

0:0:0.0 --> 0:0:1.910

Brian Peete

Good morning, everybody. Good morning, Paul.

0:0:2.660 --> 0:0:3.690

Paul White

Hey, good morning. How are you?

0:0:5.370 --> 0:0:5.610

Paul White

Good.

0:0:4.220 --> 0:0:11.890

Brian Peete

Good. Hey, I I have to apologize. I have to apologize. I have a a 9:00 o'clock that with the city manager that I have to have to make.

0:0:12.930 --> 0:0:13.210

Paul White

OK.

0:0:17.480 --> 0:0:19.890

Paul White

We're just waiting for a couple more members to join us.

0:0:20.640 --> 0:0:21.300

Brian Peete

10 four.

0:0:21.530 --> 0:0:22.800

Paul White

And we'll get started.

0:0:55.500 --> 0:1:0.290

kim cheney (Guest)

While we're waiting, Kim Cheney, chief Pete, could you give me a call today sometime?

0:1:6.510 --> 0:1:7.900

Brian Peete

Sure I can.

0:1:9.450 --> 0:1:10.170

Brian Peete

Let's see.

0:1:10.970 --> 0:1:12.760

Brian Peete

Yeah, I think I could do it about 1:00, o'clock.

0:1:14.250 --> 0:1:14.700

kim cheney (Guest)

Good.

0:1:16.70 --> 0:1:16.430

kim cheney (Guest)

Thank you.

0:1:17.210 --> 0:1:17.720

Brian Peete

Yes, Sir.

0:2:25.20 --> 0:2:32.200

Paul White

Well, good morning, everybody. I still only see five actual members of the working group in the in the room, so to speak, but.

0:2:33.540 --> 0:2:40.30

Paul White

Although our our guest has not arrived yet either, so last week we had discussed having.

0:2:42.100 --> 0:2:58.570

Paul White

Representatives come in and talk to the working group from the various entities that applied for the grant funding through the DPS RFP for Regional Dispatch grant funding. And so I did. I read there were a total of 11 applicants.

0:2:59.30 --> 0:3:13.550

Paul White

Umm and I did. I reached out to, well, two of them, of course, are part of have representatives that are part of this working group and have overlooked them. Not intentionally, but I did reach out to the other nine who are not part of this group and.

0:3:14.570 --> 0:3:16.270

Paul White

I will see her guest is in the lobby.

0:3:19.690 --> 0:3:20.670

Paul White

Hi, good morning, Jim.

0:3:21.170 --> 0:3:21.720

Jim Mack (Guest)

Good morning.

0:3:22.490 --> 0:3:42.580

Paul White

So I was just, I was just telling the working group members about our conversation. So as it's a working groups request, I did reach out to the entities who had applied through the RFP for grant funding for

regional dispatching and asked if they would be willing to come in and just talk to us briefly. You know, 10 no more than 15 minutes.

0:3:43.840 --> 0:4:12.260

Paul White

About their application and so that we can just sort of learn from it. Not that not that this working group has anything to do with the awarding of the grant funds, but so that we could learn from the applications as far as how they intend to fund it, ongoing, what they have in mind for governance and timelines. And so the first one that volunteered to come in this morning is James Mack, who from his for the town of Shelburne Dispatch Center. Is that right, Jim?

0:4:12.630 --> 0:4:13.320

Jim Mack (Guest)

That's correct.

0:4:14.270 --> 0:4:18.220

Paul White

And you are actually a municipal employee, right? You work for the town of Shelburne.

0:4:18.350 --> 0:4:19.470

Jim Mack (Guest)

That's that's correct.

0:4:20.130 --> 0:4:50.650

Paul White

OK. So I guess like I said, the biggest things we were interested in knowing is, you know, once the initial startup or not startup because I know you're already an existing dispatch center. But once once you receive the grant funds, if you receive grant funds and make whatever modifications you're planning to make on the short term, what's your long term plan for? What were your customer towns pay? How do you arrive at those charges? Is it based on population? Is it based on call volume?

0:4:50.900 --> 0:5:1.240

Paul White

And and so funding on long going, what your governance structure is, if there is one, you'll do your stakeholders and your customers have a say in how things go.

0:5:2.480 --> 0:5:11.330

Paul White

And then what kind of timeline you're looking at implementing your changes and anything else that you'd like to tell us that would be helpful to us? And thank you for joining us this morning.

0:5:12.550 --> 0:5:26.940

Jim Mack (Guest)

Well, I guess I'll start with the I'm the communications supervisor for the Shelburne, not Communication Center, better known as Shelburne Dispatch, Shelburne Peace app for the 911 side. Our management control is under the town of Shelburne. We don't have a.

0:5:28.60 --> 0:5:37.240

Jim Mack (Guest)

Group of fire EMS agencies that have an advisory role. We've tried to set that up in several times in the past, but it's never succeeded.

0:5:38.460 --> 0:5:40.670

Jim Mack (Guest)

People don't seem to want to attend the meetings.

0:5:42.640 --> 0:5:47.80

Jim Mack (Guest)

So that's kind of why we don't happen to have one of those advisory groups right at the moment.

0:5:47.650 --> 0:5:48.20

Paul White

OK.

0:5:47.840 --> 0:5:48.970

Jim Mack (Guest)

We have in the past.

0:5:49.680 --> 0:5:56.730

Jim Mack (Guest)

Pinto COVID had annual meetings, at least with every agency to discuss any problems that they may have.

0:5:57.440 --> 0:6:7.460

Jim Mack (Guest)

They want to address with us, and usually I they usually just pick up the phone and call me or call my one of my other counterparts and we take care of the problem right then and there.

0:6:8.220 --> 0:6:8.520

Paul White

OK.

0:6:8.670 --> 0:6:19.80

Jim Mack (Guest)

Umm Sharbani started dispatching in 1960s for its own town agencies. I'm in the early 80s, we added on.

0:6:20.80 --> 0:6:27.170

Jim Mack (Guest)

Another fire department Rescue Squad being in Charlotte. That's how I finally got involved. As I started in the late 80s in Shelburne.

0:6:28.450 --> 0:6:41.910

Jim Mack (Guest)

And after that we in the 90s, we started adding a lot of agencies and first response squads and have them up until recently as far as implementation for us, we've already started that we took on Underhill Jericho.

0:6:42.820 --> 0:6:52.10

Jim Mack (Guest)

Fired first response and we are talking to additional agencies now. At this time, we're not waiting for anything that the states doing or isn't doing.

0:6:52.940 --> 0:6:53.380

Jim Mack (Guest)

Umm.

0:6:54.220 --> 0:6:54.570

Jim Mack (Guest)

We have.

0:6:55.400 --> 0:7:0.410

Jim Mack (Guest)

We applied for the grant money just to fill in some holes that we hadn't planned on.

