

STATE OF VERMONT
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS TASK FORCE

Regular Meeting No. 21 – Meeting Minutes

March 13, 2024

Via Microsoft Teams

11:16 AM - Call to Order

Co-Chair Neal brought the meeting to order and conducted roll call for Task Force members. She reminded the attendees that the meeting was being recorded.

The following were in attendance:

Task Force Members Present

Barbara Neal, E911 Director, Co-Chair
Jennifer Morrison, Public Safety Commissioner, Co-Chair
Paul White, Regional Dispatch Working Group, Vice-Chair
Mike Doenges, Mayor, Rutland City
James ‘Jim’ Mack, Shelburne Dispatch
Ron Kumetz, VSFA
Michael Wright, CEO of Calex Ambulance

Task Force Members Absent

Others Present

Cally Audet, Task Force Clerk
Kim Cheney
Rance Duffy, Mission Critical Partners
Scott Neal, Mission Critical Partners
Bonnie Maney, Mission Critical Partners
Stephen Whitaker
Rick Burke, Televate
Dominick Arcuri, Televate
Richard Townend, Altairis Technology Partners
Phillip Sisk, Mission Critical Partners
Irene Wrenner, Senator, Chittenden North District

Approval of Agenda

No Changes.

Approval of Minutes

- 02/28/2024 – Regular Meeting No. 20

Motion: At 11:19 AM, Co-Chair Neal moved that the Task Force approve the minutes as written; 2nd by Jim Mack. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

Co-Chair Neal opened the floor to public comment.

Stephen Whitaker provided the following comments:

- The Budget Adjustment Bill enhances and increases the Task Force role in how the \$9 million in congressionally directed spending is both spent and the integration with the planning of the Task Force. Mr. Whitaker shared his belief that the Task Force should understand and exercise its authority in ensuring both the intent of Congress in appropriating that money to support the transition to regional dispatch and not adopt the draft implementation plan presented at a prior meeting.
- He asked that many of concerns that he has brought to the Task Force's attention be added to the agenda at a future meeting(s).
- He raised questions about when and how many RFPs had been published for independent review for both the Task Force and the congressionally direct spending. He claimed that he was told there were no RFPs through a public records request.
- He reiterated his feelings regarding whether or not the work being conducted by the Task Force is considered information technology activities and the review requirements associated if it in fact is technology related.
- Mr. Whitaker shared that there is a 10-year telecommunications plan in draft form currently being circulated that thoroughly involves implications in the Task Force's work. He also shared that there are three public hearing sessions available on the matter in the coming weeks.
- He shared that he felt there still needs to be a completed statewide communications interoperability plan established.

For additional details on public comments, please refer to the meeting transcript (attached), beginning at 0:4:14.200.

Announcement of System Planning Contract Award and Introduction of New Team Members

Co-Chair Neal announced that the Task Force had successfully executed the System Planning contract with Mission Critical Partners and introduced the Mission Critical Partner team members. Co-Chair Neal also shared that there would be a special meeting held Wednesday, March 20, 2024, at 11:15 AM to serve as the official team kick-off meeting with Mission Critical Partners.

Co-Chair Neal opened the floor for introductions first from the Task Force members. All Task Force members were present and shared their names and identified the constituent group they represent on the Task Force.

Co-Chair Neal then opened the floor to the Mission Critical Partner (MCP) team members for brief introductions and summaries of their respective backgrounds.

Members of the MCP team present at the meeting were as follows:

- Philip Sisk, who thanked the Task Force for selecting MCP to embark on this endeavor alongside them. He provided a brief background on MCP as a company and shared that his role in this project will be Client Service Director.
- Rance Duffy, acting as the Project Manager from MCP. Rance has a background of roughly 37 years in public safety with experience in field service, fire service, emergency medical services, emergency management and 911 and emergency communications. He has also been an active service member of the Missouri Army National Guard for 17 years.
- Bonnie Maney, acting as the Senior Operations Advisor for this project. Bonnie has experience in PSAPs, consulting, and public safety communications in which she is in her 34th year.
- Scott Neal, Senior Vice President at MCP. He currently leads their wireless communications team and is a retired trooper of 28 years with the Pennsylvania State Police. He also served as the Director of the Bureau of Communications and Information Services for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Questions from the public were tabled and Co-Chair Neal shared that the Chairs would coordinate with Kim Cheney online to gather any inquiries for Mission Critical Partners.

Project Updates - Televate

Dom Arcuri from the Televate project management team provided the following projects updates:

- The first edition of the stakeholder update was developed and finalized after soliciting feedback from Task Force members. Stakeholder updates will be produced and distributed on a monthly basis.
- The team completed their most recent status update and has noted that the schedule to deliver updates is now twice a month.
- The team has begun working with MCP to work on providing an update to their internal schedule and project plan. Televate will incorporate MCP's specific activities into the broader project plan and project schedule and hope to have an update for the group next week.
- The team has begun review of the current dispatch center list to ensure a complete list of contact information is in place for future correspondence.
- The team is working on updating the stakeholder list for the various public safety agencies, including fire, EMS, and law enforcement. They are also working on compiling a single distribution list for stakeholder updates.

Co-Chair Morrison added that each future update will come from Televate but will include information from MCP as well. One of the delays thus far is the development of the stakeholder update distribution list.

Co-Chair Morrison also shared that an email address will be created for direct correspondence with the Task Force.

Co-Chair Neal inquired if the group would be able to release the stakeholder update sooner rather than later and have individuals distribute further until a more robust distribution list is established. Co-Chair Morrison confirmed, yes.

New Business

Co-Chair Neal sought confirmation from Task Force members regarding the expectations for Stakeholder Updates. She recounted prior discussion stating that not every update needs an official voted approval from the Task Force, rather a draft will be circulated for eyes on before publication and at that point the members could and should provide their feedback.

Paul White, Mike Doenges, Jim Mack, and Ron Kumetz agreed that this was their understanding of the process.

Co-Chair Neal asked Task Force members if there was anything else on stakeholder update that needed to be discussed; nothing.

Executive Session – For the purpose of discussing one or more contracts

There was nothing to discuss in executive session.

Potential Action(s) as a Result of Executive Session

No action.

Set Next Meeting Date and Adjournment

The next meeting is scheduled as a special meeting on Wednesday, March 20, 2024, at 11:15 AM.

The next regular meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 27, 2024, at 11:15 AM.

Paul White inquired if the meeting would be held virtually or in person. Co-Chair Morrison offered to hold a hybrid meeting but agreed that holding it as an in-person meeting would take all Task Force members away from their daily positions.

The Chairs opened the floor to MCP for their preferences. Rance Duffy shared that they are flexible, but he would be the only member of the team available to attend in person. Further discussion took place.

Co-Chair Neal stated that the meeting would be held fully remote.

Stephen Whitaker inquired about the status of the legal RFP. Co-Chair Morrison shared that they are in the final stages of review with the Attorney General's Office.

Co-Chair Morrison also addressed Stephen Whitaker's prior question about the RFP. She shared that on February 29th she texted Mr. Whitaker the response regarding the RFP status. She confirmed that there was only ever one RFP and in a simplified bid, you can invite new people to bid. The current RFP is the same RFP that has been shared with other potential bidders and is now being evaluated for execution of a contract.

Motion: There being no further business, Ron Kumetz made a motion to adjourn; 2nd by Jim Mack. There was no further discussion and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 11:49 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Cally Audet

Cally Audet, Clerk

03/14/24

Date