

**Staff Responses to Council Questions  
November 13, 2012**

**6. Consent Agenda B. Motion: Award a Contract for \$43,408.00 to Sentinel Technologies for Network Attached Storage Device**

*Has this been evaluated by the Technology Committee?*

No, staff did not present this to the Technology Committee because it is a routine, planned purchase, rather than an expansion or upgrade to new technology. Such projects are generally not presented to the Technology Committee.

*This appears to be old technology, and expensive.*

*NAS is a set of external hard drives and they are attached. We are talking about over 16,000 gig = to about 16 Terabytes. Price for about 1.5 T is about \$250 so you would need about 12 T drives at an estimated \$3,000 plus housing and software which could run another \$3,000 or less. This could also be a remotely accessed server...or even a cloud for backup. Much cheaper than the Sentinel system which is an upgraded 4 year old technology.*

This technology was chosen because is appropriate for the Village environment, both in terms of the price and the capability. It is less expensive than leading edge technologies while still providing sufficient storage, speed and reliability for the Village's operations. This technology is more expensive than a retail storage, housing and software solution because it is enterprise grade, meaning that it supports multiple users simultaneously. An enterprise system is designed to handle this type of multiple user load, whereas a smaller NAS would be unable to handle that type of data.

In terms of reliability, the NAS is designed to stay up and running all the time even if there are hardware failures. A hard drive, power supply, or even an entire controller board can fail and the unit will still continue to function. This NAS is designed for a 24/7 environment like the Village's operations.

**6. Consent Agenda C. Resolution: Authorize an Agreement with United Radio Communications, Inc.**

*What was the process used to determine this is the best solution/technology to address the needs?*

A multi-departmental staff team s collaborated to determine the best solution for Downers Grove to address communications needs in Public Works. The team considered several factors in this process such as inter-operability, redundancy, disaster recovery and cost. The proposed technology investment provides a high level of inter-operability and redundancy which facilitates daily and disaster recovery operations at a relatively low cost compared to other solutions at this time and in the foreseeable future.

*What are other organizations using? How do other public works address the need and and what cost?*

Public Works Departments throughout the region are approaching their communications needs differently, although most are using a combination of two-way radios and cell phone service. Some departments have eliminated two-way radios and are relying on cellular phones. The disadvantage is that cellular service is not highly reliable during emergency situations. Others have modernized existing two-way radio systems similar to what is proposed. A small number have transitioned to 900 MHz public safety radios along with their Police and Fire operations. This is the most costly option because the radio units cost \$5,000 to \$10,000 each, in addition to ongoing monthly airtime charges.

**Non-Agenda Related**

*Have there been any lot consolidations approved this last week? If so, please provide address(es) and names of petitioner(s) and number of lots consolidated in each request.*

No lot consolidations have been approved in the last week.