

9-1-1 User Board / Intergovernmental Council Meeting - March 20, 2018

Steve Schuette: I would like to call the 9-1-1 User Board Intergovernmental Council Meeting to order. I'm Steve Schuette. For those of you that don't know me, I'm with John Day City Council. I was appointed by our city council to lead during this meeting.

We get some ground rules straight, the meeting is open to the public, where public comment will not be solicited or allowed, since this is not a meeting of an elected body. Questions from the audience should be presented to their own city council and/or the county court at a subsequent, or by person or writing.

We're going to do a roll call of all the users that we think should be represented. If there's something here that is not on this list, please speak up. When I call the names out, would you identify who's represent your agency?

John Day Fire?

Ron Smith: Ron Smith.

Steve Schuette: John Day Rural Fire?

Bill Wilcox: Bill Wilcox. Todd McKinley.

Todd McKinley: Todd McKinley.

Steve Schuette: Thank you. John Day Police?

Richard Gray: Richard Gray.

Steve Schuette: Thank you. Grant County?

Robert Stewart: Robert Stewart.

Steve Schuette: Thank you. Grant County Sheriff's Office?

Glenn Palmer: Glenn Palmer.

Steve Schuette: Thank you. Canyon City?

Steve Fischer: Steve Fischer.

Steve Schuette: Thank you. Canyon City Fire?

Charlie Caughlin: Charlie Caughlin.

Steve Schuette: Thanks, Charlie. Dayville?

Brandon Thompson: Dayville and Dayville Fire, too. Brandon Thompson.

Steve Schuette: You're representing both?

Nick Green: I guess. I bet the other guy didn't show up.

[laughter]

Steve Schuette: Long Creek?

Don Porter: Don Porter, fire chief and mayor.

Steve Schuette: Thanks, Don. You're representing fire and...OK.

Don Porter: Yes.

Steve Schuette: Monument?

Jeremy Boyer: Jeremy Boyer. I'll represent both fire and Monument.

Steve Schuette: Thank you. Mt. Vernon?

Kenny Delano: Kenny Delano.

Steve Schuette: Thanks, Kenny. Mt. Vernon Fire?

Bill Cearns: Bill Cearns.

Steve Schuette: Mt. Vernon Rural Fire?

Bill Cearns: Question, is that for the IGC or is that the user? You only have it listed once there.

Nicholas Green: We sent out an updated agenda on Monday. It's listed in the updated agenda.

Bill Cearns: I just got it, and I don't see it.

Nicholas Green: That was the reason we sent out the update.

Bill Cearns: Oh. Which one are you asking for? The IGC or the user?

Steve Schuette: The user, I suppose.

Bill Cearns: It can't be IGC.

Steve Schuette: We have three entities listed, Mt. Vernon, Mt. Vernon Fire, Mt. Vernon Rural Fire.

Bill Cearns: Mt. Vernon Rural should have two. There's the IGC and the user. That's why I'm asking, which one are you asking for?

Nick Green: Yes. How about both?

[laughter]

Steve Schuette: How about both?

Bill Cearns: Both? Yeah. I'm representing the fire, and Dan Cumming will be representing the IGC.

Steve Schuette: Oregon State Forestry?

Chris Cook: Chris Cook.

Steve Schuette: Oregon State Police?

Tom Hutchison: Tom Hutchison.

Steve Schuette: Prairie City?

Georgia Patterson: Georgia Patterson and Carol Garrison.

Chris Camarena: Chris Camarena for Fire.

Steve Schuette: Prairie City Fire's, get that?

Nicholas Green: Now, can you say the names again?

Georgia Patterson: Georgia Patterson and Carol Garrison.

Steve Schuette: Did you get Fire?

Nick Green: I got Chris, yeah.

Blaine Huffman: You got me as...

Steve Schuette: Prairie City Rural Fire?

Blaine Huffman: Blaine Huffman.

Steve Schuette: Thank you. Seneca?

Raamin Burrell: Raamin Burrell.

Steve Schuette: Thank you. Seneca Fire?

Josh Walker: Josh Walker.

Steve Schuette: Blue Mountain Hospital?

Derek Daly: Derek Daly.

Steve Schuette: USDA Forest Service?

Ron Simpson: Ron Simpson.

Steve Schuette: Bureau of Land Management?

Greg Loyd: Greg Loyd and Jeff Wise.

Steve Schuette: Get them all? Is there anybody we missed?

Glen Palmer: Yes, City of Granite. Not on the list. The Granite Fire Department.

Steve Schuette: Thank you. City of Granite?

[pause]

Steve Schuette: Anybody? City of Granite? Fire Department?

[pause]

Steve Schuette: Anybody else?

Valerie Maynard: No, but I would like to add I did not send that to the City of Granite. They weren't on the original list and that's who I sent it to. I do know their fire chief isn't even in, he's in Arizona right now.

Steve Schuette: Nick, I turn it over to you for 9-1-1 background.

Nick Green: I've presented this information several times in several different forums, so I'm not going to try and get too far down in the weeds. Hopefully everyone has had a chance to review it.

I will say for context, 30 years ago, or so, a group of people very similar to this met and they signed an agreement, and now we're all sitting here scratching our heads, going who done it, and why, and how, and how do we move forward. Imagine 30 years from now, people sitting in a room like this, and scratching their heads, and wondering what were they thinking.

Things change, and they evolve. We're here to try and figure out what does the next 30 years look like. As you think through the background, and the context, and the options that are presented tonight, think about it in that light.

Over the next 30 years, what's in the best public safety interest of my organization, whoever you're here to represent. How do we reach a consensus agreement, if that's possible, around an option that sets us up for the next 30 years?

With that as context, the original agreement was signed in 1989. It listed a number of things, and that agreement was enclosed in the invitation letter to tonight's meeting.

You can see the cities listed there that were signatories, cities and fire departments that were signatories to the original agreement, Canyon City, Dayville, John Day, Monument, Seneca, Mount Vernon, Prairie, Long Creek, the Grant County Court, and three rural fire departments, John Day, Mount Vernon, and Prairie City.

We've grown in the number of agencies that are here tonight to be represented. The agreement did a number of things. It created the organization that's governing 9-1-1. It created a user board, added 18 agencies and one ex officio member.

The agreement designated the 9-1-1 Center staff as employees of the City of John Day. It identified a cost-sharing formula that was based on the receipt of the state 9-1-1 tax and any additional costs that were anticipated were defined, unfortunately, in very murky terms based on population or use of the facilities. That's as detailed as it got.

How those costs were distributed initially, we had a positive revenue balance, and so there wasn't much cost. About 25 years ago, that was about our break-even point. What I've tried to show you is, the last 20 years of history where we have had budget deficits, the state 9-1-1 tax hasn't covered the cost.

Before we get into the numbers, we currently employ six staff, five full time, and one-part time. Our part-time dispatcher doubles as a John Day police officer. He was hired as a John Day police officer with the intent of doing both jobs. He recently graduated from the academy, so whatever option we pursue, our intent is that he will remain as a police officer, and we'll either hire another part-time dispatcher or the receiving agency will back-fill that position. Really, we're focused on the five full-time positions that currently provide dispatch: Valerie Maynard, Sheila Kowing, Cami Haney, Angia Hannibal, and Savannah Lovell. Valerie, Sheila, and Cami are all advanced certified. Angia is intermediate, and Savannah is basic. She's our newest hire, and she replaced Kathie Maben who retired last year.

2017 saw our highest call volume for the 9-1-1 center, due in large part to the Rainbow Family and the eclipse but call volume has been creeping up annually. I've laid out the number of calls that we received by category. We lumped the fire departments together for the purposes of this table, but it shows calls by category in 2016, changes for 2017, the percent change from last year to 2017, and then the percent of total that's divided among each of those categories. You can see ambulance accounted for about ten percent of our calls, city and rural fire about three percent, US Forest Service was just under two percent, John Day Police Department just over a third, Grant County Sheriff's Office just over a third, and the balance was distributed among multiple agencies. It gives you a rough breakdown of our distribution of calls. There is a more detailed list at the end of the packet that shows calls by specific agency.

Most of the 9-1-1 Center equipment is funded by the Office of Emergency Management, which is provided by the state. The equipment that is not funded by the state that has to be funded locally is: our computer aided dispatch, the law enforcement data system, the radio system, office equipment, the backup generator, and of course the building that we're in, the structure itself.

Statewide, there's 43 public safety answering points; less than 20 of those are operated by cities, most are managed by counties or special tax districts. There have been modest adjustments to the state tax, but nothing significant; they added pre-paid wireless but we didn't see a major increase from that. Local revenue, the 911 Center received \$274,000 in FY '17 that was the amount of funding that we got from the state. This covered about sixty-five percent of our costs to operate the department. Contracts for service and payments from our local users made up the balance.

What you see on the next page is a graph that represents revenue and sources of revenue, on the top and on the bottom, are expenditures. The green at the bottom, if you have a color print out of that, that's the amount that we collect from local users, over that 20-year period. The purple, which is the bulk of the revenue, is the 911 tax from the state. What's shown in gray, and has increased over time, is a transfer from the City of John Day to balance the fund. In years where local revenue did not cover the cost from users, we transferred money out of our general fund or our reserves to make the department whole. The rest is miscellaneous income and interest on our networking capital.

On the expenditure side, you can see those costs have increased fairly consistently. There have been a few years that were higher and a few years that were low lower. I'll point out that for 13 of the last 18 years the city did not charge any overhead to this department. That was a budget mechanism to make the, I'll just go ahead and say it, it made the costs appear lower than they actually were because the city was covering all of the administrative expenses out of our general fund. So that the actual cost, and you can see it reflected, the dotted line is an approximation of the cost curve, so the increase in cost over time. The value at the top r-squared value – all that means, so that you're aware, is how closely that curved line matches those bars. Ninety one is a pretty close match, 0.91. What we're seeing in that cost curve is a fairly accurate depiction of how costs have increased over time, and the years that we charged Admin, we're above the line because those years were more expensive.

I guess the two charts that really matter the most, from my perspective, are on the next page: the state 911 tax receipts and the comparison of cost to revenue. For some currently inexplicably reason, the state shorted us funding for a seven year period. Each year we receive less money in tax revenue than the year prior. We don't know why, we have asked and we're still waiting for a response. OEM (*Office of Emergency Management*) says, "It wasn't us, it was the Department of Revenue", so they've passed our records request onto the Department of Revenue. It's hard for any of us to imagine that during these very high growth years, both in terms of population and the number of cell phones that are being used per household, that we would see declining state tax revenue. For some reason, our revenue went down. My hunch is that that was a distribution, it was a policy decision that was made somewhere between DOR receiving it and it being remitted to us. I suppose it's possible that the cell phone companies and the telecom companies remitted less tax revenue to the state, but I have a feeling they would have caught that. Again, I'm trying to speculate because we don't have an answer, but the point is, by FY '15 we were operating on the same state tax revenue that we had in FY '06; cost kept rising, revenue kept declining.