0:7:1.360 --> 0:7:11.240

Jim Mack (Guest)

Most of the our operational cost is covered under our current under our contracts that we have with each agency may pay their portion of our dispatching rate.

0:7:12.80 --> 0:7:22.110

Jim Mack (Guest)

Or dispatching budget. It's broken down simply based on a per call basis, and we estimate what they're call volume is going to be for the next year and give them a flat fee up based on that.

0:7:30.410 --> 0:7:30.720

Paul White

Yeah.

0:7:23.680 --> 0:7:32.150

Jim Mack (Guest)

And that's how we've done it for many years here. I'm not gonna tell you that that's the best model I'm gonna tell you. That works for us. It's usually the easiest for us to calculate.

0:7:32.860 --> 0:7:41.330

Jim Mack (Guest)

I've looked at many a formula out there that uses population uses assessment values we have.

0:7:42.40 --> 0:7:47.490

Jim Mack (Guest)

Count of Charlotte and Shahrin their assessment values would be huge compared to some of our other towns.

0:7:48.360 --> 0:8:11.60

Jim Mack (Guest)

But we don't have the same call volume as some of the other towns do in those areas. Population doesn't necessarily tell you what you call call volume is going to be either. Socioeconomic factors will tell

me better what's going on going to happen in a town. The old North End of Burlington is going to generate far more calls than the entire town of Shelburne or Charlotte and Hinesburg combined.

0:8:11.820 --> 0:8:13.490

Jim Mack (Guest)

It's just the way it is.

0:8:14.710 --> 0:8:23.400

Jim Mack (Guest)

So that's why I've never cared for those formulas and that's why we've really never followed those type of formulas, because they don't always reflect your call volume.

0:8:24.490 --> 0:8:26.860

Jim Mack (Guest)

And who's gonna be using your services the most?

0:8:27.320 --> 0:8:27.690

Paul White

Right.

0:8:29.240 --> 0:8:39.110

Jim Mack (Guest)

And we've seen that with the through the COVID with the housing in our local motels that our call volume here in Shelburne alone has spiked just because of that.

0:8:41.250 --> 0:8:50.70

Jim Mack (Guest)

You know, we've participated in multiple regional dispatch discussions, including the last one here in Chittenden County are.

0:8:51.160 --> 0:8:54.890

Jim Mack (Guest)

Residents of Shelburne chose not to be part of that operation.

0:8:55.860 --> 0:9:0.860

Jim Mack (Guest)

On the regional authority and they liked what we were already doing in our regional dispatch.

0:9:3.390 --> 0:9:12.40

Jim Mack (Guest)

And we just we take 911 calls for 32 towns. Currently when we took on Underhill Jericho, we also took on there 911 calls.

0:9:13.670 --> 0:9:25.570

Jim Mack (Guest)

And we dispatch for a total of 35 agencies. Our call volume for last year for the agencies that we dispatch for was just over 21,000 calls that we dispatched now.

0:9:26.900 --> 0:9:29.570

Jim Mack (Guest)

And the population we serve is about 70,000.

0:9:33.780 --> 0:9:37.660

Jim Mack (Guest)

As far as what you guys are looking for is funding structures.

0:9:38.430 --> 0:9:48.210

Jim Mack (Guest)

Umm I'll echo some of the things that Sheriff Marcus said. Our model, his model, may not necessarily be the same model that other agencies want to use.

0:9:49.90 --> 0:9:53.250

Jim Mack (Guest)

You know, these models work for us, but it may not work for and Rutland County.

0:9:54.440 --> 0:9:55.820

Jim Mack (Guest)

We're up in the Northeast Kingdom.

0:9:57.710 --> 0:9:58.110

Jim Mack (Guest)

Umm.

0:9:59.260 --> 0:10:6.730

Jim Mack (Guest)

Organizational structure is through the town of Shelburne. We don't like, I said, currently have an advisory committee or group.

0:10:9.660 --> 0:10:10.390

Jim Mack (Guest)

And.

0:10:14.260 --> 0:10:14.590

Paul White

OK.

0:10:11.210 --> 0:10:15.30

Jim Mack (Guest)

I don't know what else you'd like from me as far as information I.

0:10:15.810 --> 0:10:21.830

Jim Mack (Guest)

I know a number of years. Ohh a number of years ago we did do a tracking of to figure out what our call.

0:10:22.560 --> 0:10:30.960

Jim Mack (Guest)

What are called breakdown was how much work are dispatchers were doing. We wanted to figure out how busy our dispatchers were. You know what could we shed for?

0:10:32.260 --> 0:10:45.610

Jim Mack (Guest)

Functions and what functions do we need to keep? When we did that, we analyzed our fire, EMS and police calls at the time and that was in the early 2000s. We found that our fire calls on average were about 8 minutes of our workload.

0:10:46.400 --> 0:10:56.0

Jim Mack (Guest)

On average, so fire calls could be 2 hours long, but most of them when I looked at all the radio time and time, it took us to do our paperwork related to that call.

0:10:56.660 --> 0:11:9.500

Jim Mack (Guest)

It was about 8 minutes of work that I had to do on average for a fire call. EMS was slightly longer because we were we've been big into doing non-emergency medical dispatching, so that was running about 10 minutes per call for us.

0:11:10.710 --> 0:11:13.900

Jim Mack (Guest)

And the police calls were about 12 minutes per calls.

0:11:14.850 --> 0:11:18.170

Jim Mack (Guest)

On average for us, because we did a little more work for the police officers.

0:11:20.10 --> 0:11:26.90

Jim Mack (Guest)

We, like I said, that was in the early 2000s when we did that analysis. So I don't know how accurate it is today.

0:11:31.540 --> 0:11:31.990

Paul White

Umm.

0:11:33.880 --> 0:11:51.480

Paul White

So I'm I'm familiar with how 911 rollout goes, but on the dispatching. If you take away 911, it's on the dispatching side. If you were to have a catastrophic failure there, you either you had a propane tanker rollover in your front yard or a hurricane blew through and took you offline.

0:11:52.130 --> 0:11:57.590

Paul White

Do you have the ability for your dispatch customers to roll over to somebody else?

0:11:58.350 --> 0:12:6.130

Jim Mack (Guest)

Right at the moment, no, we do not. And part of our grant was to get our mobile dispatching operation up and running.

0:12:6.830 --> 0:12:15.300

Jim Mack (Guest)

And we have a mobile console. Basically it's the attach console on a laptop. All we need to do is go to a different location.

0:12:16.90 --> 0:12:19.890

Jim Mack (Guest)

And plug it into a high speed Internet access and we can be back online.

0:12:21.620 --> 0:12:27.310

Jim Mack (Guest)

And so that was the focus in our grant request was to be able to have that fall back.

