



## **Southeastern Firefighters Association**

### **Association des Pompier du Sud-est**

**Representing Albert, Kent and Westmorland Counties**

**Sunday, September 18, 2016**

**At Riverview Fire Department**

This meeting was held at Riverview Fire Rescue. The meeting was called to order by President, David Gallant.

There were 19 members in attendance representing 13 departments plus one member of the Fire Marshal's office.

#### **1. PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES**

The minutes from the previous meeting were passed out to those who needed them.

Motioned by: Conrad Landry

Seconded by: Denis Pleu

MOTION CARRIED

#### **2. TMR**

Bob Martin from NBTMR presented on the new TMR service. As requested his contact information is provided below.



#### **Some highlights from the presentation are:**

- NBTMR is a P25 public safety standard, 700 MHz radio system.
- This radio system is built to higher standards than commercial radio systems.

## Major noticeable differences

- Seamless roaming
- Digital rather than Analog
- Talkgroups rather than channels
- Fleetmaps
- Interoperability
- Shared resources
- Not geographically dependent

## Who will we be able to talk to on NBTMR?

- Any agency who is presently part of NBTMR, Nova Scotia's TMR2 or PEI's PICS2. In the future there will be agencies wishing to become part of NBTMR who are referred to as "Additional Authorized Users (AAUs)." Potential AAUs are; Canadian Border Services Agency Canadian Coast Guard Department of Fisheries & Ocean RCMP/GRC Ground Search & Rescue (has joined NBTMR) Municipal Fire Departments Municipal Police Departments (Both Fredericton Fire and Police Departments have joined NBTMR)

### Questions:

The cost of the radios is about \$2800+ each

Budgeting: there is a concern that departments have to plan their budgets in advance. Bob feels that for the first year departments will have enough equipment to run. The government will be seeding radios but unsure of how many.

No 700 mh pagers available through Motorola at the moment.

Page through TMR and paged after through VHF. Issue will there will be a lapse when paging/receiving calls.

Below is a copy of the e-mail sent from Saint-Paul Fire Department Chief Dave Gallant to Dan McCoy and his responses:

**From:** Dan McCoy [mailto:dmccoy.kvfd@nb.aibn.com]

**Sent:** July-25-16 2:03 PM

**To:** 'Saint-Paul Fire Department'

**Subject:** RE: TMR / RFD Info

Hi Dave

Thanks for the information, appreciate it. I will try to answer your questions. From reading your questions I think there is one thing that needs to be stressed. There is no plan to replace the departments operating radios. Meaning, those departments that are using VHF radios to operate on, they will continue to do that. One of the methods to be dispatched over is using the current VHF paging system, meaning that if they receive a call over VHF they will continue to do that.

We have no idea at this time when the Southeast or Codiac PSCC will be going to TMR. It may be next year, however at this time we might say that moving fire departments to RFD in that area could be a couple of years out.

The best way to answer these questions is to talk face to face, just so I don't say something via email that could be misleading. I will answer some of the questions the best I can below.

**Dan McCoy CFO,CFI**  
**Deputy Chief**  
**Kennebecasis Valley FD**  
**7 Campbell Dr**  
**Rothsay, NB E2E-5B6**  
**Ph: 848-6605**  
**(F) 848-6608**

**From:** Saint-Paul Fire Department [<mailto:fire.chief@saintpauldekent.ca>]  
**Sent:** Sunday, July 24, 2016 4:04 PM  
**To:** 'Dan McCoy'  
**Cc:** 'Saint-Paul Fire Department'; 'SEFFA Secretary'  
**Subject:** TMR / RFD Info

Hello Dan,

My apologies for the delay in sending you this information. I have spent a lot of time contacting each department in my association to obtain the information you require. Please note that Moncton and Dieppe are not included in the attached survey.

Below are some of the concerns that the majority of the Chiefs of the Southeastern Firefighter Association have raised. We are very limited in our knowledge of the TMR system and several Chiefs I spoke to do not know much about this. Please help us with our concerns.

#### **1. Cost / Budgeting**

- No one has a confirmed amount of the cost of the radios. For some departments, if they do not have the price of the radios by the first week of September, this cannot be budgeted for 2017.
- Do we know the cost of the annual and/or monthly fees involved – again this is required for budgeting purposes.
- I have some fire departments with very small annual budgets. For example, there are fire departments with annual budgets under \$50K. They cannot afford to buy TMR radios.