Now I think the good news, if there is good news, is that we've seen increases for the last two years and the League of Oregon Cities are projecting modest increases through 2021 when the 9-1-1 tax sunsets. I think we've been through the worst of it, and I think for what it's worth, the city has done a pretty good job of controlling costs where they can. A lot of the cost escalation is in personnel, it's PERS, it's health insurance. Those are external cost drivers; we have no control over that. What we control are the annual wage increase and what we negotiate with collective bargaining agreement, which are negotiated in three-year chunks. Our staff have been fairly modest and most of those requests were: half a percent; one percent; in some years, two percent; but in some years, none. So for the most part, their wage increases have been low, below the consumer price index. And in those years, they effectively had a pay cut in terms of their

purchasing power. I want to at least recognize that we've done what we can to control costs. We cannot staff fewer than the minimum number of people required to offer 24/7 operations, by law. There are a lot of restrictions that are placed around how you operate a department like this. There are a lot of restrictions on both the revenue and expenditures that we simply don't control. It costs what it costs.

Having said that, the last time we had statewide comparison data, I didn't put this in the report but it is available and we can send it to you if you need it, was in 2015 and in that year our cost per dispatcher was the fifth lowest of the PSAPs (*Public Safety Answering Points*) that existed at the time, just to give you an idea of how we ranked relative to other 9-1-1 centers on the cost side. If you look at the bottom graph, those costs have increased fairly predictably over the last 20 years. Our revenue has declined and so the gap that we've had to fund has grown to the point that, within the next three years with no other changes in how we collect revenue or how we distribute costs, the City of John Day would not be able to cover the deficit. The entirety of our tax base wouldn't cover it. That was the reason that I said to the council this discussion has to happen and has to happen now while we still have time to correct it, because it's just not going to be a source of revenue we can pull from three years from now. Now at that point I didn't know that the tax sunsets in 2021. As new information has come to light, we've shared that; I didn't know that in October. We're investigating this and we're discussing what we find, as we go. So, that's a breakdown of the funding and our staffing.

We did receive a shot in the arm from the state. We lobbied for that and got a \$420,000 appropriation which covered our costs for this year and for next year. And we reduced our ask from our users, proportionately. In most years Grant County paid \$75,000; this year they paid \$10,000. Next year, our expectation is that they'll pay \$10,000; so that was a cost savings, because they didn't incur those additional expenses. John Day this year paid \$18,000. That's what we're budgeting to pay next year. Blue Mountain Hospital, we dropped them to \$10,000; they had paid \$14,000 the year prior and that's our expectation for next year. We've effectively given some money back, because of that state appropriation, but we need to plan for the future. This coming year is the last year. What we've got to figure out is: where are we going and how do we plan for that transition, so that we have enough funding in reserve to make that transition as seamless as we can. Part of the condition of us getting the state funding was that we submit a local option ballot measure to our voters. It was a difficult process. Some thought it was premature; it might have been, but we wanted to meet the intent of the request from the state. The results, at the end of the day were I think 46 to 54 (*percent*). It showed, though, there was certainly interest as a local service but not a majority. At the end of that ballot measure, the John Day City Council had a unanimous motion to discontinue providing 911 as a service of the City of John Day, at the end of the state appropriation. That's June of next year, June of 2019. We have three options that we're presenting tonight. These were developed by the 911 Task Force. The purpose of the 911 Task Force was simply to vet options to present to you; it was not to make decisions.

Steve Schuette: Could you identify the task force?

Nick Green: Yeah, Judge Myers; myself; Valerie Maynard; Ron Smith, representing the Grant County Fire Defense Board; Roy Walker, representing the Forest Service; and I know I'm missing someone.

Valerie Maynard: Derek.

Nicholas Green: Who?

Valerie Maynard: Derek.

Nick Green: Derek Daly and Rebekah Rand, representing the hospital and EMS.

Steve Schuette: Thank you.

Nick Green: We've vetted the options. What we're trying to present tonight is the best information we can about each of them. None are complete, but our hope is that by the end of the night we'll have at least a sense from you, as users, about what your feelings are and what your recommendation is, of the three options. To help you do that and think through that, we've created some evaluation criteria. These are things that we were thinking about as we researched the options. Those five things are listed and we've provided you with a sheet, which you're welcome to use to take notes on. This is the matrix, the five options or criteria that we think were important; this is not intended to be an all-inclusive list.

- The cost of the service today and in the future: Again, think of this as a 30-year investment, what does it cost us now and what does it cost us 20 years from now?
- The level of control we have over: the cost, the service, and decision making authority.
- The quality of service, trying to anticipate that to the best we can.
- Responsiveness, communications, all of those types of things.
- Economic cost benefit: We received, by having a 9-1-1 Center, a significant amount of state shared revenue, \$274,000 in FY '17. That's much more than we would receive if it were done per capita. For the smaller counties, we get one percent under state law. That one percent, that \$270,000 covers about sixty-five percent. Of our current cost of the five and a half full time positions, that's about three jobs that are paid for by the state. We pick up the others. We're talking about five and a half positions, jobs, in Grant County. There's a cost benefit to consider.
- Then, fairness: As you look at the cost appropriation, is it fair to you as a user, as a city, as the county? That's an important criterion because we don't want people to feel like they're being forced into a bad decision or a financial situation that's not tenable for them.

Those are the criteria. I've gotten a bit longwinded, but fortunately we're at the end of that topic.

Steve Schuette: OK. Next, we would welcome a presentation from Frontier Regional 9-1-1 Dispatch proposal.

Sheriff Chris Humphreys: Thank you. I'm Chris Humphreys, the sheriff of Wheeler County, just next door. I'm here representing Frontier Regional 9-1-1, which is a regional dispatch made up of Wheeler, Sherman, Gilliam, and Jefferson County dispatches, for all the entities in that geographic area.

I came because Mr. Green here asked for an RFP. We put together a working group at that request. Just so you know, the reason I'm chairman, I missed a meeting, you know how that happens when people got nominated, and so the last couple of years I've been chairman of the board. Frontier 9-1-1 is set up as a 190 organization. Our board meets quarterly; sometimes more

if we need to, if there's expansion projects. There's currently eleven dispatchers, plus a manager and supervisor. To be fully staffed at thirteen, they are hiring two more. In fact, I just came from that budget meeting today. It came about years ago because three small county sheriffs realized they had some untapped 9-1-1 fees, back in 2000, and realized their buying power was such that they built this interesting organization, where it's a regional dispatch. Then, together, they built another 190, which is Frontier TeleNet, which helped lay the groundwork for this system. When I look back, and I wasn't even involved with anything then, I was a police officer down in Portland, when this was all going on. What they did, back in the flush years, when those 9-1-1 dollars were coming in strong, is they put together a system that, I can tell you as far as the 700 in the UHF, VHF goes, it is literally described as a Cadillac system. They work in contract, hand in hand, with Day Wireless. Ryan LeBlanc, here, is the head of that show and he can answer any kind of technical questions a lot better than I can as the guy that wasn't there when I got nominated. I also want to say, I feel for you guys struggling over this issue about jobs, about local dispatch. I have worked under a regional dispatch for most of my career. Primarily, the stuff on the West Side as a regional dispatch, when you look at it from BOAC to C-COM to some of these others, and then coming to Wheeler County. I know people ask my opinion all the time, regional versus local? I've been lucky enough to work with police all over the US and in fact around the world, so I do have a taste of what you're looking at with a local dispatch. My heart does go out to you.

I'm here with just the numbers that the working group put together. We submitted it last week. Again, this is a soft opener. Obviously, there are a lot of details to get down into. When we really looked at it and the people much smarter than me got down to it, Frontier Regional can dispatch for the price \$300,000. There is a \$125,000 hook up fee; we're willing to pay for half of that off the top. We would also finance the other half, over the life of a six-year contract; the working group felt that the six-year contract was in the best interest. It would be a zero percent finance, so that would add another around \$10,000 to that fixed price. Again, I think it's there, I think it's been handed out. Yeah, it's \$126,500 for the connection. Other items, again we know we would offer priority hiring. We figured it would add about three more positions to dispatch, to dispatch for the numbers you guys generate. Again, priority hiring to anybody who is willing to come over. Jefferson County did this several years ago, about five years ago. They worked through some stuff there with hiring some of the dispatchers out of Madras when they took that over.

Richard Gray: Sheriff Humphreys, the three additional employees, does that include the two that you're looking to hire right now?

Chris Humphreys: No, that's three on top. As Nick said, the OEM funding situation as far as the 9-1-1 dollars being somewhat in flux, we would want to have that discussion. You need contractual language about any adjustments. Having said that, we did the same thing with Jefferson County; we did a look back on them. There's been zero price increase on them for six years. The way this thing's been set up and the way that the money's been managed, to be honest, again, coming from that budget meeting today, we're very confident we can do it for this price. We're very confident that, barring any major change in 9-1-1 from OEM, which could happen, that we can keep that solidified somewhere near that. Now, if we had any discussion again, that would be for our legal counsel and your representatives as far as some sort of variable and to possibly look back on a percentage rate. That's my soft open. Any questions, of me, about this? What it's like on a regional...

Male Participant: Where is the physical location of dispatch going to be with the jobs?

Chris Humphreys: It's in Condon. Again, wanting to help out, I've had some people call and say, "Why does Frontier want to take over?"; Frontier doesn't want to take over anything. I'll be honest. I'm a neighbor. I come across the line. You guys help out. We just want to be an option there to help you guys. Renee Heidi, who's the manager of Frontier said, if there were dispatchers that were wanting to transition--come work, she would build a three-day straight schedule if she could. I think it was last year, we were looking to buying a house for some of the dispatchers that were coming from Madras. We didn't do that because they went ahead and bought one themselves. Yeah, it's in Condon.

Valerie Maynard: Who besides April came from Madras? I've thought none of them went.

Chris Humphreys: I don't know if Randy did or not. I'm not certain.

Bill Wilcox: Frontier Regional is a private...

Chris Humphreys: No, it's a public body.

Bill Wilcox: It's a public body, so what do the pay scale schedules function under, the state, PERS, that type of thing?

Chris Humphreys: No, Wheeler County is the fiduciary, the fiscal that they run through. They handle all the pay. Their retirement is a separate, bigger or better to PERS, but it's non-PERS. I can't remember who it is to be honest.

Glenn Palmer: How did you come up with six years risk on the contract?

Chris Humphreys: We wanted to be able to do several things. First off, three years actually comes pretty quick. That was one number that was thrown out. Then, working in the finance for the connectivity we figured six years, at \$10,000 a year, was a lot easier to manage.

Valerie Maynard: Can you explain the connectivity, what you need to do?

Chris Humphreys: [laughs] He can.

[laughter]

[crosstalk]

Ryan LeBlanc: No, no.

Male Participant: I'll make it brief; I'll try not to get too much in the weeds. I'm Ryan. Frontier TeleNet, which is a partner--I'm not sure how you technically call it--to Frontier Regional has microwave connectivity coming into John Day up on Eagle Peak, just above the airport. The proposed connection fee would be to connect your radio system, that all of you guys use to talk to dispatch, back to Condon. That needs a circuit and a path to connect, actually to their switch. Also, they have a Motorola switch, which is housed in Sherman County, that dispatch uses. It's the brain, basically, that makes everything work. So, your radio system would have to talk back to that. It would process it and send it to dispatch. It's the equipment needed to make that

connect. Whenever we do public safety communications, we want redundant paths. I think in that letter there's a mention of a fiber circuit coming out of John Day, which would be a second path; in case one fails, the other one takes over immediately and automatically.

Steve Schuette: All of the equipment that's at the John Day office now would have to stay there? The radio equipment?