0:12:29.860 --> 0:12:38.410

Paul White

And how many? What's your staffing like? Are you have how many dispatchers on it in a given time, how many people that take to run that operation?

0:12:36.550 --> 0:12:47.740

Jim Mack (Guest)

We our our our staffing level is supposed to be 2 dispatchers on and we're down to positions right at the moment. And hopefully when I go into work this afternoon, we'll be down only one position.

0:12:48.90 --> 0:12:49.670

Paul White

Yeah. OK.

0:12:52.280 --> 0:12:54.290

Paul White

And that's around the clock, two at a time.

0:12:54.800 --> 0:13:1.420

Jim Mack (Guest)

Yeah, we have 9 full-time dispatchers and then in five part time dispatchers.

0:13:5.910 --> 0:13:10.640

Paul White

OK, uh. Other working group members. Any questions for Jim from Shelburne?

0:13:15.780 --> 0:13:16.870

Burnham, Lance

I have some pop.

0:13:17.170 --> 0:13:18.10

Paul White

Yeah, let's go ahead.

0:13:18.940 --> 0:13:34.890

Burnham, Lance

Jim, I think I know the answer to this. Just working closely with with your agency, but governance structure, I think you touched on it briefly, but do you have like a written governance structure? Do you have something that you share with those agencies that you actually dispatch for?

0:13:35.300 --> 0:13:38.800

Jim Mack (Guest)

We have a contract that we have all with all the agencies.

0:13:39.490 --> 0:13:44.660

Burnham, Lance

OK. Is that governance structure pretty much based on the structure?

0:13:45.600 --> 0:13:48.990

Burnham, Lance

Uh, that the Police Department currently has in place?

0:13:49.790 --> 0:13:50.280

Jim Mack (Guest)

Yes.

0:13:50.660 --> 0:13:51.520

Burnham, Lance

OK. Thank you.

0:13:58.420 --> 0:14:10.890

Paul White

In your, when you enter into a contract with a particular town or department, is that is that annual or is it until until either party decides they don't want to do it anymore or have you?

0:14:10.350 --> 0:14:12.500

Jim Mack (Guest)

Basically, it's, uh, until either party.

0:14:13.320 --> 0:14:24.240

Jim Mack (Guest)

Doesn't want to do it anymore. We've had some agencies that have come to us and have left and they left on good terms with us and if they wanted to come back, we'd take them back in a heartbeat.

0:14:26.650 --> 0:14:26.990

Paul White

OK.

0:14:26.340 --> 0:14:37.730

Jim Mack (Guest)

Umm, we haven't forced any ever forced any agencies out at times. We've had to discuss, you know, problems that we have with their agency and it's usually one or two members.

0:14:38.400 --> 0:14:44.970

Jim Mack (Guest)

On a fire department or a Rescue Squad, whatever that creates a problem for us. But usually the management of that organization.

0:14:45.640 --> 0:14:47.390

Jim Mack (Guest)

Works with us did solve that problem.

0:14:50.690 --> 0:14:53.740

Paul White

OK. Anybody else have any questions for Jim, Huh. Yeah, let's.

0:14:57.470 --> 0:15:0.890

Burnham, Lance

Sorry Jim, I know one of the.

0:15:2.730 --> 0:15:10.460

Burnham, Lance

One of the things that we hear a lot specifically throughout probably the past two years is that when people leave.

0:15:11.620 --> 0:15:36.620

Burnham, Lance

VSP getting a free service that is going to negatively impact their fire department, EMS, Police Department, what have you to the point where they've lost members that don't town was not gonna be able to pay. The town was not gonna be able to specifically police. They'd have to shed officers just to be able to pay the dispatchers. And I know you've been doing this for a very long time.

0:15:38.250 --> 0:15:54.750

Burnham, Lance

And thank you for that. But have you in your history in that time, have you ever seen a department fail, lose it, lose manpower because of the fees that have been associated with dispatch?

0:15:55.610 --> 0:16:6.380

Jim Mack (Guest)

Of all the agencies that we have right now, none of them have had any issues along those lines. I'm, in fact, we had a number of agencies in Addison County when they first came on to us.

0:16:8.30 --> 0:16:21.360

Jim Mack (Guest)

They were hesitant, a lot of their membership was hesitant. The Chiefs tended to support us and the night that we taken on Bristol Fire Department was when Lincoln and Bristol had a flood.

0:16:22.160 --> 0:16:27.820

Jim Mack (Guest)

After that event, none of those individuals had any more concerns about being dispatched by us in Shelburne.

0:16:28.950 --> 0:16:29.150

Burnham, Lance
OK.

0:16:29.240 --> 0:16:32.490

Jim Mack (Guest)

Since we were able to provide them resources that they didn't even know existed.

0:16:33.420 --> 0:16:42.120

Burnham, Lance

OK. Thank you. And I don't ask that to be facetious by anyways, just for Members working group. I I, I'm curiously wanna know.

0:16:41.820 --> 0:16:49.380

Jim Mack (Guest)

Well, the complaint I heard from over many years from some agencies, why the hell would I ever come to Shelburne and pay for it when I can get it for free?

0:16:50.670 --> 0:16:52.600

Jim Mack (Guest)

And that was literally what I would hear.

0:16:53.390 --> 0:16:58.640

Jim Mack (Guest)

That was what I was always fighting against. My attitude was if you don't want to come to us, that's fine.

0:17:0.10 --> 0:17:6.10

Jim Mack (Guest)

It we don't we do charge and it it does cost us considerable amount of money to maintain our operations.

0:17:8.700 --> 0:17:9.320

Burnham, Lance

Thank you, Jeff.

0:17:8.840 --> 0:17:12.70

Jim Mack (Guest)

And I personally thought that the space should have been charging a long time ago.

0:17:15.840 --> 0:17:17.550

Paul White

Yeah, Mandy.

0:17:22.190 --> 0:17:32.460

Wooster, Mandy

Thank you, Jim. Thanks for coming in today. I appreciate it. Can you tell me what you mean by you applied for the funding for to fill in the gaps? Can you tell me what the gaps are?

0:17:33.0 --> 0:17:40.530

Jim Mack (Guest)

Well, one of our gaps right now is as was stated was if we had an accident now in front of our facility, what are we going to do?

0:17:41.250 --> 0:17:54.650

Jim Mack (Guest)

If we had to evacuate on, that's been one of our weak spots for a long time. From our standpoint, one of the things that I'd like to look at and I think should be looked at is interconnection between regional dispatch.

0:17:55.350 --> 0:17:56.40

Jim Mack (Guest)

Facilities.

0:17:56.960 --> 0:18:1.500

Jim Mack (Guest)

But I don't think we're at that point yet even begin to figure that part out.

0:18:3.20 --> 0:18:8.740

Jim Mack (Guest)

So we applied for some grant money for some computer equipment to allow us to go remote.