I can appreciate the budgeting issue. We hopefully will have costs soon. I will say that Director Ryan Donaghy supports this initiative and has stated the funds will be available. As I stated departments will not have to replace their current radios and will continue to use the VHF they have to operate on.

#### **2. Dispatching through TMR**

- Currently the majority of the departments have all or most of their members who carry radios and are able to answer 911 calls. If PSAP is going to dispatch on TMR only, this means almost all of the firefighters will have to carry two radios – one to answer the call and one to dispatch out – which is not practical.

- If fire departments only have one or two radios this creates a major problem to find someone else to carry their TMR radio to answer calls when not available.

Let's talk about this one in person.

### 3. Number of firefighters to answer calls

- Most department members have portable radios and answer the PSAP or MCMC calls. Depending on the number of TMR radios a department has, it will reduce the number of firefighters who will have the ability to answer calls.

This is similar to the question above.

#### How will this benefit the majority of fire departments?

- I did not receive any positive feedback on how this will improve what is currently in place.

Let's talk about this as well

### 4. Interoperability

- Most of the fire departments said regarding interoperability they have all their mutual aid fire departments currently programmed in their radios. This allows them to communicate with each other through the radio at a emergency scene. Through speed dial on our portable radios, we can also contact RCMP, NB Power, Maritime Northeast Pipeline, PMCC, etc.).
- Most departments also have emergency contacts (i.e. RCMP, DOT, MCMC, OFM, etc.) in cell phones and posted in their rescue or command post.
- Currently there are three fire departments with the same frequency and a distinct ring tone. In the event of a major incident (i.e. structure fire), all three departments automatically respond. If one of these departments switches over to TMR, this system will no longer work for them and they will lose their interoperability.

Yes there are piece meal ways to have interoperability, however having everything and everyone on a radio will make the communications much quicker and easier.

### 5. Crucial Time Loss

- Currently when departments receive an emergency call, all members hear the emergency line ring. They also hear the 911 operator talking to their dispatch with the details while they are enroute to the station. In some cases, firefighters are already at the station when their dispatch is toning out the emergency call. Some firefighters also go directly to the scene.
- Fire departments have also experienced delays with PSAP dispatching calls to them. For example, some departments who respond to medical calls have been contacted by MCMC and 5 minutes later receive the call from PSAP.
- If dispatching is done by TMR, firefighters will no longer hear the call or details. This will cause a significant delay in response times and calling mutual aid when required.

### 6. Questions

- If it is the largest municipalities (ie. Moncton, Saint John, Fredericton) in the province who are totally switching over to TMR would it not seem to make more sense for PSAP to dispatch to their fire control on our current system and have their department fire control dispatch on TMR to them?
- What happens to the departments who have third party dispatching?

- If we keep our current system, once the RFD is in place we will still be dispatching ourselves because we will have to answer the call then dispatch to our firefighters since they will not hear the initial call as we currently do.
- If we are still dispatching ourselves, why are we going to be paying a fee to RFD to dispatch? It is our understanding that there is a relatively high fee for this dispatching. Again there are many fire departments who cannot afford this in their budget.

Dave, as I said I think the best thing is for you and I to have a chat about these questions. This way you will have a better understanding of the system and will be able to explain things to everyone. We went through all of these things with the Capital District. From your questions it is clear that people don't understand and I appreciate that.

Not at all trying to not deal with this but as I said I don't want to say something that may be misunderstood.

We can sort it all out when we chat. If you have the time you can give me a call, or we can discuss this at our next board meeting.

### 3. PRESIDENT'S REPORT – DAVID GALLANT

- Signing authority for cheques.
  - This will be changed to include the current President and Secretary to have signing authority along with the Treasurer.
- Constitution:
  - As per the Sept 17, 2015 meeting:
  - A updated version of the SEFFA Constitution was read and voted on*
  - Denis Pleau moved to accept the Constitution*
  - Peter Murphy seconded the Motion*
  - This was never signed and we now have a new executive.
  - The Constitution document was read.

Motioned by: Conrad Landry  
 Seconded by: Gary McCarthy  
 MOTION CARRIED

- Fall Fire Chief Conference is November 25 and 26 (US Thanksgiving weekend) at the Fredericton Inn.