Ryan LeBlanc: That equipment, you guys could do with as you please. It's not part of the plan to connect. You guys have infrastructure on the hilltops, your repeaters, and stuff; that all has to stay, that's your radio infrastructure. What we are proposing to connect Frontier TeleNet into is radio equipment which would talk to your existing high-site equipment.

Richard Gray: All the current repeaters that are in the county are going to be able to talk to each other, to you guys...

[crosstalk]

Ryan LeBlanc: Yeah, that's unchanged. We designed the system to talk to your existing...A few weeks, maybe a couple months ago, another Day Wireless technician came out and did an audit to see what you guys had. We designed the connection package to talk to your existing system, so there's no upgrades needed to that.

Male Participant: Sheriff Humphreys, is your equipment there, is it kind of next generation? I've heard that term before.

Chris Humphreys: Everybody's leaning forward on that next-gen capability, so we've already taken some steps. I'm not sure what Renee has gotten moving towards that but I know that, according to her, we are as forward into that as you can get. Today, we budgeted for an \$80,000 upgrade on some sort of new medical procedure push-button...It's a constant kind of flowing thing. I know, according to Day Wireless and Motorola, for our area, we can't get better than...

[crosstalk]

Male Participant: The radio system is state of the art and kept up to date; every two years, it's brought to the latest release. Maybe the next generation you're talking to is text-to-911 stuff and all that. Dispatch is definitely doing that. It's part of a pilot program. I'm not sure what Renee's plans are long-term for that.

Chris Humphreys: We have the text-to-911, or it's kicked in.

Male Participant: That's what I've understood that's the next generation.

Valerie Maynard: Which, we also have tested. We're not live and I think you guys went live, but yeah.

Steve Schuette: If we went with you, would someone from our user area be on the board?

Chris Humphreys: It was decided several years ago by the board to add no more actual voting members but in this discussion, some sort of ex officio representative from your user group to sit on the board, as a non-voting member, was discussed.

Nick Green: If I could, I want to clarify our understanding of the law. It would require approval of the board for us to leave at some point in the future, but we would not be one of those votes. Is that accurate...?

Chris Humphreys: Not necessarily. The way it was discussed is, it's just contract, just like what we're doing with Burns Paiute. We're also dispatching for Burns Paiute tribe. It's on a contract. They can step out. [crosstalk] -They decided on a weird number. In fact, we were talking about it today, but they have 160 days in which to terminate.

Valerie Maynard: Actually, though, when you're taken under a new jurisdiction, you do have to have every user agency vote into that. That is in the state law.

Chris Humphreys: That's within the jurisdiction?

Valerie Maynard: Within the jurisdiction. So if you took us on, we would, then, become part of your jurisdiction. Is that not true?

Chris Humphreys: Yeah, if we get your PSAP fees.

Valerie Maynard: Right, so then, it would take everybody's vote within that new jurisdiction. That would include the existing four counties vote to let us leave.

Chris Humphreys: That, I don't know. I don't necessarily know how that would work.

Valerie Maynard: That's actually happened, just this last year, over in Junction City, where they wanted to, then, pull away and everybody else voted they didn't want that to happen, so they didn't allow it. That, actually, went to a DOJ decision.

Chris Humphreys: Was that some sort of IGA that they created as far as representative...?

Valerie Maynard: They were under a new jurisdiction of the PSAP that they went on board with, but then they decided they wanted to come back away and they weren't allowed to do so.

Male Participant: Didn't you say that this would be a contractual type of agreement like the six-year...

[crosstalk]

Chris Humphreys: That's what we're looking at, which we just did, as I said, with Burns Paiute.

Georgia Patterson: The contract would last for how long?

Chris Humphreys: Six years.

Georgia Patterson: Then, at the end of that, you'd renew the contract and re-negotiate costs and everything?

Chris Humphreys: Yep.

Male Participant(Josh Walker?): How is the board structured? Is it a representative from however many counties that are in there?

Chris Humphreys: Yeah, there's voting members from Wheeler, Jefferson, Sherman, and Gilliam.

Glenn Palmer: I have a question for the gentleman from Day Wireless. You said something about you did a survey or a study within the last three or four months. Is that right?

Ryan LeBlanc: Yeah.

Glenn Palmer: Is there any of our radio infrastructure that is not compatible or getting close to a date that it's not going to be compatible or something that we might have to spend a lot of money to upgrade...?

[crosstalk]

Ryan LeBlanc: I think that the point on that is, you do have a lot of older equipment. Fortunately, the end-of-life for that equipment is a decision for you to make locally. You do not have to upgrade in order to connect to Frontier. You won't have to upgrade to stay connected to Frontier. It would be, if the equipment you have is past the manufacturer's end-of-life and you decide, it's 20 years old and it's not supported anymore, that's just an internal decision for you to make. The analog, digital, VHF, conventional trunking and all that stuff, what you have today will continue to work as far as we can see through the life of the six-year contract if not further than that. I don't see any reason why that would change.

Glenn Palmer: Okay, thank you.

Valerie Maynard: That brings up another question from me. Sorry. I seem to be the one with all of them. You're connecting into the existing infrastructure here within our county, is that right? So we keep out all of our radio repeaters and that in place.

Male Participant: That's right.

Valerie Maynard: We currently have, unfortunately, because we don't have the system that you do, we have failures in our paging from the repeaters...

[coughing]

Valerie Maynard: ...out. We have to rely on phone calls and contact lists for agencies, many times, to contact them. What do you guys currently do for Frontier? Would you provide that detailed service?

Chris Humphreys: Yeah, they're making phone calls all the time, going down lists. We have several rural fire in several counties. They do have the radio pagers but there's a lot of times

where they're just out where it's not going to reach them. Especially, in Wheeler County and parts of Jefferson County because of the geography there's a lot of dead spots. Dispatch does go down call trees. What they'd like to do, hopefully, is have a primary person that they can get a hold of that will, then, do that on their own.

Valerie Maynard: What process is in place to keep those updated where you're dealing with so many counties?

Chris Humphreys: It's on those user agencies. We do it quite often. Update when we get new volunteers, search and rescue changes, stuff like that. Todd, did you have a question?

Todd McKinley: No. I was just going to point out that with the microwave already up at Eagle Peak that is the primary transmission site for everything. You wouldn't even need to go into dispatch at all. You could just...

[crosstalk]

Ryan LeBlanc: Yeah, our plan was to not touch dispatch.

Todd McKinley: You would have to go there. It would eliminate all those links.

Valerie Maynard: Right, but not out to the repeaters and then, from there?

Todd McKinley: No, the transmission side at Eagle Peak. Yeah, if there was something else that went down. I see what you're saying but it would eliminate a whole bunch of that other.

Valerie Maynard: Isn't that already in place? I know you said you have to put the lines in, but I thought you already had connectivity completely?

Ryan LeBlanc: There's network connectivity to Eagle Peak. There's no radio system connectivity. What we provide is bandwidth Internet for the schools, for some businesses in town and all that. That's what Frontier provides into this area right now. You guys are talking about needing radio system connectivity...

[crosstalk]

Valerie Maynard: Is that just, then, equipment on existing...I'm not an IT person at all.

Male Participant: It's a bunch of equipment that we'd hang up on the tower there at Eagle that would connect to your radios, your system that you already have here. Basically, think of it like a listening post for Condon to your radio system to get all that traffic to go back into Condon.

Todd McKinley: Through microwave and not through VHF or UHF or any of that.

Ron Smith: How long have you guys been in business now?

Ryan LeBlanc: Day Wireless?

Ron Smith: No, Frontier.

Chris Humphreys: I believe, 15 years, I think.

Ron Smith: What is your dependability? What percentage of the time are you up running? You hear about somebody digging a ditch in Montana. They cut a line and we go dead here.

Chris Humphreys: I found out the other day that all the Internet goes through Pittock Mansion in Portland or something like that. That was just so odd. Again, Wheeler County is a good case study as far as regional goes because our geography is similar, with high timber, low lands of the river, stuff like that. We joke about Gilliam County; Search and Rescue is just a ladder. They just climb on so... I've been sheriff now for five years. There's only been, I think, three times that the system shut down. One that was relatively serious but that was early on. Then, the other two, that I can recall, were real quick and they knew it was coming. I got a call saying, "The radio, basically the repeater **Rancheria**, is going to shut down," because of, I think the last one was because of a battery backup but I had two hours to lean into that. They already had a tech on the way and it, literally, I think it was down for about 30 minutes. However, there's a major system upgrade that's occurring. So now **Rancheria** is not going to be a single failure-point for us anymore as part of a microwave-to-broadband situation. We'll have, I think, similar to what you're talking about here, with the dual-fiber and microwave redundancy. Technically, knock on [knocks table] fake wood, we won't have much of that.

Male Participant: Is that your backup PSAP, Chris.

Chris Humphreys: I think they shadow Crook County, I believe.

[crosstalk]

Male Participant: Yeah, they tend to do a lot with Day.

[crosstalk]

Male Participant: April in Crook county, we're totally in cahoots. Yeah?

Rob Stewart: Sir, 9-1-1 tax, 35 percent of that goes for infrastructure. It's set aside. Could Frontier equipment tap into that to reduce the cost of installation?

Valerie Maynard: No.

Chris Humphreys: I don't think so. That stuff gets really weird, where they can pay for half of this and a quarter of that and cover all of pagers. I am not the expert to answer that. I imagine you would be but I...

[crosstalk]

Valerie Maynard: The 35 percent is...

[crosstalk]

Male Participant: I would ask the state instead of a dispatch center?

Chris Humphreys: I think there's a lot of people asking the state all kinds of stuff right now. [laughs]

Valerie Maynard: They're just not part of the distribution. They don't allow you, your hands on those funds at all.

Chris Humphreys: Any other questions?

Valerie Maynard: Currently, the center takes care of the PD phones and sheriff's office phones and extra services. What level of service are you going to provide with this contract?

Chris Humphreys: The dispatch. They also serve as a 24-hour for LEDS warrant entry. There is a non-emergency line but as far as a primary line, they don't do that. However, for example, we're, technically, a four-person sheriff's office now. There's a lot of times there's nobody in the office. Our call load is slightly lower than the Grant County sheriff's office here. If somebody can't reach us, they dial the non-emergency number. I get a call-back request. I don't know if you guys use active 911 to your phones; they do that, also. If you've got one of these stupid smartphones, we get a hit on that. Plus, we operate digital and UHF/VHF over in Wheeler County, so there's two lines that they try and get a hold of us there. I'm just going to say it. To my own fault, I'm a straight shooter. I've lived and worked with the dispatch centers. They're dispatching out of a PD or a sheriff's office where they're answering phones and they're doing a lot of stuff. I worked, obviously, with a regional dispatch, which is completely disassociated from anybody else and they're just dispatching. It's very effective; I don't have any complaints. I have been there where it's like, we're calling the dispatcher and we know that they're checking somebody in at the front door or something like that after hours. Versus there, you were asking, how do they do the call tree? You can hear, we had a pretty serious attempted suicide by cop the other night. It was very, one of those. Pulled the dispatch tapes for court and you can hear, and this is one of the things you have to explain to the jury, but you're hearing the dispatcher because all the bells are going off. The dispatcher is telling the other dispatchers, "I need you to call this person. I need you to call that person." Of course, they're still on the mic to the caller, to the woman who was hiding in a chicken coop at the time. They have a lot of assets to play with. It's just one of those things; it's almost, sometimes, like comparing apples and oranges. Where you do lose the ability, in certain respects, of that dispatcher knows that so-and-so is at the Shell station because they're local, but what I found is our dispatchers get clued in pretty quick. I have had several people, I don't know because they were just phone calls to me, saying you lose a tactical advantage when you don't have a local dispatcher. Sometimes, yes, but again, I'm one of those that I know the firefighters, the police, the EMTs. Once I get boots on the ground, they're the ones that run that. I haven't seen that degradation, necessarily, in service from a regional dispatch.