0:18:11.100 --> 0:18:11.550

Wooster, Mandy

Thank you.

0:18:14.980 --> 0:18:30.630

Paul White

And I see a hand up from Kim Cheney and Jim, just for your reference, Kim is not a member of the working group. He's a member of the public. So I'm not sure what he's gonna ask. But if I'll Kim go ahead and if it's not something Jim wants to answer, that's your call. Jim. Go ahead, Kim.

0:18:42.100 --> 0:18:43.20

Burnham, Lance

You're muted camp.

0:18:50.630 --> 0:18:52.620

Paul White

And we can't hear, you've got your muted.

0:18:54.550 --> 0:18:55.90

kim cheney (Guest)

Sorry.

0:18:55.900 --> 0:19:10.460

kim cheney (Guest)

And my question is, how do you fund the capital improvements that may be needed in your

infrastructure? Because here in central Vermont we have a system that's aged and obsolete in many ways and.

0:19:12.0 --> 0:19:12.290

Jim Mack (Guest)

Well.

0:19:11.950 --> 0:19:14.0

kim cheney (Guest)

At least for the towns.

0:19:14.810 --> 0:19:21.960

Jim Mack (Guest)

From our capital budget is we put in our request to the town for the various items we need, whether it be a console system.

0:19:23.430 --> 0:19:24.380

Jim Mack (Guest)

New radios.

0:19:27.70 --> 0:19:40.80

Jim Mack (Guest)

And that goes into that capital budgeting process when our billing structure builds that into it, what we build out to the agency, so it's automatically built into our dispatching fees that we charge agencies.

0:19:41.490 --> 0:19:44.20

kim cheney (Guest)

And it's all based on call volume.

0:19:44.700 --> 0:19:46.810

Jim Mack (Guest)

All based on call volume, that's how we operate.

0:19:48.720 --> 0:19:49.630

kim cheney (Guest)

OK. Thank you.

0:19:50.300 --> 0:19:52.310

Paul White

Thank you, mark.

0:19:51.700 --> 0:19:56.50

kim cheney (Guest)

But before I go, do you have any idea how much capital you've had to raise in the last?

0:19:57.570 --> 0:19:58.30

Jim Mack (Guest)

Alright.

0:19:57.270 --> 0:19:58.760

kim cheney (Guest)

Save four or five years.

0:19:59.180 --> 0:20:4.650

Jim Mack (Guest)

I have no clue. We try to write for as many grants as we can possibly write for.

0:20:5.400 --> 0:20:9.600

Jim Mack (Guest)

That we find out there to help do some of these projects.

0:20:10.660 --> 0:20:23.320

Jim Mack (Guest)

Umm I have a long laundry list of items that I'd love to add to my operations and I will put some in every year to get them in the capital budget and then they the rest of them sit on a list that.

0:20:24.180 --> 0:20:26.540

Jim Mack (Guest)

When the grant comes along, I go for the grant.

0:20:27.960 --> 0:20:29.230

kim cheney (Guest)

OK. Thank you.

0:20:30.0 --> 0:20:34.550

Paul White

Thank you. And I see your hand up from Sheriff Anderson. Smart, go ahead.

0:20:35.360 --> 0:20:36.570

Anderson, Mark

Hi, Jim, thanks for coming.

0:20:38.250 --> 0:20:39.720

Anderson, Mark

I think you already hit on it.

0:20:40.980 --> 0:20:52.390

Anderson, Mark

Rather than the propane truck flipping over in your front yard, let's say that COVID 22 comes along and wipes out your personnel. Do you have the ability to set up?

0:20:53.610 --> 0:20:56.680

Anderson, Mark

With any other organization, some form of dispatching.

0:20:57.730 --> 0:21:5.290

Jim Mack (Guest)

Right now, we don't really have any formal setup with any anybody else around us. I've been kind of hoping that the Chittenden.

0:21:6.720 --> 0:21:10.480

Jim Mack (Guest)

Regional authority comes online, so we could set up with them.

0:21:11.360 --> 0:21:14.620

Jim Mack (Guest)

Being nearby, but that hasn't come along yet.

0:21:17.510 --> 0:21:25.780

Anderson, Mark

And so with your trailer, that would probably be the closest thing is you could park that. Let's say it happened tomorrow. You could park that in the parking lot.

0:21:23.880 --> 0:21:29.0

Jim Mack (Guest)

But it's not even a trailer. It's I can go to any any place.

0:21:29.570 --> 0:21:30.40

Anderson, Mark

OK.

0:21:29.710 --> 0:21:32.40

Jim Mack (Guest)

And just hook into a high speed Internet access.

0:21:33.460 --> 0:21:34.210

Anderson, Mark

Great. Thank you.

0:21:36.410 --> 0:21:36.960

Paul White

OK.

0:21:38.570 --> 0:21:39.240

Paul White

I'm not.

0:21:41.460 --> 0:21:41.750

Paul White

OK.

0:21:38.340 --> 0:21:44.630

Jim Mack (Guest)

And I can answer a question about COVID. We actually used the least amount of sick time during COVID.

0:21:46.490 --> 0:21:56.400

Jim Mack (Guest)

You my dispatch center, nobody had the flu and we had a couple of people that did get COVID, but my operations actually saw no negative impact from really from COVID.

0:21:57.830 --> 0:21:58.300

Paul White

That's great.

0:21:57.790 --> 0:22:0.50

Burnham, Lance

How did you do that? Tell me how you did that.

0:22:0.880 --> 0:22:2.300

Jim Mack (Guest)

We made everybody out.

0:22:3.60 --> 0:22:5.540

Jim Mack (Guest)

I wash their hands and clean the desk and.

0:22:6.480 --> 0:22:8.580

Jim Mack (Guest)

It was the cleanest they had dispatch has ever been.

0:22:11.40 --> 0:22:11.470

Paul White

Uh.

0:22:10.510 --> 0:22:12.670

Burnham, Lance

You locked him in there, didn't you? Didn't let him lay.

0:22:13.380 --> 0:22:14.170

Jim Mack (Guest)

No, we didn't.

0:22:17.230 --> 0:22:22.20

Paul White

Alright, great. Well, thank you, Jim. I appreciate your time and have a great day.

0:22:22.850 --> 0:22:23.650

Jim Mack (Guest)

All right. Thank you.

0:22:26.420 --> 0:22:28.150

Paul White

OK. So just.

0:22:30.530 --> 0:22:43.980

Paul White

We drop back here a little bit. We never actually called the meeting to order, but it kind of called itself

to order. We do have, I believe, seven out of the TEN Members present now. So we do have a full or enough Members to move forward.

0:22:45.760 --> 0:22:49.970

Paul White

Any issues with last week's minutes that need to be corrected before I forget about it?