The following information was sent out via e-mail to the fire service:

*The Conference will get under way Friday evening with a Registration/Meet & Greet from 6:00 to 6:45 p.m., followed by presentations ending at 9:30 p.m. Saturday's session will be from 8:15 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.*

*We have heard suggestions that one Conference instead of two would be beneficial to years past. To that end, the Conference in Fredericton will offer simultaneous translation.*

*Although the agenda is not yet finalized, I can tell you that CANUTEC will be in attendance and will conduct presentations that explain their services, how to use the Emergency Response Guidebook 2016 and what the changes are between the 2012 and 2016 versions.*

- The NBAFC Firefighter Bursary Program has been revised. The Bursary has been increased to \$1,000.00 per year with two nominations made annually. Applications will be received no later than March 31st of each year. Criteria and application forms are on the NBAFC web site and the Bursary program will start 2017. Funding of these bursaries will come from the NBAFC. All applications will be received by the office of the NBAFC.

**Criteria for Bursary will include:**

- Applicant must be a enrolled in a recognized post-secondary education institution in Canada
  - Applicant must meet the admission standards of the post-secondary institution that he/she is attending with proof of acceptance.
  - Application must include evidence of integrity, initiative, ambition (letter of reference)
  - Dependents of the New Brunswick Fire Service will take priority
- Dieppe Fire Chief – Charles LeBlanc
    - President Gallant asked Acting Chief Conrad Landry what happened and what the status was but he only indicated that they were still looking for a new Chief.
  - President Gallant would like the SEFFA to do up a motion to the NBAFC to get into negotiations to increase the amount of money to be dispersed amongst the LSD fire departments.
  - There have been a number of arsons in the past year in Kent County. We did not receive any feedback from the Kent County fire departments.

**4. FINANCIAL REPORT – TIM DRYDEN**

Transactions since June meeting:

June 12	Cheque #144	451.13	Supplies for the BBQ
June 17	Service fee	2.00	
July 11	Deposit	200.00	Dues from Moncton and Bouctouche
July 16	Service Fee	2.00	
Aug 16	Deposit	2000.00	NBAFC
Aug 16	Deposit	300.00	OFM, Prov of NB (for costs related to Local Assistant Training)
Aug 17	Service Fee	2.00	
Aug 18	Cheque #145	181.75	Town of Riverview for costs associated with Slice-rs training

Balance at the Start of last meeting \$25,085.76

Motioned to accept by: Dennis Pleu  
Seconded by: Marcel LeBlanc  
MOTION CARRIED

## **5. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Vice President, Westmorland County – Gary McCarthy**

Nothing to report.

### **Vice President, Kent County – Danny DesRoches**

Nothing to report.

### **Vice President, Albert County – Peter Murphy**

Not in attendance.

### **ATC Report – Daniel Dupuis**

#### **Level 1**

Level 1 course in each county is complete. Let me know if anyone is interested in starting a level 1 course in the fall. We can regionalize one if we have enough students, please send to me ASAP if any are interested.

#### **Level 2**

Level 2 courses are complete. Let me know if anyone is interested in starting a level 2 course in the fall. With no courses for level 1 yet, it would be a great opportunity to get a few level 2 going, please send to me ASAP if any are interested

#### **Spring Training**

Our spring training took place on May 14. Thanks to everyone involved! I want to give a special thank you to Moncton and Riverview firehalls for lending their facilities, to our instructors for giving their time and expertise, as well as to the 80+ students who attended the training.

Instructors got together for a recap of the event and we discussed what worked well and what we could improve. If anyone has additional feedback, please let me know.

We will put together a checklist of the items covered at the Moncton station and send to the Chiefs so that the log books can be signed off. Items covered at the Riverview firehall were already signed off.

#### **Officer Training**

We have an opportunity to host an Officer Training course if enough people are interested. We can put together a block 5 hazmat training so that more people have the pre-requisites for this officer course. Let me know if you would like to participate in a block 5 hazmat so that we can line this up for the fall.

The pre-requisites are Firefighter Level 1 and Level 2, 5<sup>th</sup> Edition. Also, for those seeking IFSAC certification hazmat awareness ops, Instructor 1 IFSAC, FF1 and FF2 are required.

The course spans over 2 full weekends and includes 40 hours of theory, homework assignments and JPR's. Current officers are strongly encouraged to sign-up for this course. The cost of the course will be divided amongst the departments based on their number of students. We can decide on a central location based on where students will be coming from.

### **Haz mat block 5**

We can do a hazmat block 5 course to update guys wanting to do their officer course if we have enough interest,(if you have done your firefighter 1 lately with edition 5 "covers hazmat ops" ,you do not need to take this block, however if you have your firefighter level 1 with edition 4 or lower "covers awareness only", you will need this block to get your level 2 , please send to me ASAP if any are interested.