Valerie Maynard: I'd like to say I have the utmost respect for your dispatchers. They're phenomenal. I do believe you can put too much on one person, but for Renee and the team.

Chris Humphreys: Thank you.

Glenn Palmer: Chris, is Frontier, is it anywhere close to 211?

Chris Humphreys: I don't know. Anything else? For Ryan?

Steve Schuette: No other questions?

Nick Green: Thank you, Chris.

Group: Thank you, Chris. And Ryan.

Steve Schuette: We'll move on to presentation of local cost-sharing agreement, Grant County or Grant county consolidation option, whichever one you want to do next.

Nick Green: This is a bad analogy but I'm going to use it because it's effective. We're trying to figure out how to split the baby. How do you divide this thing up, so you don't put it up for adoption? Maybe we can't, but what we've explored are various cost models for dividing this cost and trying to spread it around between user agencies, established governments, recognizing that most of what we see are fixed costs. What I mean by that is whether we have 15,000 calls or one call, the cost doesn't change. Does that make sense? We're going to pay for five and a half dispatchers because we have to cover the clock 24/7. Call volumes can fluctuate up and down from year to year. The cost is based on our personnel sitting there, 24-hours a day, seven days a week. We're not at the point where the call volume is so high that we have to hire additional dispatchers to take more calls and we probably never will be. The good news is we have predictable cost escalation and we can budget for that. Whether the cost volume increases or decreases in the future doesn't really matter because the cost is going to go where it's going to go. The question is, how do you divide that fixed cost equitably among the users so that we pay a fair rate? We pay a rate that each agency can actually afford without breaking the bank or breaking the tax base. There's different ways to look at that. One way to look at it is, can we survive for four more years and see what the new 9-1-1 tax looks like? The other is that 30-year perspective. How do we make this fair across the board so that it's adaptable? The 9-1-1 task force has looked at four different cost models. The first was a purely per capita model, meaning we didn't charge users anything. We just took the population of the incorporated cities and the unincorporated county. We figured out what that percentage looks like, and then we divided the cost deficit based on that percentage. So, that was one approach. We presented that about a month-and-a-half ago. The users say, "We wanna see a different option. We wanna see what other centers are doing besides this pure per-capita model." Valerie and I did some research. We looked at a model used in Umatilla. Theirs is a little bit different, but we're calling that the hybrid model. Basically, the way they do it is they negotiated a fixed price per call for their fire departments and their special districts. That was just a negotiated rate; they picked up price per call that everyone agreed to, and that covered a percentage of the cost. The rest of the cost went to incorporated cities and the counties. They didn't distribute it by population, they distribute it by the underlying tax base. The idea in the Umatilla model is if you have a really big tax base, because you have more valuable property, then you have a bigger general fund. That general fund is funded largely through property tax. Your ability to pay is reflected in the tax base and not necessarily in the number of people that live in your city or in your county. Under the hybrid model, they looked at a percentage of the tax base; they used that to distribute the balance of the cost. We took that model and we tweaked it. We said, "Why don't we set a low rate for users?" and we picked \$10 a call. Then we recognized that hospital calls and calls to the Ambulance tend to be a lot more involved than dispatching to a fire or a PD. Calls to EMS and Ambulance can last for hours and, in some cases, an entire day, depending on what's happening. They may be leading people through CPR. They may be on the phone guiding someone as they're trying to

resuscitate a loved one. It's a lot more involved than some of the other calls, so we, as a taskforce, decided on: \$25 per call, for ambulance and EMS; \$10 for the firefighters and the other users and law enforcement agencies. Then, we took the balance and we distributed it based on the underlying tax base. That's what we're calling the hybrid model. The other tweak we made to that, that is not used in Umatilla, is we created a five-year rolling average, to try and normalize swings in call volume for the users. Instead of looking at 2017, which was a busy year for most users but a low year for fire, and you look at a year like 2015, which was a big year for fire; a five-year average takes whatever your call volume is over a five-year period, comes up with an average, and that's the price you would pay. Then every five years, that average is updated. That's the conceptual basis for the hybrid model. Then, we looked at a pure user play. Take the cities and the county out of the equation, just charge users based on call volume; that one was, honestly, quite frightening. The cost per user is much higher. Because the county and John Day police departments are big users, it places a significant cost on those two agencies to do it per user. I tried to provide details of each cost model. There's a lot of numbers in here; I can go through the numbers if you want me to. The task force zeroed in on that hybrid model as the one that looked to us to be the most fair.

Male Participant: Did you give us a copy of the user one?

Nick Green: I didn't put a copy of the user one, but the 2017 call volume is there. If you were to take that 2017 call volume and multiply your number of calls by \$27, that's about what it is. The reason that 27...

Male Participant: You're going by calls? You're not going by actual use? You're just going by 9-1-1 calls?

Male Participant: Dolly, was it 9-1-1 or CAD?

Valerie Maynard: Calls for service.

Nick Green: Calls for service.

Valerie Maynard: Home calls for service as well...

[crosstalk]

Male Participant: Not actually use throughout the day of other uses, just calls for service?

Nick Green: We're trying to stick with things we can quantify.

Male Participant: Oh yeah, but we've got apples and oranges. We've got use and use.

[pause]

Nick Green: So, what are your thoughts? I can talk you through each model and the specific costs if you like. Under the hybrid model at \$10 a call per user, the largest burden without a doubt falls on the county, because the county's tax base is five times larger than John Day's, and John Day's tax base is five times larger than Mount Vernon's, we pay a much larger cost than the

small cities, and the county pays a much higher cost than we would. Again, it reflects the underlying tax base. So, the theory is that's also your ability to bear that additional cost.

Richard Gray: Excuse me Nick. Adding the county and the sheriff's office together, 58 percent ultimately, and 22 percent for John Day, and then the police department also kicks in, if you're looking at those two cost shares, adding the percentages together. Is that correct?

Nick Green: I think what Richard's saying is, for example, the City of John Day, because we pay for police out of our general fund and our property tax goes into our general fund, our total cost out of our general fund is higher than what you see, because we're not aggregating across those departments. I don't know if I put that total cost in this memo or not. Have I thoroughly confused everyone in the room?

Male Participant: The hybrid cost model, is that if we stay here, or is that if we go with Frontier?

Nick Green: We're going to need some kind of cost-sharing agreement to go to Frontier, because there's still a cost, but it's \$30,000.

Male Participant: It's based on the population of the county. That's \$4 for every man, woman, and child.

Nick Green: It's low. It's a very cost-competitive proposal. Even charging \$10 per call to users would exceed that \$30,000. We would need to figure out how to pay that \$30,000 if it went away, but to answer your question, this is if it were to stay local. These are the local cost options we've come up with. We can tweak and refine and twist and turn these; there may be other variants that we haven't explored. What we're trying to do is zero in on...There's going to be a cost, to keep it local, if you want to keep it local. The hybrid model, right now, is the best one we've come up with, we're open to other ideas.

Male Participant: The County judge, Scott Myers, how would you guys collect the \$87,000 due from you? What's the mechanism there for the county and/or the cities to collect this money?

Scott Myers: We collect taxes now. We've been paying somewhere between 45 *thousand* and 60 for the last dozen years or so, I think, for 9-1-1. So, we've been collecting and paying it out of the general fund all this time.

[crosstalk]

Male Participant: Without a vote of the citizens, you'd just put a add-on on their property taxes?

Todd McKinley: No, [crosstalk] it's a budgeted cost out of your taxes you already collect.

Scott Myers: Unless we float a bond, we couldn't just accelerate people's tax payment. It would just [inaudible 59:47] .

Nick Green: This hybrid model, all the local cost options are out of hide, meaning you're dipping into existing tax base, your existing general funds, or your existing budget, if you're a tax district, to pay your share of this cost.

Male Participant: The counties are satisfied, but that's not decreased by any of the cities that may be providing the same service that the counties are providing too.

Nick Green: This is the way the tax assessor does it. This is inclusive of the cities.

Male Participant: That includes the city. It doesn't subtract it then.

Nick Green: No, an assessor doesn't subtract it. The county taxes are added...

Male Participant: No, I meant if you did.

Nick Green: No, I did not. No, I took it right off of the tax statements that's sent to every single city in the county.

Todd McKinley: Nick, are these three models set around the fact that the city would remain the fiduciary? Or, is this creating a new user or doing the user board again, starting over, because the city has said they're done? Is this starting over with a board that's going to oversee this? What are we talking? *[Pause]* I like your smile; give me an answer.

Nick Green: Look, we're out of the 9-1-1 business.

Todd McKinley: Okay, so you're done.

Nick Green: We're done. That was my recommendation to the council. If we listen to the voters, a lot of the feedback during the ballot measure was, "Why is John Day running this?" We're running it because 30 years ago we said we would.

Bill Wilcox: You made money then.

Nick Green: 30 years ago, we did. The last 20 we haven't, and the last five we lost our shirts. So I think, for several reasons, this needs to be either an independent agency or a department of the county. It needs to represent everybody. I think there's a perception that it doesn't. We try to avoid that; we try to be fair to everyone. The fact that it's co-located with the John Day Police Department in John Day City Hall... So, I think it needs to be either an independent agency just like Frontier has done; you create a new ORS 190. You appoint a board of directors or you have a user board; they collectively make the decisions. Or if the county's willing to assume it is a department of the county, it is a county-wide service.

Bill Wilcox: I think that every entity relies on it, is going to use it, and should pay for it. It should be divided up across the board to every place that's using it, which is everywhere. It shouldn't be paid by one entity.

Kenny Delano: I have a question. Does this cost model include any capital outlay or is that something that needs to be added in and aggregated out somehow over a period of time? Where

would that capital outlay money come from? The City of Mount Vernon, we don't have any capital outlay money to put towards something like this.

Nick Green: It's a great question. Right now, we don't have a capital outlay budget. We have \$67,000 in that line item. That's the entirety of our capital budget. That was money that we put in a year ago. If we for example wanted to put a capital outlay for things like computer-aided dispatch and the LEDs and the generators and things like that; that's not included in this cost, it would have to be added. If we wanted to build a reserve fund and I'll say, if it's five percent of operating expense, so that there's a little bit of a reserve if you need it, that's not in this cost model either. Those things would have to be part of that broader discussion if we make the decision to keep it local. How much do we want to shore it up between now and 2021? Then if the tax in '21 increases...The talk is it used to be 50 cents, now they think it's going to double. If it goes up to \$1.50 and we're running budget surpluses, how much of that would the agency retain for future reserve and how much would they lower user fees? That's a decision they'd have to make once that tax is adjusted. But that's a very good question and no, those costs are not shown here.

Don Porter: Nick, in the meetings that we've had prior to this, you'd mentioned that our call numbers alone can't justify some of these numbers. You said that at a couple of meetings that we had.

Nick Green: Our call numbers can't justify the cost?

Don Porter: If we stayed local. I thought that we had to do something then, like go to...We were thinking about Harney County.