0:22:52.790 --> 0:23:4.530

Paul White

Not will consider them approved. So as I mentioned earlier, I did reach out to all of the applicants for the grant funding. Jim was the one that could come in today. Chief Murano from Wilmington.

0:23:5.600 --> 0:23:13.370

Paul White

It's tentatively scheduled for 9:30, but I never actually heard back from him to confirm, so he may join us at 9:30. I'm not sure.

0:23:14.690 --> 0:23:21.760

Paul White

But in the interim, I think Sheriff Anderson was prepared to talk about his application.

0:23:25.690 --> 0:23:26.690

Paul White

If you're ready, Mark.

0:23:26.420 --> 0:23:32.150

Anderson, Mark

Thanks, Paul. Just just as a a point of order, I think we need to vote on the Minutes unless I miss something.

0:23:32.800 --> 0:23:37.130

Paul White

No, you're right. I was just taking a shortcut. Is there a motion to approve the minutes of last week?

0:23:38.60 --> 0:23:38.880

Anderson, Mark

I'll make that motion.

0:23:39.420 --> 0:23:40.350

Paul White

Is there a second?

0:23:40.940 --> 0:23:41.460

Burnham, Lance

I'll second.

0:23:43.140 --> 0:23:46.130

Paul White

All those in favor of approving last weeks minutes say aye.

0:23:46.700 --> 0:23:46.940

Burnham, Lance

I.

0:23:47.390 --> 0:23:47.840

Neal, Barbara

Hi.

0:23:47.860 --> 0:23:48.120

Anderson, Mark

Uh.

0:23:50.90 --> 0:23:50.500

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I.

0:23:52.140 --> 0:23:52.550

Bob Schlachter (Guest)

I.

0:23:52.640 --> 0:23:52.960

Paul White

OK.

0:23:54.290 --> 0:23:57.260

Paul White

The motions are approved. Thank you, Mark, for keeping me honest.

0:23:58.570 --> 0:24:0.590

Anderson, Mark

No, no problem. Paul's the team effort.

0:24:4.290 --> 0:24:15.860

Anderson, Mark

So our we've been working on this radio project for probably about three years now, maybe longer than that, but at least subjectively three years.

0:24:17.40 --> 0:24:30.30

Anderson, Mark

What we're looking to do is #1 establish a repeater site on a mountain top that sees every has line of sight to every mountain top in southern Vermont. So that's one site we have.

0:24:31.390 --> 0:24:44.420

Anderson, Mark

The landowner, who has a location at the top of the mountain who is supportive to this initiative, the second site we have an already existing repeater site with.

0:24:44.920 --> 0:24:53.770

Anderson, Mark

Uh, with the town in Windham County, where they currently have their own radio infrastructure installed. My understanding is that.

0:24:54.850 --> 0:25:7.810

Anderson, Mark

We would need to confirm with a radio tax, but my understanding is that their equipment is not compatible with ours or what we'd be looking to do is install a new repeater but not a new tower where we would then be able to.

0:25:8.140 --> 0:25:29.240

Anderson, Mark

Umm. Ultimately about dispatch for the Deerfield Valley, which would include Dover and Wilmington. And then the third site has actually kind of with my organization moving the third site that we were actually targeting is no longer needed and so.

0:25:29.780 --> 0:25:45.490

Anderson, Mark

In conversations with agencies on the northern side of our county, we're looking they have locations identified and we're looking to establish a repeater to cover them. So that would pretty much close up from a law enforcement perspective close up.

0:25:45.670 --> 0:26:1.80

Anderson, Mark

Umm, the whole county with radio coverage on my network, which would be duplicative to the VSP network. But what it would also do is install VHF repeaters which are currently silent. We've heard from Drew Hazleton from Rescue Inc our EM has provider.

0:26:2.110 --> 0:26:32.760

Anderson, Mark

Where they did not have any communication with law enforcement while they're hunting a murder in the woods near where they're truck was parked. So what would be also looking to do is install VHF repeaters. I'm the only Vermont agency that has VHF coverage in Windham County. For emergency services there's another dispatch organization in Southwest New Hampshire who currently provides fire and EMS dispatching. I've had a number of fire chiefs approached me to say.

0:26:32.860 --> 0:26:44.770

Anderson, Mark

They'd like to consider what it looks like to be dispatched by us. I've long advocated that Vermont money should fund Vermont jobs. That's just a personal economic belief of mine.

0:26:46.370 --> 0:26:52.800

Anderson, Mark

So we we were looking to build out the ability for that knowing that.

0:26:54.280 --> 0:27:9.400

Anderson, Mark

Just a an old campfire story of a an agency who left a dispatch center because they they felt that they

could be served more economically elsewhere. They were cut off from an entire communications network.

0:27:10.610 --> 0:27:37.600

Anderson, Mark

My concern is, is that agency should have options and to be told that you are on your own and hey, you're in a town and the fire alarm goes off and we touch off the the tone alert pagers and they don't answer because they're outside of the networks capability. That doesn't drive well with me. So we're looking to do that. Our current governance models is contracts as as we've heard from Sheriff Markku and it sounds like the town of Shelburne.

0:27:38.780 --> 0:27:56.920

Anderson, Mark

I as a long term vision forward, I could see this splitting off into its own own system. We've modeled our work off of Fairfax County, Virginia, where they have a single stage dispatch piece app and dispatch Center for Fairfax County.

0:27:58.180 --> 0:28:1.810

Anderson, Mark

And it's a remarkable organization and.

0:28:2.280 --> 0:28:32.350

Anderson, Mark

Uh, one of the the issues that we've identified with any specific service dispatching is that we usually see a leaning towards supporting that service. So what I mean by that is if police are dispatching then they seem to cater to the police and fire dispatching, they cater to fire VMS, is dispatching etcetera. And so one of the reasons we want to split it off into its own self self standing model is to take away that bias, if you will and.

0:28:32.450 --> 0:28:34.60

Anderson, Mark

Make it truly it's own service.

0:28:38.640 --> 0:28:42.80

Paul White

So if you get when you get to that point where it splits away.

0:28:43.480 --> 0:28:49.940

Paul White

With that, so you would be creating a new like an authority or some kind of a municipality to to own and operate it.

0:28:52.190 --> 0:28:52.790

Anderson, Mark

I mean.

0:28:53.830 --> 0:29:8.760

Anderson, Mark

I think that's where we can have a lot of discussion under current structures, those would probably be the the thing that exists. Personal philosophy. I think that county government should be covering it. I know that that flies in the face of of certain people.

0:29:9.880 --> 0:29:20.890

Anderson, Mark

The governor said he doesn't want to see it raise the the property tax and while I respect that at the same time, I respectfully disagree, saying emergency services should be funded by property tax.

0:29:22.570 --> 0:29:37.960

Anderson, Mark

That's where they respond. It's what they do, and maybe there's a discussion about what property taxes shouldn't fund, and maybe we should find other sources for that. But fundamentally, the point of what we do is to protect property as well as people and.

