

Project Facts

- ◇ **Penobscot County will be going to bond on July 14, 2020 for \$6,000,000.00 to upgrade the Public Safety Communication Infrastructure**
- ◇ Penobscot County has been utilizing this system since 1997.
- ◇ In 2004, Penobscot County Commissioners hired an independent consultant to do a review of the system.
- ◇ During that review they found;
 - Poor Coverage
 - Interference
 - Unreliable Paging for Fire/EMS
 - Occasional complete loss of communication
- ◇ It was determined that Penobscot County could not afford the cost of replacement in 2004.
- ◇ 16 years later, nothing has changed.
- ◇ The new system will increase coverage and performance for Public Safety agencies.
- ◇ 10 year warranty
- ◇ Additional sites to ensure that the system is reliable.

"When the public calls 9-1-1 for help, it is Penobscot RCC's emergency communications system that makes sure help gets there!"

BOND QUESTION #3

Do you favor a \$6,000,000 bond issue to upgrade the Penobscot Regional Communications Center's public safety communications system and local subsystems in order to fund an upgraded communications Infrastructure for emergency medical services, fire and rescue services, and law enforcement throughout the region?

A "Yes" vote approves the issuance of up to \$6,000,000 in general obligation bonds of the County to finance an upgraded communications system.

A "No" vote opposes the bond issue in its entirety.

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Penobscot County 9-1-1 Radio Communications Upgrade

Basic Facts and Information





Project Goals

- ◇ Timely replacement of the Penobscot County Public Safety Radio System/Infrastructure.
- ◇ Maintain a system that is based on current technology and ensures compatibility and interoperability into the future.
- ◇ Improve responder radio coverage for Public Safety across Penobscot County.
- ◇ This project is the responsible way to fix the problem, creating an efficient and dependable communication system that works in our county to save lives.

Major Elements of the Proposal

- ◇ Updated repeaters with additional sites to amplify coverage
- ◇ Updated microwave path to achieve communication between tower sites
- ◇ Updated Dispatch Consoles
- ◇ 10 year warranty and service contract
- ◇ Additional frequencies to enhance management of emergencies

Financing Specifics

At an estimated interest rate of 2.65% for a ten (10) Year maturity, the estimated costs of this bond issue will be:

Principal: \$6,000,000.00

Interest: \$ 988,636.28

Total: \$6,988,636.28

This averages \$3.50 per \$100,000 assessed value based on the 2020 valuation.



The Existing Public Safety Radio System

- ◇ Outdated and prone to failure.
- ◇ No longer supported by the manufacturer.
- ◇ Difficult to obtain replacement parts needed for operation. We have to rely on eBay and third party vendors.
- ◇ Nearly 25 years old
- ◇ Does not have a redundant back-up.

Whose issue is this?

- ◇ **This is a public safety issue for all the citizens and agencies that need a single system; a system that works every time; one that is reliable and YOU can count on when you have an emergency.**
- ◇ The public safety radio system is at the core of a strong, unified public safety response system for the 65 Police, Fire and Ambulance agencies that we dispatch for.