Nick Green: Oh, I think the statement I made was that from a broader tax perspective, you want to maximize the efficiency of a public service. The quantity of our 9-1-1 calls, which we're averaging about one every two hours, is below the optimal efficiency or the maximum efficiency that you could attain which is two per hour. So, we don't see the call volume right now; we're operating below our maximum efficiency. If we were to combine with another dispatch center like Harney or Frontier for example, Frontier would have to hire people. We could merge with Harney and actually reduce staff. So, there's an economy of scale that we're not achieving because we have to staff it 24/7 and we don't have the call volume that would necessarily justify it. That's where the non-price factors come into play. Is it worth the extra cost for the quality of service that we currently have for the local jobs, for receiving the state shared revenue, some of those other non-price factors?

Bill Wilcox: The other factor that comes in then is if you're out of the 9-1-1 business, then the 9-1-1 is out of your business, meaning they're going to vacate the building and have to find another location.

Nick Green: Presumably, yeah. We're not trying to overcomplicate this discussion. I think the city would definitely work with the receiving agency to make sure that that's a smooth transition and it's deliberate. We're not going to kick them out on July 1st of 2019. If it stays local, we'll figure that out. At some point, we need to set this agency up if it stays local for success for the next 30 years.

Valerie Maynard: Can add to...If we don't make a decision or if you don't, the county, it's your decision, on a direction, I fully believe that you're not going to have staff to have that choice. This has been going on for a while. The city said, "You no longer have a job with us." They feel it directly. There's three of them in the room here right now. They can speak for themselves. I hear it daily. It's a matter of time before we don't have a staff, unless there's a decision, at least a direction. I understand that if we decide on a cost sharing, that takes more time to work out the bugs to see exactly what that's going to look like. I just want to make everybody really aware of how crucial a quick decision on a direction needs to be.

Todd McKinley: When is that? What are you looking for on the decision? Tonight? Or are you looking to set another meeting two weeks down the road so everybody can look at this, mull it over, and talk to each other and then come back?

Nick Green: We want you to make an informed decision. One thing I want to know tonight is have we given you enough information to do that? I don't know what more information I could come up with, but if there's some gap in what we've provided that you think is important to help you make a decision, tell me. Let us know that.

Male Participant: One thing. If we go with Frontier and a \$30,000 shortfall, how would that be.. like if from Monument or Long Creek and that?

Nick Green: I have thought about that. I've wrestled with it because if we took a hybrid model for example and we're trying to split \$30,000 in cost, is it meaningful to charge a dollar a call? Two dollars a call? I don't know that that makes sense. I think we probably have to agree on a fixed price because it's not worth our time to try and...It's going to take some time and some effort.

Valerie Maynard: I should have asked when you here, I forgot to, but it said that the county would still collect the ambulance fees and that to be used on our side. How do you do that when you don't have a center organization anymore?

Nick Green: I think what they trying to show, if you caught that detail, I think what they were trying to say is between the Hospital and the Forest Service, if they kept their payments where they're at currently, then the net cost would be \$10,000 split among the remaining 19 agencies. So we'd have to work it out, but it's really a very insignificant cost.

Todd McKinley: If we're still talking 30 years in the future and the radio issue came up, if there's a failure of a piece of equipment currently, the fireboard, if it's a fire radio the RF, the rural fireboards put together and buy that equipment, currently, historically. If a piece of equipment fails on the law enforcement side, the way it's set up currently, the county owns it all, and so therefore shoulders, currently, the complete cost of replacing any piece of equipment that fails. If there was a user board, you're going to have to put something in there for capital outlay for future updates, and I hear what he's saying. You don't have to replace it unless, you know, you feel like it. It's good for years. But lightning hits a tower, it fries the radio, the county eats it. I mean for everyone.

Male Participant: There's stuff in the budget on a lot of this that's already being worked on. I mean we're already talking about Long Creek. We're talking about Eagle Peak. We're talking about other ones.

Todd McKinley: Sure, but the county is shouldering the entire burden of that currently, that's serving everyone, is what I'm saying. If one of these hybrid models, it needs to be added in there, something for capital outlay to offset that, so everybody shares in that cost instead of just the county eating it because they are ultimately the owner, and the responsibility of the law enforcement frequency.

Male Participant(Josh Walker?): Who shoulders it if it goes to Frontier?

Todd McKinley: Still the county, because they own it, because you're not solving anything there other than they're just doing the call. If something fails, the county is still going to have to get somebody in there, unless you write something in the contract with Frontier, but then they're going to want the extra money. They're not going to do it for free...and it will happen.

Male Participant: It's a cost on both sides...

[crosstalk]

Male Participant: Then you have one repeater go down, and you got to go spend \$30,000 at one site, but that's what I'm saying. The county is going to have to have extra budget still on top of this just to pay for that.

Scott Myers: We talked about it today.

Male Participant: It really looks like even the hybrid cost model would almost need to be in place at that rate that's on the sheet here, even if we went to Frontier.

Nick Green: Some type of intergovernmental cost agreement has to be in place to shoulder the \$30,000 and some of the things that Todd's talking about. Whatever that model is that we agree on, it would just be reduced to match the funding requests versus the much higher amount that we would pay to keep it local.

Male Participant(Josh Walker?): Nick, are you gonna speak to the Grant-Harney Consolidation?

Nick Green: Yeah.

Glenn Palmer: Steve, if I could, I've got something that kind of rides on the coattails of what Kenny was saying and what Todd was saying. I think if we looked at the chapter 190 model, it would put us into a taxing district. Is that correct? No. So like the communication district is under something else?

Nick Green: That, ORS190 does not have to be a taxing district.

Todd McKinley: It can be.

Nick Green: It can be, but it doesn't have to be.

Glenn Palmer: That's why I've kind of wondered where the capital outlay stuff be coming because if we form a communications district similar to a hospital district or a cemetery district or a fire district. They would receive their own tax base, they would be run by a board of directors, and they could set their budgets up to where they can plan for that capital outlay and have a purse and an expenditure and revenue line. I don't know if that's something that Kenny was talking about, coming up with the capital outlay that he was talking about, saying Mount Vernon doesn't have the money. But if the county went entirely to a 9-1-1 taxing or communications district, the voters would have to vote that in. That would be a place where we could generate revenue and it'd be an extra tax on top of what people are already currently paying.

Nick Green: For what it's worth, because the vote was so close for the five-year option, I think if every agency was united and could make the case that that was necessary expenditure, it would probably be more palatable than the five-year local option levy. But, what we're discussing tonight, that is not one of the options the task force has vetted. We're not proposing to increase taxes or to change the way taxes are distributed at the point of collection. We're just talking about agreeing, amongst the existing agencies with their existing revenue, how do we divide these costs?

Valerie Maynard: But they could.

Nick Green: But they could and that would have to be referred by the County Court to the voters.

Male Participant: Along the lines of the taxes you mentioned earlier when the 9-1-1 sunsets tax in 2021, they were talking about doubling it. Is the distribution formula still gonna be the same?

Nick Green: We don't know.

Male Participant: So, basically, the tax can double but we can still get the same as we're getting now?

Nick Green: Part of that broader tax discussion is: they're going to bring in PERS reform; they're going to bring in property tax reform; they're going to talk about how much OEM needs to reserve for next gen 9-1-1 upgrades. So, no one knows at this point. There is a subcommittee that's formulating a tax proposal and that would most likely be introduced in the 2021 session, and they'll beat it up, and we'll see what gets spit out on the other end.

Derek Daly: Nick, so how would you recommend structuring the agreement in terms of years? Frontier talked about a six-year agreement, factoring and building up what you said if the 2021? That's a huge time. How would you factor in a recommended agreement for us as users, factoring in that major decision in three or four years?

Nick Green: I would structure it as a five-year agreement because in year five, that's the year we would receive the new tax. It doesn't happen on January 1st. There has to be quarterly collections and then a distribution, so I would structure it as a five-year agreement. In that fifth year, we would know what the law is and what the new receipts are projected to be, and then we

would be able to make another informed decision about how to restructure, if we chose to restructure; how much to keep in reserve; how much to reduce user fees, that sort of thing. Five years buys us the time we would need. I think that, I'm not going to speak for the City Council, but I think that John Day would be more than willing to work out a transition plan for the current location that aligns with that timeline, so that we're not creating more disruption to the dispatchers and to the service than we have to. To Valerie's point, if that's the decision we're going to make, then that needs to be made quickly. We have to negotiate with the union. The collective bargaining agreement ends in June of next year. So, we have to renegotiate with the union. We have to get an ORS 190 in place, get it vetted through each agency. It's got to go through legal review. We can't delay another nine months and then expect to transition in three.

Male Participant: You haven't run any figures by collaboration with Harney.

Nick Green: I'll talk briefly about the Harney County option. They are interested but they're not interested in coming here. They would be interested in receiving us, and depending on how that agreement is structured, we would basically break even on our state tax revenue with eight staff. Both centers currently have five and a half; one of ours is a police officer. We would potentially transitioned four and a half, if everyone went. They have five and a half, so we'd be pretty close. They're short a position or two, right now. A two-county option would net, both agencies, an additional two dispatchers and the cost would be zero. However, that's operating, right; they would have the same discussion about capital outlay and reserve funds. It might look pretty similar, from a cost perspective, to Frontier's proposal. Connectivity would be the same right now. If we were to do it, it would be exactly the same way that Day Wireless is going to do Frontier. It would be a microwave relay, today, within that five-year window, and probably within the next 24 months we will have a fiber optic line connecting the two counties. And then you would have direct fiber connectivity between the two centers.

Valerie Maynard: There is already connectivity, right, according to the Day Wireless?

Nick Green: Yeah, the same technical solution and likely the same costs.

[crosstalk]

Todd McKinley: It's still going to cost \$140,000 to hook up.

Nick Green: It's not local, it's local-ish because it would be out of Harney County. We'd probably waste a lot of time trying to convince them to come here and wouldn't get anywhere. I don't want to try that approach, but I think that could be an option now, and it would take us some time to vet that. That would require an intergovernmental agreement between the two counties but that's also an option.

Todd McKinley: Did you look at the local dollar value of keeping the jobs here versus outsourcing that?

Nick Green: Dollar value in terms of...?

Todd McKinley: What the income does for the community versus sending it out of area?

Nick Green: It's an extra \$270,000 in state income and however much of that is spent locally versus somewhere else. It's people in houses and families in the community and kids enrolled in the school district.

Bill Wilcox: Then if we did end up [inaudible 79:41] there would be a severance pay anyway, too.

Nick Green: Yeah, we need to shore up this department and try...I mean our discussion in our budget committee meeting is going to be: how much can we offer them to remain until June of next year so that we don't have, like Valerie was describing, an exodus of people who need to take care of their families. Then, we're out of options and we're stuck operating with a light crew or we simply can't operate because we can't cover the clock. So, I think with that said, what we wanted to do was just go around the room and have each person provide their input on what you've heard tonight.

Steve Schuette: You have the names.

Male Participant: While you do that, is Harney County willing to give us like Frontier is willing to give us half or...

Nick Green: We haven't gotten to that level of detail. I'm assuming we would split all those costs 50/50. I mean that was kind of we're in proposition. It's a two-county partnership versus being a sort of a customer relationship like we would have with Frontier.

Male Participant: And we would have a vote in that organization.

Nick Green: Yeah, well, it's a partnership.

Male Participant: Sure.