0:29:39.120 --> 0:29:39.670

Anderson, Mark

There we are.

0:29:40.560 --> 0:29:48.220

Paul White

OK. So you're talking about an an expansion of the current role of the county government beyond the minimal role that they currently have?

0:29:50.20 --> 0:29:50.250

Anderson, Mark

Right.

0:29:50.310 --> 0:29:53.380

Paul White

Like it's kind of like the New Hampshire. What we see in New Hampshire.

0:29:54.660 --> 0:29:55.250

Anderson, Mark

Correct.

0:29:55.670 --> 0:29:58.520

Paul White

OK, OK. And so?

0:29:59.760 --> 0:30:5.60

Paul White

How do you? I'm. I'm sorry you currently built dispatch for anybody other than yourselves. I don't remember.

0:30:6.180 --> 0:30:14.60

Anderson, Mark

Uh, yes, we currently contract with two agencies, the Bennington County Sheriff's Office and the Bells Falls Police Department, and I've had about.

0:30:15.200 --> 0:30:16.990

Anderson, Mark

I don't know ten other agencies.

0:30:22.450 --> 0:30:22.660

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So.

0:30:18.970 --> 0:30:36.420

Anderson, Mark

Interested in in working with us on this project and most of their reasons are either it. It's generally split between one to two things on one hand, not getting up to date information or correct information. And then the second thing being cost.

0:30:39.510 --> 0:30:47.950

Paul White

OK. And as far as your ongoing costs, how what's your, what's your billing structure, is it call volume or is it what is it?

0:30:48.770 --> 0:30:52.150

Anderson, Mark

I can't honestly answer that because it was created before me and.

0:30:52.430 --> 0:30:52.780

Paul White

OK.

0:30:52.810 --> 0:30:55.340

Anderson, Mark

Looking at it I I don't know the logic behind it.

0:30:56.140 --> 0:30:56.490

Paul White

OK.

0:30:58.580 --> 0:31:0.490

Paul White

But it's it's a flat fee I assume.

0:31:2.140 --> 0:31:5.210

Anderson, Mark

We yeah, we charge an annual fee to the agencies.

0:31:5.320 --> 0:31:6.980

Anderson, Mark

Uh and?

0:31:8.330 --> 0:31:20.20

Anderson, Mark

What I've said with the agencies I'm working with, including her current ones, is that if we do go to a regionalized model that includes more agencies that we'd be willing to pursue.

0:31:20.300 --> 0:31:22.100

Anderson, Mark

Do a formula if once done.

0:31:22.440 --> 0:31:23.910

Anderson, Mark

Dictated for.

0:31:24.690 --> 0:31:26.640

Anderson, Mark

Be willing to pursue a formula identified.

0:31:35.560 --> 0:31:37.270

Paul White

Anybody questions for Mark?

0:31:44.400 --> 0:31:44.950

Paul White

Ah.

0:31:46.60 --> 0:31:47.430

Paul White

Uh barbell and Mandy.

0:31:50.370 --> 0:32:1.340

Neal, Barbara

So if you said this mark, I missed it. What is what? What is your staffing level? How many people do you employ for communications and what's their call volume annually?

0:32:1.540 --> 0:32:11.690

Anderson, Mark

I I did not say it. So right now we're employing about. Sorry, I'm letting my dog out. We're employing about.

0:32:12.890 --> 0:32:18.590

Anderson, Mark

See, I think 5 dispatchers. We run 11 dispatcher per shift.

0:32:19.170 --> 0:32:21.500

Anderson, Mark

Uh, and then we have.

0:32:22.570 --> 0:32:32.280

Anderson, Mark

About seven people who are either part time dispatchers or deputies who are qualified to dispatch so.

0:32:33.310 --> 0:32:39.660

Anderson, Mark

We have fairly good depths on the on the part time side to cover vacation sickness.

0:32:41.320 --> 0:32:41.810

Anderson, Mark

And.

0:32:42.540 --> 0:32:55.210

Anderson, Mark

And any shortages there with the regional model, we'd be looking to increase to two 24/7 and probably continue to maintain the the part time slash deputy depth.

0:32:59.10 --> 0:33:1.940

Neal, Barbara

OK, thanks and and call volume, do you know off hand annually?

0:33:3.530 --> 0:33:19.420

Anderson, Mark

I'm gonna take a a guess I haven't run it for all three agencies. I'm gonna guess where some around 15,000, but that's a lot of the the agencies are, I should say, between my agency and Bennington County were involved in a lot of traffic stops, so.

0:33:20.710 --> 0:33:23.460

Anderson, Mark

That would probably come down about 4000.

0:33:24.450 --> 0:33:25.340

Anderson, Mark

So let's call it 11.

0:33:28.800 --> 0:33:31.170

Paul White

OK, thanks. Yeah. Thank you. I always.

0:33:32.460 --> 0:33:41.380

Paul White

I always forget about with Valcour that every traffic stop results in a call so that I was forget that that kind of inflates the numbers.

0:33:42.550 --> 0:33:43.360

Paul White

Ohh Mandy.

0:33:50.150 --> 0:33:52.210

Paul White

Yeah. Yeah, it definitely does for sure.

0:34:4.430 --> 0:34:4.770

Paul White

Right.

0:33:43.50 --> 0:34:11.840

Anderson, Mark

But it it does inflate the numbers but it's I mean there's depending on an agency's operation, that can have a pretty drastic impact. I mean we've, we've had, we've had four deputies stopping cars and that takes up the entire bandwidth of a single dispatcher until we had MDC's and then we could say, OK, you do it in the car. So if agencies do have MDP's, if you do have workflows and operational procedures for them to manage their workload in the car.

0:34:12.780 --> 0:34:17.20

Anderson, Mark

That becomes incredibly easier for the dispatcher so that it's something we should probably call out.

0:34:18.670 --> 0:34:37.40

Paul White

Yeah. And I don't by no means do I mean to minimize the impact on dispatch of an active motor vehicle officer, cause it has. That could be one of the biggest drivers there is. But just in my dinosaur brain, when I think of calls per year, I always forget that nowadays we have to include traffic stops in that. Mandy, you had your hand up.

0:34:38.170 --> 0:34:39.490

Wooster, Mandy

Thank you. Good morning, mark.

0:34:40.200 --> 0:35:2.570

Wooster, Mandy

Just had a quick question about and maybe I missed this, this the timeline, so if you were able to to start making this happen, you know how what does this soon soon as time maybe like a range of months where you would be able to start getting agencies up and running. So for maybe a range from the first agency you would be able to get up and running to maybe the completion. What would that look like for your team?

0:35:4.200 --> 0:35:4.990

Anderson, Mark

So.

