

AARC Board Meeting Minutes

February 14, 2023

Board Meeting called to order at 6:30 PM by Bob Romanko, president presiding. Meeting held at Northside Library Meeting room.

Attendees: Bob Romanko-AK4BR, Larry Eicher-K4JZQ, Steve Kramer-KN4CJI, John Porter-KK4JP, Bill Pond-N0WP, Bob Pattison-K4DU, Dave Damon-K4DND, Ed Berkowitz (Zoom), Dennis Mennerich-K4THE, Mike McPherson-KQ9P, Al Bogden-KF4AGT, Joe Giavanelli-W2PVY.

Treasurer's Report - Larry Eicher: Membership drive with new members and renewals and estate sales included. Balance \$38,068.65.

Main Topic for board meeting: Allocate club money for new repeaters and antennas for Bucks Elbow in Crozet. Bill Pond of Technical committee gave report. We now have better idea of when facilities will be available. New county antenna tower completed as of one and a half months ago. County has moved much of their equipment over to new facility. AARC space allocated, waiting for county to remove old equipment so we can move in. We prefer not using the old shack for our equipment. County is aiming for April 1st to be ready.

Tech committee is waiting to purchase antenna and are finalizing plans for tower installation. They have no quotes from installers yet. Antenna installer needs certification and insurance. Antenna is commercial grade dual-band standard product sold in Canada and made to order for commercial users. Commercial grade antennas are much more resistant to wind, ice and other weather than ham grade antennas. We don't want to have to replace the antennas frequently.

The tower is 110-120 ft tall with 29 ft and 42 ft. sections. Space allocated for us is free and no electric bill. Club has 160 ft. of UHF 7/8" cable for transmission feed. Plans are to have 2 antennas on tower with one acting as backup. Currently, there is no timeframe for quote from vendor. Cost estimate for antennas: \$3930.

Comment from Mike McPherson: Providing this repeater and antenna upgrade demonstrates our commitment to emergency comm's and ARES. If we don't do this, there is no justification for ham radio. Local Emcomm is only interested in our ability to support emergency comm's. A repeater net is a good introduction for new hams. There will be a 100% improvement in coverage for WINLINK using 2nd antenna.

Bob R. asked for board vote on proposal of tech committee. Needs quorum of 20 club members at general meeting to vote on proposal. John P. made motion to approve, Dave D. seconded proposal. Board voted to approve antenna proposal. 7 in favor, 1 against (Larry E.).

Bob R. adjourned board meeting at 6:59 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Kramer, Secretary