Nick Green: We have 50 percent of the equity, 50 percent of the decision...

Male Participant: So why is the special district not on the table?

Nick Green: It could be on the table. I don't know that we have time. And really that's a question for the county if they'd be willing to refer that to the voters. It takes time to put a ballot measure together.

Glenn Palmer: It'll probably take three or four years to get any money built into it.

Nick Green: That's partly the reason. And we tried the democratic process in November. It didn't work, so we're trying to...

Male Participant: That was kind of a half ass process, in my opinion.

Valerie Maynard: If you decided on a local cost share and you wanted to work toward that, that's everybody's decision, it's not something that would be dead on the table.

Male Participant: Yeah, that would be one way to keep them local. Everybody pays for it. It keeps everything here.

Todd McKinley: The local cost-sharing would buy us the time to get there, if we did that, to get us to that point to do a ballot and all that.

Nick Green: I don't want to speak out of turn. In five years, that may not even be a necessary tax base, but it may be necessary in 10 or 15.

Male Participant: You still need to have the district, so it doesn't necessarily mean it'll be collecting a tax off the people, but it'll still have the boundaries, the user board, all of that stuff, in place. If, in fact, we get this problem again, then it'll be simple to add a tax to that to cover the costs.

Nick Green: That's a good point. It's definitely an option and then the board members would be elected, rather than appointed. Do you just want me to go down the list? The City of John Day is at the top of it.

Steve Schuette: I can't speak for our council, but my feeling is I'd like to spread it out amongst all of the users and keep it local. Five jobs for this county right now is important. We're losing too many people now. Six years from now, if something goes haywire and we go with Frontier or Harney County, I don't know how we'd go back to having our little dispatch; I don't think you can.

Male Participant: [off-mic comment]

Male Participant: If we ship it out, it's gone. Our local dispatch knows the area, they know the people; I think that's a big plus. When you get a 9-1-1 call, they call in and say, "We got a rollover at Mill corner," or at some other place, Frontier's not going to know where that's at. Harney County's not going to know where that's at. Our local dispatch does, so I would like to see it kept local.

Nick Green: John Day fire.

Ron Smith: I think I echo the same thing; we should be local. We just need to come up with that plan to share that expense by everybody rather than have the city, at some point, that income and expense level lines are going across, and at that point, we're done. I would rather have a year, two years, to figure this out and get it going than to just, one day, say, "We shut down dispatch last night at midnight and we have nothing." We're here to serve the taxpayers and even though the taxpayers voted no, I think that we still have some obligation to make sure that this system is the best it can be. If it costs a few bucks to do it, it's the cost of doing business. We can't control some of those things that happen. Just like our revenues coming in from the state. It went down for seven years, I believe you said, Nick, or five years.

Nick Green: Seven.

Ron Smith: How can they not address those things? Is there a lump of money waiting there? That they're going to say, "We underpaid you for five years. Here's the money that we shorted you." Who knows? I seriously doubt it. I think we just need to all work together for the best of this county and do what we can do here. I don't want to rely on dispatchers somewhere else that have no clue what's going on. If I need something done, at a local level here, I can call dispatch

and they take care of it. I'm not going to call Condon and have them make phone calls in the middle of the night and stuff for me. They're just not going to do it.

Nick Green: Thank you. John Day rural fire.

Bill Wilcox: There's a lot of things, for me personally, said tonight that I really didn't know much about because I never had my head into this kind of thing before; just never had to fuss with it but I do like the idea of keeping it local, if we can afford it. I like to wonder what the whole county and the people would think about the difference between a \$10 call and a \$1 call. The difference in cost is amazing, between contracting it and using it our self. We haven't really talked much about the overall infrastructure of the building and who we're going to be. All of that is going to be more expense, that we didn't even talk about tonight. I think the cost of keeping it local if we really want it, we better believe in it because it's going to cost us quite a bit more than what I heard these guys talking about tonight. That's caused me to open my eyes up a little more in that I have always had in my head, we're going to keep it local. They're going to know the area. They know this and it's personal. Ron says this stuff, just now. I like what he said about how he uses it but you do have to look at the practicality of our little...We're not getting bigger here. [laughs] We've gotten smaller over the years since I came here in '76. We got a lot smaller. Our properties have not gotten more valuable, really. The tax base is flat. So I think we need some time to think about this for sure; I can't say tonight, just how I want to go with it as the rural. I want Todd here to speak, too, as another person on our board, he might have a little different thought or twist on it than what I just said. I think we need a little more time to ponder it and view all of this.

Todd McKinley: I said most of my peace already, my thoughts. I'd love to see it stay local. I hate to see the county keep outsourcing jobs. I hate that, but I also understand the fiscal end of it and would love to see it stay here. It is going to be a financial obligation. I hate seeing the county have to shoulder, still, if we leave, the majority of the equipment cost; to me, that's not viable. There's got to be a different option. I love Jeremy's idea that's been out...the district, if we do a district but that takes time. That's it.

Nick Green: John Day Police.

Richard Gray: I would like to see it stay local. I think keeping as many people in this county is a benefit. All the agencies work good together, as far as the dispatch centers go.

Nick Green: Thank you. Judge Myers, County.

Scott Myers: I'm not sure local pencils out but, in my opinion, if the county could invest \$20 or \$30,000 in and go with Frontier, we would be more than willing to do that. I would hate to sacrifice local jobs that they are ready to absorb us. Before we know it, we're going to be ready to go there so something needs to happen really quick if we're going to do something different. I don't know how strong an initiative or referendum to voters but [inaudible 90:07] accept it, be received...

[crosstalk]

Nick Green: County sheriff.

Male Participant: Excuse me. We have another county, that county commissioner here tonight. I'd like to hear from him and what he thinks about this.

[crosstalk] (no other county commissioner was present)

Scott Myers: Do you want to hear from Rob?

Male Participant: I do.

Scott Myers: We appointed [inaudible 90:32] .

Rob Stewart: I'd also agree with Frontier. It's just that shouldering all the PERS costs on this, it's going to get shoved onto the county's voters. Then, if we could absorb that cost, the additional cost, I think it would be best.

Nick Green: Sheriff?

Glenn Palmer: I'm also for Frontier. Grant County hasn't seen hard times yet. It's going to get a lot worse than what it is. I don't know how much more we can afford to keep taxing the taxpayers. The voters voted on the taxing district for the city levy or the county levy to give the money through to the dispatchers. The thing I want to be careful is, we, as a group, don't override what they said. They said no. I don't know if going out for a district would be a viable option of re-presenting it back to the voters, and make it a fair share, countywide, not just to a spectrum of who gets the most calls. I can't commit myself to putting the county into financial detriment. That's not my job. That's up to the county court and the budget committee. We can't afford too much more, either. We're not in much more of a predicament than the cities and the fire departments and everybody else. We're all running on a shoestring budget. Fortunately, nobody's been hurt. I think this unemployment thing is going to get a lot worse than what we realize. Losing the dispatcher's job is not a good thing, either. We've also lost a lot of our timber industry. We've lost several of our mills. We need to really look at what's causing this unemployment thing and get on top of it. It's killing our community. It's killing our customs. It's killing our culture. I don't know how much more we can afford. I would be more for taxing district before I would be for shipping it out, but, right now, with Frontier, with the bargain they're giving us, I don't know if we can afford anything else.

Steve Schuette: Okay, thank you. Canyon City.

Steve Fischer: I'm perusing the paperwork and by your indication of \$12,000 a year for the last 20 years, on average, increase. I can only say that planned increases are going to be a thing if we keep it. I do have a letter here from Sheriff Humphreys that was talking about the \$300,000 total. It says it's leaving the state funds, which are average \$270,000, leaving a balance of \$30,000. Blue Mountain Hospital and the Forest Service this year will contribute \$22,921.00, which will leave a balance for us of \$7,079, for the users to pay yearly. It's not really \$30,000. Like I said, he's just saying that \$7,079 and \$126,500 to connect, which would leave \$62,242 [inaudible 94:10] 50 percent. I just wanted to clarify on that \$30,000.

Male Participant: We can't make the hospital and forest service pay us that...

[crosstalk]

Male Participant: They have to make that agreement with...

[crosstalk]

Male Participant: That's what I'm saying.

Nick Green: He made that assumption, but that was an assumption.

Steve Fischer: He made that assumption but, that's what I'm saying is, that's what was in his letter. Whether that changes now or not, I don't know. I'd love to see these guys stay. I would. I'd love to see these guys stay but to make it viable, it's like looking at Canyon City's calls. We showed 19 calls, which wasn't even one-quarter of one percent of all calls taken. Us contributing \$25,688 from the state side of it and then, contributing more, it's just, I have to represent people, too. If you keep telling them, "We just got to pay a little bit more," and it's been increasing over the last 20 years. When he says that this is going to be a small fluctuation, there was one county, he said, didn't change at all in six years. I don't know. I just can't speak; I'll present it to the council. I will have to present it to my city council and see what they say, for a final. I still think that it's somewhat of a regional thing, even if we go with Harney County. This is, basically, a regional... You're creating a regional situation anyway, especially if it's not here, if it's going to be there. You might have a little more say in that but I'm leaning towards the Frontier just for the cost-effectiveness of it. Not for the quality or anything else but just so we can pay the bill.

Nick Green: Okay, Canyon City Fire.

Charlie Coughlin: I'm speaking on behalf of Matt here, so if you don't like what he says...

[laughter]

Charlie Coughlin: I'm [inaudible 96:38] coming from a business standpoint. I'm feeling the crunch with the unemployment and the economy going down the tubes. I don't want to see people leave. I would like to see a taxing district formed, but I understand that's going to be a lot of work. Also, from a business point of view, I can also see outsourcing to Frontier. That would be a logical step, fiscally, but I would really like to see, looking at forming some sort of taxing district. I realize that's going to be a lot of work.

Anna Bass: Can I ask a question? We're mentioning this taxing district. Is it also not possible to form a 190 that is not a taxing district?

Nick Green: That's what we would have to do.

[crosstalk]

Male Participant: ... [inaudible 97:20] .

Anna Bass: We could form your own entity that doesn't require taxing district that's going to be hurt by compression and everything else, but the funds would have to come from the users, plus the 9-1-1 dollars.

Group: Yes.

Nick Green: That's what we've been discussing.

Todd McKinley: It'll be incorporated into one of the models or something.

[crosstalk]

Anna Bass: ...everyone keeps saying taxing district but, really, that's another option.

Todd McKinley: That's another option.

Glenn Palmer: It still has to go to the voters.

[crosstalk]

Anna Bass: 190 does not.

[crosstalk]

Glenn Palmer: Special districts does.

Nick Green: Where are my Dayville folks?

Brandon Thompson: Right here.

Nick Green: Brandon?

Brandon Thompson: As far as my concerns go, I would love to keep it local. What I hate to see is our county go downhill any more than what it has. At the same hand, I'd like to see something happen sooner than later before we do move more people.

Nick Green: You're Dayville fire, as well?

Brandon Thompson: I'm both.

Nick Green: Long Creek?

[siren]

Male Participant: [inaudible 98:39]

[laughter]

Don Porter: Speaking for the citizens of Long Creek, I can sell the hybrid cost model, the \$1,092, the \$5,000 or, basically, \$6,000; we'd have to have a town meeting. I'd have to take it before the voters of Long Creek. Personally, I agree with Ron and some of the other folks. It would be nice to keep it locally. That's just me, personally. Speaking as a representative for the City of Long Creek, the numbers—Frontier—because of the cost. I could convince them of the hybrid cost model or lower because of the numbers there but this other number, is a major number [inaudible 99:45]...so that's where we're at.