0:35:7.190 --> 0:35:10.870

Anderson, Mark

There, there's two things I'm gonna call out, and I hope Chief Miranda was able to join us.

0:35:12.10 --> 0:35:17.560

Anderson, Mark

The number one is that chief random is the chief of Wilmington PD, though.

0:35:18.760 --> 0:35:31.880

Anderson, Mark

Cheese that my plan actually helps cover, and this was there was an understanding that I knew he was gonna be proposing a regional model and this was inclusive or exclusive of their agency.

0:35:32.960 --> 0:35:33.790

Anderson, Mark

The.

0:35:34.910 --> 0:35:42.610

Anderson, Mark

The reason for that is because Deerfield Valley, if they have a plan to to cover themselves, that's great. But I have agencies in Bennington County looking for help.

0:35:43.820 --> 0:35:48.850

Anderson, Mark

So to answer your question, the quickest timeline, let's pretend that tomorrow.

0:35:49.500 --> 0:35:49.980

Anderson, Mark

Umm.

0:35:51.70 --> 0:35:55.360

Anderson, Mark

Only because uh, in imaginary scenarios, I enjoy.

0:35:56.640 --> 0:35:59.120

Anderson, Mark

Explosions. Let's pretend tomorrow that.

0:36:0.890 --> 0:36:6.440

Anderson, Mark

What's Minster blew up? And now Wilmington and Dover have no coverage.

0:36:6.930 --> 0:36:16.760

Anderson, Mark

Uh, we could probably. Uh, depending on whatever the lead time is to get a repeater ordered and installed, we could be dispatching for them the next day.

0:36:18.390 --> 0:36:33.50

Anderson, Mark

The I I do have some radio coverage in their areas and if we are capable of plugging into their system then it is simply the lead time to to get the controller to plug into their system.

0:36:35.270 --> 0:36:40.820

Anderson, Mark

To extend outside of Windham County would either require cooperation with.

0:36:41.600 --> 0:37:10.160

Anderson, Mark

Uh infrastructure in other counties, so that could be the public safety radios which we part of our application included the app tech consoles. So with those being able to connect to the public safety network, that again gets us all the coverage to all the places that the state currently does and without that, then it's engineering installation, negotiations of agreements with land owners.

0:37:11.680 --> 0:37:20.820

Anderson, Mark

All, all the stuff that goes with creating a new tower. The good thing is, is with the Deerfield Valley, we have infrastructure in.

0:37:22.480 --> 0:37:29.370

Anderson, Mark

In place, either on the the DPS power. I don't know if there's room, but on the DPS tower or on the.

0:37:30.50 --> 0:37:33.400

Anderson, Mark

The other tower of I referenced earlier that's already existing.

0:37:33.860 --> 0:37:37.500

Anderson, Mark

Uh, which we would be able to access space on that.

0:37:39.950 --> 0:37:43.820

Anderson, Mark

And then long term, if we're not able to use the DPS.

0:37:44.210 --> 0:37:53.640

Anderson, Mark

Uh infrastructure, the radio towers and whatnot. Again engineering and and installation for or whatever agencies we're covering.

0:37:58.150 --> 0:38:7.620

Wooster, Mandy

You have any if it went the longest term, do you have any range of, you know, two years, three years, like how far out could it push before you?

0:38:9.580 --> 0:38:10.680

Wooster, Mandy

Do you have any estimate?

0:38:13.210 --> 0:38:21.390

Anderson, Mark

No, because any for. I mean, I tried to get a plumber the other day and I can't even get one on the phone, so it used to be we call a plumber and they come in.

0:38:22.370 --> 0:38:25.810

Anderson, Mark

And then I had two guys climbing our tower last week.

0:38:27.40 --> 0:38:35.820

Anderson, Mark

So there's just there's no estimating right now any any time to order an engineer anything because.

0:38:36.730 --> 0:38:43.720

Anderson, Mark

I I just can't forecast what's gonna happen with either supply chains or labor market, especially in trades.

0:38:45.840 --> 0:39:11.520

Anderson, Mark

We're willing, willing entity to start tomorrow, and with Avtech consoles, I think that gets us going the quickest, but a redundant network I think is also an important thing, especially in case of some sort of network wide outage damage to a network due to terrorism or disaster or whatever the case may be. And so that's why I'm advocating a second network and have been for three years.

0:39:14.160 --> 0:39:14.740

Wooster, Mandy

Thank you, mark.

0:39:15.780 --> 0:39:16.380

Paul White

So.

0:39:18.560 --> 0:39:26.500

Paul White

Yeah, there's a lot of moving pieces to this, but so the the new repeater site that you mentioned, you know the the totally new site you haven't.

0:39:27.310 --> 0:39:31.800

Paul White

Gone down the road of applying to the FCC and all of that yet then for a new tower.

0:39:32.870 --> 0:39:33.730

Anderson, Mark

We have not.

0:39:35.280 --> 0:39:36.160

Paul White

So yeah, you're talking.

0:39:34.80 --> 0:39:38.370

Anderson, Mark

OK. We weren't sure we were getting the money, so we we didn't pursue that, but.

0:39:39.830 --> 0:39:51.260

Anderson, Mark

We working with my my radio tech. He felt based on our current repeater sites that we're not gonna run into problems with other agencies.

0:39:52.210 --> 0:39:59.690

Anderson, Mark

And our goal is it's not so much necessarily for radio coverage from where that tower is, but rather the backhaul capability.

0:40:1.180 --> 0:40:5.210

Anderson, Mark

So we can use more narrow like microwave technologies or whatever.

0:40:6.390 --> 0:40:14.560

Anderson, Mark

To be able to connect to the repeater sites and that serves as a bridge to it and I have line of site for my current dispatch location to that tower.

0:40:18.770 --> 0:40:22.940

Paul White

OK. Any other working group members with a question for Mark?

0:40:24.660 --> 0:40:31.360

Paul White

Uh, in Kim, I do see your hands. Uh Mark Kim Chini has a question. It's your call if you want to take questions from the public.

0:40:31.750 --> 0:40:32.120

Anderson, Mark

Sure.

0:40:33.320 --> 0:40:34.330

kim cheney (Guest)

Hi, mark.

0:40:34.890 --> 0:40:35.610

Anderson, Mark

Thank him.

0:40:36.20 --> 0:40:38.850

kim cheney (Guest)

I'm curious about how you.

0:40:39.830 --> 0:40:42.590

kim cheney (Guest)

Make your capital needs. I mean, you're talking about.

0:40:43.620 --> 0:40:47.210

kim cheney (Guest)

Back hall and microwave and the rest of it. And.

0:40:48.540 --> 0:40:49.650

kim cheney (Guest)

Have you got a?

0:40:50.550 --> 0:40:55.970

kim cheney (Guest)

An assessment of what it would cost to do that in a plan to raise the money for it.