### **Volunteer Chief Report / NBAFC Report – Dave Gallant**

See President's report above.

The next Volunteer Chief's meeting is October 22 and the NBAFC BOD is Oct 28 and 29. A report will be provided at the next SEFFA meeting.

### **OFM – Raymond Leblanc**

- Regional Fire Marshal is now Jeff Cross. Fire Inspectors now report to Jeff instead of Doug Browne.
- TMR Radios were installed in their vehicles this week. The difference with the OFM radios is that it can be used like a cell phone while on the road.
- Local assistant training – courses coming up in Hampton and other areas. Anybody who wants to join is welcome.
- Alarmed and Ready campaign – a session was done recently in Moncton. There are supplies left and fire departments can request more through either Jeff Cross or Pat Roussy. Fire Prevention Week is coming.
- The inflatable house is also still available for use. Contact Conrad Landry if interested.
- There have been problems with some of the fold down steps on fire trucks coming loose. Some people have been hurt. Check your trucks to ensure the bolts are tight.

### **6. NEW BUSINESS**

- Local assistance cards – if all paperwork has been submitted cards should be coming soon.
- Vulnerability check is not needed, just a criminal check.
- Motorola pagers – who fixes them? Nova Communications on St. George Blvd. or Chandler in Caledonia Park. The new guy at Nova came from Ft. McMurray and worked on the fire service equipment there.
- Maritime Fire Chief Conference – July 9-12, 2017
  - Conrad Landry mentioned that Dieppe Fire Department is hosting the Maritime Fire Chiefs Convention the week of July 9 to 12, 2017. They are hosting it for the next 2 years and potentially 3 years. He is wondering if SEFFA is interested in helping/assisting. The financials are similar to the NBAFC, the local association gets a percentage of the profits. When we did the NBAFC, the association received \$20,000. If anybody is interested in helping out, contact Conrad.
  - The plan would be to share the profits with the SEFFA.



- For the first year there is no cashflow. They are building a website and there is a bill to pay. Would like to have the association pay for the website up front and Dieppe would reimburse once registrations come in.
- Website will be interactive. Amount is \$5,746.55

Conrad Landry proposed a motion to pay the website registration fee and the app for mobiles in the amount of \$5,746.55 to be reimbursed as soon as the money is received.

Motioned to accept by: Conrad Landry

Seconded by: Charles Agnew

MOTION CARRIED

- President Gallant asked about fire dept policies at various firehalls regarding speed for emergency vehicles.

The Motor Vehicle Act states:

*110(1) The driver of an authorized emergency vehicle, when responding to an emergency call or when in the pursuit of an actual or suspected violator of the law or when responding to but not upon returning from a fire alarm, may exercise the privileges set forth in this section, but subject to the conditions herein stated.*

*110(2) The driver of an authorized emergency vehicle may*

*(c) exceed the speed limits so long as he does not endanger life or property, and*

*110(4) This section does not relieve the driver of an authorized emergency vehicle from the duty to drive with due regard for the safety of all persons and property.*

- Denis Pleu mentioned Riverview had an off road rescue recently where their ATV broke down. Now they have an agreement with other departments. Riverview does not respond to Off Road Rescue alone. They request mutual aid.
- Adam Allain is a firefighter with Cocagne and also owns East Coast Fire. He performs testing for ladders, hoses, fire extinguishers and visuals on SCBA bottles, etc. Has a contractor doing hydros and is looking at a mobile hydro unit to do testing right on site. Does not do flow test on packs.

## 7. ELECTIONS

The following positions were nominated and accepted at the June 12 meeting:

President – Chief Dave Gallant

Vice President, Albert County – Peter Murphy

Vice President, Kent County – Chief Danny DesRoches

Vice President, Westmorland County – Deputy Chief Gary McCarthy

Treasurer – Tim Dryden

Secretary – Colleen Gallant

ATC – Daniel Dupuis

NBAFPO position was still open. Dennis Pleau nominated Tim Dryden. Tim indicated that he already attends the meetings. He accepted the position since no other candidates came forward.

A question was asked regarding the length of term for the Executive. The constitution document indicates the positions are elected annually.

#### **8. NEXT MEETING**

The next SEFFA meeting will be on Sunday November 20.

Motion for Adjournment:      Danny DesRoches  
Moved by:                              Gilles Allard

**NEXT MEETING, SUNDAY NOVEMBER 20, 2016 @ 2:00 PM  
Riverview Fire Rescue, 650 Pinewood Road, Riverview, NB**