores the comm capabilities we had with the VHF analog repeater system we used prior to March of 2015. The capabilities we lost are many, but of foremost importance to us are coverage, reliability, interoperability (including comm with fire departments in Mecosta and Clare counties prior to arrival on scene) and the ability to receive non-paging radio traffic on our pagers.

Whatever solution is provided, it needs to happen soon. There aren't enough negative adjectives to describe the debacle we've had to contend with for the past year. God bless our dispatchers for

their professionalism and patience!

Feel free to contact me @ 406 223 0396 via voice or text. In case you missed it, I think a written response to my questions and concerns, prepared by a knowledgeable person in your administration, would be best.

Thanks again for your response.

Frank Benn
Firefighter/EMT/Safety Officer
For an Anonymous F.D. in NW Isabella County

READ ABOUT HOW ISABELLA COUNTY OFFICIALS
HAVE ENDANGERED N.W. ISABELLA COUNTY
FIREFIGHTERS AND THE PEOPLE THEY SERVE
<http://www.bennsci.com/digital.html>

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.

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