Nick Green: I'm not seeing your other number that you're referring to. The cost billed to the City of Long Creek would be \$1,092.

Don Porter: That's on the hybrid cost. I'm talking about this one over here, like we talked about at one of the other meetings here, where it's...

[crosstalk]

Nick Green: If it were per capita?

Male Participant: That's the per capita.

Nick Green: If it were per capita. Unless anyone objects, let's just assume it's the hybrid cost model because the others, really, are not...

Bill Wilcox: That's not the way to do it.

Nick Green: What's not?

Bill Wilcox: The per capita way is not the way to do it.

Nick Green: Right. I think that's been clear from prior discussions. Under the hybrid model, your cost is a thousand plus \$10 per call. [pause] I don't know if that changes any of your comments, but I just wanted to clarify that.

Bill Wilcox: Means another \$40 above the thousand because you got four calls last year.

Don Porter: No, we had 25.

Bill Wilcox: I thought you said four. Long Creek -- four calls.

Male Participant: They go on a lot more than four, I know that...

[laughter]

[crosstalk]

Don Porter: There, again, like I said, I'm speaking for the whole town. I'm going to need to take this before the council.

Nick Green: That's fair. You're Long Creek fire, as well?

Don Porter: Yes.

Nick Green: Monument? Then, however you guys want to...We lost Bill?

Male Participant: Yeah, he had to go.

Kenny Delano: For Mount Vernon, it's hard to argue with the dollar amounts that I'm seeing; the cost to keep it local versus the cost to have Frontier take care of that service. I kinda disagree with the fact that the dispatchers know where Mill corner is. They really don't need to know. The

ambulance driver and the police officers, they need to know where Mill corner is. The dispatchers don't. They just need to relay that information to the next person. The cost escalations, to me, are kinda crazy. When you look at 1999 to 2017 and they've increased by a couple hundred thousand dollars in 20 years. Something's not right and we need to, as a community, try to figure out how to cap these costs. When I hear people say, "We don't have any control over PERS.", that's because nobody's standing at Salem, knocking on their door, going, "How come these things are out of control?" We do have that control. We are the people. My point is, I can't sell this to Mount Vernon, at that cost, and then turn around and look at the cost to have it go to Frontier, with them saying that we're not going to lose any integrity and service. I can't make that argument, but for right now, I would guess Mount Vernon would lean that way. I am similar to the other small towns. I'd have to take this before the council to get their appeal. I'm pretty sure they'd lean that way.

Steve Schuette: You skipped one.

Nick Green: Did I skip Monument?

Jeremy Boyer: Yep.

Nick Green: I apologize.

[laughter]

Male Participant: It's just Jeremy.

Nick Green: That was not intentional.

Male Participant: He got two words in.

[laughter]

Jeremy Boyer: I can see two ways of this. Frontier is the simple, quick, easy fix and we're done, we're out of it, pager still goes off, hopefully, when it's supposed to. I see the right way to do this, it's a lot more work, and that's to create the special district. Every land owner, it is creating another tax for a temporary timeframe until the state funds come back up where it covers it. Hopefully, it does; it should. It has rules in place that you have to follow for special districts. The board would be voted in by the entire county, so everybody will have a say. If you go, "Well, the voters already voted it down once," I believe there was fifty percent turnout. A little over fifty percent voted no, so that's just above a quarter percent actually voted it down. A lot of things I was told is, people in the Monument area at least, Kimberly, they didn't want their county money to go to a city. They wanted it; they thought it needed to be a county-run option, which I agree with. It should be Grant County dispatch. As for timeframe, special districts take time. I don't know how much time that takes, probably minimum of one year if not two to three until the final stages. I don't know if it can be pushed forward any faster. The real solution, the best thing for Grant County is a special district.

Nick Green: Thanks. Oregon State Forestry?

Chris Cook: I could see it stay local. How they get there is going to be the difficult piece, to keep costs down, and keep those jobs here. We'd like to see it stay local.

[crosstalk]

Male Participant: Go ahead.

Male Participant: Is your dispatch local?

Chris Cook: It is, yeah. It's across...

Male Participant: In ODFW? [inaudible 105:50]

Chris Cook: It's combined with the Forest Service.

Male Participant: So you guys outsource to the Forest Service?

Chris Cook: No, we don't. No, we have a staff. We have seasonal dispatchers in the center, as well as a permanent in the dispatch center. It's a combined interagency dispatch center with both agencies.

Male Participant: Combined [inaudible 106:17] .

Chris Cook: Correct.

Nick Green: Sergeant Hutchison?

Tom Hutchison: For the State Police, I don't speak for the Superintendent, but, personally, I'd like to see it stay local. We have a dispatch, the center that we deal with it is not [inaudible 106:34] primarily. I can tell you some of the hurdles that we run up against, is some of things, with all due respect, I disagree with Kenny, about knowing your dispatcher and that dispatcher knowing you and knowing the location makes a difference, makes a difference for maybe just minutes. Sometimes, when you're responding to emergency situations, minutes count. I'd agree it's a tough hurdle, having to be able to balance this financially. Also, I agree with Jeremy that it could be done. I think it should be done locally and it's just going to take a process to get it done. I think we're going to have a better product in the long run if we're able to make that happen in a timely manner.

Bill Wilcox: I'm curious, why didn't you interject that while Frontier was here, so we'd hear the difference between your experience and their experience? It sounded pretty rosy with those guys, but I don't hear that from you.

Tom Hutchison: Listen, we've got great dispatchers, don't get me wrong. When I need to, I go locally to dispatchers that are familiar with this area and are familiar with our clientele, familiar with the other officers. One of the things that Sheriff Humphreys talked about was the phone tree. I won't get that same service with the state police, I don't believe, going through Frontier. I am the supervisor here in Grant County for the state police. I don't believe that I'm going to be getting those phone calls in a timely manner. Usually it's going to be minutes, hours down the road before they finally get to me, and I can start mobilizing my guys for critical incidents. That's

just because I don't think they're going to be familiar with this small community. Wheeler County doesn't have a state police outpost, so they don't have that entity to work through or work with. I understand they do in some of the other counties, but I'm not familiar with how they deal with them. I just think it's going to be knowing the people that we're working with, being able to interact with them one-on-one, on the phone, in person, has made our job a little easier here.

Nick Green: Thanks. Prairie City?

Georgia Patterson: I can't speak for the council. We would, again, have to take it back to our council and talk to them but we feel that the council does want to keep it local because we set aside money to add to the 9-1-1 system. We had it set aside this last year and it wasn't called upon to be used. Also, I think that we've talked about how the voters voted it down. I think if there is a chance on re-voting on it, and the voters are made more aware of exactly what's going on instead of a hurry-up vote and not really know what's going on. You're going to have a different outcome in voting it to keep it here and to help finance it here. Again, we would have to take it back to our council.

Nick Green: Prairie City Fire?

Chris Camarena: I can only speak for myself. I understand budgetary restraints, but that's Anna's problem now.

[laughter]

Chris Camarena: I've worked the logistics part of it. I've worked with most people in this room, either through EMS, law enforcement, public works, fire; I know all these dispatchers. We've got to keep jobs in our area and that's five families are going to push out of here. We're talking about hemorrhaging jobs out here, we've got to stop it. What you're saying, when you call that dispatch, these guys know if there's something going on in Prairie, that they can call me and I know where stuff's at. You're not going to get that over there, or to stop when John Day's not available or the county's not available. They can call me, I can go check on somebody or do things like that. You're not going to have that and time-frame-wise, its critical here. I think they should stay.

Nick Green: Thank you. Prairie City rural?

Blaine Huffman: I just have to speak for myself, not the board. Rural areas are suffering with this 9-1-1. We're not the only one that's suffering with this problem; I think this is probably nationwide. That being said, we don't want to lose jobs. We don't want hemorrhaging jobs out here. Then, on the other note, we can't increase taxes either because there's a huge burden on everybody. Every time we throw money at something, it just gets sucked up. We want jobs, but I'm not necessarily sure we need jobs from taxpayer revenue. That being said, I'm undecided on what direction we really should go on that, in my own mind. Cost-wise, that would be Scott. He knows where the budget is for the county. What can we afford? What can we do? There's only so much money there to be had, so it's going to come down to the dollars, it seems, or swipe it from some other organization. From the police department...

Nick Green: I had you in...

Blaine Huffman: ... [laughs] or the Forest Service or whatever, but somebody's going to get hurt whatever. You got to think of those things. I don't have those figures in front of me, so the light could come on a little bit better if we had those in front of us.

Nick Green: OK. I had you in local, but I moved you to undecided. Seneca?

Raamin Burrell: We were able to present this to the city council at our meeting, so per the city council they would like to see either the hybrid cost agreement or the agreement with Grant and Harney County. Me, personally? I would say that the time for woulda-coulda-shoulda is past. The time to make a decision on where to go is now. We could talk about what we coulda-woulda-shoulda done, what we could have done with the vote; I agree, it should have been advertised more, but we can't do anything about that now. What we need to do now is move forward.

Nick Green: All right. Thanks, Raamin. Josh?

Josh Walker: I personally put a lot of weight to what the law enforcement and EMS personnel in the county would lean towards because they're the ones that are working with the system every day and their opinion matters greatly. One of the big concerns I had from Frontier's presentation was hearing how contractual it was and that the other counties that are members of Frontier all have a representation, that sits on a board that is involved in the decision-making, but we would have zero. That is pretty much a show-stopper in my opinion. That's setting ourselves up for a failure in the future that we have no control over. Once we've lost our dispatchers and the institutional memory that we have right now and for it to be gone for good is not something on the [inaudible] road. That outweighs the cost in my opinion.

Nick Green: Thank you. Blue Mountain Hospital. Derek?

Derek Daly: I personally am in favor of further investigation in a local cost-sharing agreement. We read it a little differently than the majority of people in the room, they don't seem to change the financial; the financials don't seem to change based on the option. Frontier's assuming that we would just front a lot of the cost.

[laughter]

Nick Green: That's a big assumption.

[laughter]

Derek Daly: We're figuring we're paying a decent sum out to any of these solutions. Even taking that into consideration, I would have been in favor of supporting a local option even if increasing our costs. Also, one thing to think about, I really think we need to put more thought to the importance of the 2021 decision. To me, making a decision right now to send it outside of the county is kind of like selling a stock when it's at its low point. There's a big likelihood that the net stock is going to increase in the years to come. Just something to put more stake in and more thought into, I think we need more discussion on all of these topics. I like the idea of buying some time, potentially, with local cost-sharing agreements. You put a special district option on

the tables with that. Jeremy had some good thoughts there. In general, I'm in favor of a local cost-sharing agreement.

Nick Green: Thank you. Forest Service.

Ron Simpson: I'm here taking Roy's place. He's been a part of this discussion more than I have, but I'm supportive of the jobs locally. We have a good working relationship with the dispatch center and us. We are a small player. The costs that Frontier put together, I think you guys are a majority of that.

[laughter]

Ron Simpson: We're just been with the local little fire departments and stuff, that working relationship, that good communication, good response, things like that. Speaking for myself and Roy who's been a part of this county a long time, we had time to talk a little bit about it. I'm in favor of having it here the best we can looking at those options to have dispatch centers stay. We're a small player. There's a lot of higher cost, a lot of people around here that can make that decision.

Nick Green: Thank you. BLM?

Greg Lloyd: My thought on this is that I would like to keep it local. I think once you outsource this, it's going to be hard to get back. There may come a time when you wished that you had it here. Trying to think about when I came here, to Grant County, in 2004, I came from a national park where I was a ranger. We had our own dispatch center. The dispatchers always knew where we were. At night we would switch over to a larger dispatcher at Cortez and I used to get nervous because they never knew where I was. I can tell you that, when I came here, I was really confused by the OSP system, at first, because that's our primary dispatch for BLM. They do a fantastic job. If you look at trying to cover an entire state, they're great, especially if you give them a mile marker but for BLM, [laughs] we're out in Timbuktu. I remember when I first came here, I relied on people like Todd and the local dispatch center to really keep me safe. It's just something to think about. I worked in Wheeler County, too. Maybe Jeff can speak to this because he's now in my old job. When I worked in Wheeler County, we were using tri-county dispatch. They did a good job, too, but they could never really pinpoint me down like you could here in Grant County. I always appreciated that in the sense that they had my back. So, that's my thought. I know it's a financial burden, but I think the special districts are a good idea. I think if we could find a way to keep it local, it's probably going to save lives. I know the dispatchers have saved the day a few times here just with vague information. I don't think you could have pulled that off under another system, so that's my thought.

Nick Green: I tried to keep a tally, and these numbers aren't exact. I'll have to go back and listen. About 13 or 14 are leaning local, six to Frontier, three said definitively special tax district, which is a variant of local because we'd have to buy the time to put that option together. Lumping them in with local, but recognizing that they're very strongly in favor of a tax district, puts: local, at about sixteen; Frontier, at about six; undecided/need more time, three or four...to give you a sense of the room.

Now, this is not a vote tonight. What we need to do is have you go back and hold a formal meeting and we need to talk about how we want to structure those conversations so that when we reconvene, we're able to make a definitive decision that all the parties are willing to agree to. I think within the next four weeks, every one of us should be able to convene either a city council meeting, a county court meeting, or a meeting of our boards. We want to make this an agenda item. I will have my staff provide the minutes from tonight's meeting. There'll be a draft. There might be some typos. Don't beat us up over that. We're going to try and get them out to you on Thursday. If there's mistakes, tell us, and we'll get them corrected so that, hopefully, by the time you convene your meetings, you're working with a final set of minutes. Then like Seneca did, we want them to say definitively what their choice is, representing their jurisdiction. Then let's reconvene in a month's time. We look at those results, and then we firm up our agreement. Does that sound fair? I've never done this before, so if you have a better way of doing it, don't shoot the messenger.

Male Participant: I'm at odds, because I'm the fire department. It depends on what he says, the city council says.

Glenn Palmer: You know, and the other thing, Nick; it's not a complaint. You've got Valerie, you've got Richard, you've got Steve, and you; there's four or five votes from the city. I don't know if there's some way we can get one from the county, one from each city entity as a group, where there's, like, Steve...

[crosstalk]

Glenn Palmer: Steve, surely, would be one vote, and everybody would be equal amongst all of us. Because, we could bring the road department, and we could bring...

Male Participant: All the fire departments. [laughs]

Glenn Palmer: ...into this that are also on the communications plan.

Male Participant: We stack the vote.

Male Participant: Public works.

Nick Green: I hear what you're saying, but to be clear, I didn't vote.

Male Participant: I didn't want to.

Valerie Maynard: Neither did I.

Steve Schuette: Neither did I.

[crosstalk]

Greg Lloyd: ...Nick. I did my talking, but I didn't know if Jeff, who's also here from the BLM, if he had anything else to add or say, since he's on the road and on the radio more than I am.

Jeff Wise: You said it pretty well. Having them local is excellent, especially; I've only been here a couple years, so I'm fairly new. Just to be able to go in, and have them bring up a photo,

and I can decide, right there, whether that's the person I need to look at farther or not. It saves a lot of time. It's an excellent working relationship so far.

Nick Green: I don't want to disregard what Sheriff Palmer said. We're viewing agencies that pay as a voter, because they pay. It's sort of the pay to play model. The John Day Police Department, under the hybrid cost model, is a paying user. The City of John Day is a paying user. The John Day Fire Department is a paying user. John Day Rural Fire Department is a paying user. To say to them that your vote doesn't get to count, but your money does, is kind of like what Frontier told us. "We're going to take all your money, but you don't get to vote." Why do the other four counties get to vote, and we don't? There's some stuff that we'd need to work out if we outsource to them, because that doesn't make any sense. But, those are things we'll work out as we go through the process. I don't mean to not recognize some of these other comments.

Steve Schuette: You have a question?

Willis Kimball: Willis Kimball, Mount Vernon Rural. Under the original agreement, we have an intergovernmental agreement that has twelve organizations or users. I think we should be following these rules, anyway, not John Day City. This organization was set up under an intergovernmental agreement. I think we should be voting by who's on the list and has a vote.

Male Participant: The majority of those people are dead on the list.

Male Participant: Yeah, it was back in 1989.

Willis Kimball: No, I mean, it was wrote out to be which organizations [inaudible].

Nick Green: He has a point.

[background conversations]

Nick Green: We would need to agree to terminate the existing agreement in conjunction with forming a new one. Those signatories to the original agreement have to agree to terminate it.

Willis Kimball: We have most of the same organizations involved in it.

Nick Green: We don't. Today, we're at 27 on this list. On that list, I haven't done the math, but it's 15 or 16.

Willis Kimball: Well, then we need to back up and change this before we go ahead and [inaudible 125:40] .

Nick Green: We're trying to do them in conjunction. We're trying to do them in parallel.

Male Participant: In that original agreement, they had OSP on there and they didn't have a dispatch set up back then, or how did that work? Do you know, Tom?

[laughter]

Male Participant: John Day has voted to be out of 9-1-1 end of June 2019, right? So what you're saying is, you're going to unplug it?

Nick Green: We're going to unplug that agreement, yeah.

Male Participant: Without all of our votes to do that, you cannot by law do that. We do actually have time.

Nick Green: What we would submit is a new jurisdiction plan that doesn't involve us being the lead. Then if you disagreed with that new plan, you would have to adjudicate it with the Department of Justice and I really don't want to go there.

Male Participant: Nobody does, but to do it correctly, we need a little bit more time.

Nick Green: I think that's a failed outcome. We got to find that balance between us needing the time to do it properly and having our hand forced, because we can't provide the service because our dispatchers have left and we can't hire anyone, because they don't know if it's going to remain. How do we find a middle ground?

Male Participant: If we implement a hybrid cost, keep the structure the same, implement a hybrid cost to buy the time until we can get the special district formed, which at times, will be a tax, At times, it will not be. Is that a doable option?

Nick Green: Yeah, the hybrid model syndicates the costs. You've heard us say that the city's willing to do that.

[crosstalk]

Male Participant: ...special district, John Day's willing to go that extra mile, extra year or two, if everybody is chipping in to pay for cost, correct?

Nick Green: Correct. It's the cost that concerns us.

Male Participant: There is time there, if we can get a hybrid model, and reach for the future on a district?

Nick Green: If we have that agreement. If the users reach that agreement, yes.

Male Participant: I just wanted to get that clear.

Nick Green: We buy the time, but a big portion of that cost devolves to the county in the hybrid model. We can't compel them to pay more than they're willing to.

Scott Myers: As we dance around this, and I appreciate everybody's input, but as we dance around this, I think everyone in the room is assuming that the State of Oregon legislature is going to do something when the 9-1-1 sunsets, when 9-1-1 tax sunsets; there's no guarantee. Do nothing is still an alternative. It may or may not change. It may not change enough to save anyone. It may not change enough to allow it to stay local.

[crosstalk]

Josh Walker: But if you go to Frontier now, you couldn't come back if it does happen. The other scenario, you could outsource at a future date; it's not a point of no return.

Nick Green: Let me clarify what Judge Meyers is saying, because I want to make sure that's very clear. Do nothing isn't an option, they have to amend the tax, but they may not increase the tax receipts. They have to do something. They can't just not have funding for 91--1, but they may not increase it.

Valerie Maynard: There is push for it to be increased now, whereas there has not been.

Nick Green: We simply don't know. We don't know how that tax will be structured, what the rate will be, how it will be distributed. No one knows at this point.

Georgia Patterson: So, we don't have to take and rush into outsourcing our 9-1-1 right at this moment. We have some time to actually look into everything, and see what our best solution is, instead of saying, "Tomorrow, we're resourcing over to Condon, and..."

Nick Green: If we jointly fund it, we jointly buy time to find out what the future looks like.

Chris Camarena: You just want to do it in a timely manner. You guys know, we have been on a department that, because of indecision for too long a time, we lost a department, and we lost personnel; it's not a fun thing to go through. We've got some of the best dispatchers here I've ever worked with, and we don't want to lose, because they're going to start shopping.

Josh Walker: The reality is, the citizens of the county have been funding it through the city, anyway. The city's just saying, "We can't do it by ourselves anymore."

Chris Camarena: I hope the fact that a lot of people that are voting to keep it here are EMS and law enforcement, fire and people. Hopefully, it speaks volumes, because we're the ones that use them and work with them every day. It's just a matter of funding it. We'll just put it in Jack's jail. [laughs]

Male Participant: You bet.

Nick Green: In terms of next steps, can we have a consensus that this is the approach we need to take? We need to convene a formal meeting of our respective jurisdictions. We need to present the minutes and the options to them, and we need to come back with a clear and definitive position and then we will adjudicate together, what do we do with that? There's a few that are undecided. They need to pick an option. I think they're ready to do that, but they need to caucus, and they need to talk to their voters. If everyone comes back, the local option is the hybrid cost model. You can mention the other ones, but it's the hybrid model that we're recommending as a task force.

Valerie Maynard: That can be...

[crosstalk]

Nick Green: We'll tweak it if we need to tweak it. Try to keep it simple. Let's not try and overly complicate the local option. Hybrid's the best one we've got right now, so that's the one we're

recommending; we'll adjust it as needed. Frontier's cost, pretty straightforward. Definitely a cost competitive offer. Their terms are pretty clear. Recognize what they didn't say and there's things that need to be negotiated in that. Then Grant-Harney at some point is probably an option, but it's the least developed of the three. I don't know that anyone is prepared at this point to say, "Let's do that option," because it's just not fully developed. So, I think we're down to hybrid cost model or Frontier. Make a decision between those two, and we'll reconvene in a month's time.

Steve Schuette: Date?

Nick Green: April 24th is four weeks from today.

Steve Schuette: We would have a city council meeting that night.

Nick Green: That's the night of a city council meeting. April 26th is a Thursday night.

[background conversations]

Nick Green: Why don't we plan on April 26th, 7:00 PM. We'll confirm if this room is available, and we'll send that out with the minutes.

Glenn Palmer: Can we start earlier, by chance? Is that too much?

Nick Green: Sure, six? Six o'clock?

Male Participant: Six, thank you.

Male Participant: Five?

[laughter]

Male Participant: Six would be better.

Nick Green: 6:00 PM, all right.

[background conversations]

Male Participant: Are we done?

Nick Green: We're done, adjourned.

[background conversations]

Steve Schuette: Motion to adjourn.

[background conversations]