0:40:58.650 --> 0:40:59.770

Anderson, Mark

A hope and a prayer, Kim.

0:41:2.420 --> 0:41:7.50

Anderson, Mark

Most of our radio network has been funded by by grant funding.

0:41:9.310 --> 0:41:23.440

Anderson, Mark

I'm only gonna go far as far back to the 60s to say that it was a local initiative to install the one radio tower that we continue to operate on today. And then after that it's been a source of grant funding.

0:41:24.640 --> 0:41:53.730

Anderson, Mark

With some minor I don't wanna say minor with some improvements just being done from the sheriff's departments operational budget. There's no taxes that that fund it aside from taxes that contribute to grant funds. So that's why I am significantly interested in the funding model that this working group is working on to develop. Because I mean we can set up dispatch centers anywhere.

0:41:53.850 --> 0:41:57.480

Anderson, Mark

The problem is is the infrastructure behind it. That's where the money is.

0:41:59.150 --> 0:42:1.180

kim cheney (Guest)

Do you think your system is?

0:42:2.820 --> 0:42:8.450

kim cheney (Guest)

Functioning adequately or is it becoming obsolete and creating problems for you?

0:42:9.520 --> 0:42:12.490

Anderson, Mark

We're fortunate that our system is.

0:42:14.300 --> 0:42:15.590

Anderson, Mark

The coverage is pretty good.

0:42:17.140 --> 0:42:22.470

Anderson, Mark

And generally it has service the needs of us and our the agencies we serve.

0:42:25.110 --> 0:42:29.100

Anderson, Mark

Everything always needs a refresher and the hard thing with Motorola being the.

0:42:30.290 --> 0:42:38.710

Anderson, Mark

I think the biggest kid in town, if you will, is that they're they're controlling interoperability, capabilities and cost, so.

0:42:39.620 --> 0:42:42.200

Anderson, Mark

That's a an economic issue far beyond our.

0:42:49.950 --> 0:42:50.200

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Good.

0:42:43.70 --> 0:43:0.60

Anderson, Mark

Our ability to influence, but there will eventually come a point where we need to refresh and renew our equipment. There will come a point where if we take on fire agencies, we'll need to certainly expand and that was part of our application is to be forward thinking about those things.

0:43:1.160 --> 0:43:1.510

17fa7484-1584-4e40-ab47-f7ca519f154e

What?

0:43:2.780 --> 0:43:3.730

kim cheney (Guest)

OK. Thank you.

0:43:3.690 --> 0:43:8.770

Paul White

OK. Thank you, mark. Any other questions for Sheriff Anderson before we move on?

0:43:10.350 --> 0:43:15.680

Paul White

I see that uh Chief Murano has joined us. Thank you, Matt, for joining us on short notice.

0:43:16.400 --> 0:43:46.920

Paul White

Umm, I think like explained in my e-mail that you know, this group really has nothing to do with the the RFP or the grant process that you went through with DPS. But we were just hoping that because you're because you're going through that process that we might be able to learn from you and from your application, some things that will help us with our charge from the legislature to map out what regional dispatching should look like in Vermont in the future. So I guess mainly what we're interested in is.

0:43:47.50 --> 0:43:47.650

Paul White

Umm.

0:43:49.590 --> 0:43:58.780

Paul White

Your funding, you know how you once how your ongoing funding, how you think that will go as far as you know what are your customer towns pay or what do you plan to bill if you take on other agencies?

0:44:0.120 --> 0:44:16.30

Paul White

Your what kind of what? The governance would look like? Is it strictly a Wilmington owned thing and and you dictate the rules or is there some kind of a committee that would provide oversight and then they're on a blank? I don't have my notes in front of me. There was a third thing.

0:44:17.540 --> 0:44:22.440

Paul White

But basically anything else that you think that we would be helpful to us as we try to?

0:44:23.180 --> 0:44:27.310

Paul White

Do our work from the research that you've done with your application.

0:44:28.920 --> 0:44:31.660

Matt Murano (Guest)

Well, good morning and and thanks for having me.

0:44:32.180 --> 0:44:32.720

Paul White

Thank you.

0:44:33.730 --> 0:44:45.860

Matt Murano (Guest)

Yeah, I you know, we're we're working through this. So I I I can give you some of kind of our vision and and why we looked at it. But I I really would not want to be locked down on any of these.

0:44:45.940 --> 0:45:0.10

Matt Murano (Guest)

And procedures or processes that we're looking at, you know we, we, we we're in this position kind of because our backs are against the wall this is this is not how we envisioned fixing emergency communication.

0:45:1.110 --> 0:45:7.40

Matt Murano (Guest)

Certainly not where we are. Uh may be different for other parts of the state, but the reality is.

0:45:8.370 --> 0:45:19.0

Matt Murano (Guest)

You know, DPS is looking at removing themselves from that portion of public safety and we didn't want to be the last ones to the grant.

0:45:20.180 --> 0:45:25.440

Matt Murano (Guest)

So we looked at, you know, the surrounding towns.

0:45:26.520 --> 0:45:39.370

Matt Murano (Guest)

You know that we're kind of in a similar position to us. Wilmington is is kind of better situated. Just our background as we just moved into a brand new state-of-the-art facility, 100% locally funded.

0:45:40.610 --> 0:46:6.630

Matt Murano (Guest)

And part of that also included an upgrade to our dispatch. So we really have a state-of-the-art dispatch going now. We dispatch for ourselves seven days a week about 7:00 AM to 5:00 PM and then we transfer over to state police for dispatch in the evenings. So our situation may be a little different than some other agencies that are on.

0:46:7.320 --> 0:46:12.750

Matt Murano (Guest)

Uh 24/7 with state and or have no dispatch capabilities themselves?

0:46:14.450 --> 0:46:39.970

Matt Murano (Guest)

As part of our upgrade, we had already upgraded our repeater 11 full brand new console and then we we had a newer console after Hurricane Irene had destroyed our old office and dispatch. We had funded a new one in 2011, so we carried that one with us. So we've got two full consoles and a backup station which is not licensed yet, but can come online in short order.

0:46:41.350 --> 0:46:59.0

Matt Murano (Guest)

You know, so we're we're kind of in a good position to look at dispatch. So we we explored with the number of towns and EMS agencies what those conversations will look like in the future and it's a wide gamut of responses. You know, everybody seems to be.

0:46:59.760 --> 0:47:22.70

Matt Murano (Guest)

Especially in the EMS side, seems to have their own plan or vision for certainly EMS dispatch there, there's a lot of responses of all the way we've always done it is the way we should. But you know we realize that we need to modernize, increase interoperability and there will be no.

0:47:23.750 --> 0:47:24.450

Matt Murano (Guest)

Cost.

0:47:25.220 --> 0:47:26.70

Matt Murano (Guest)

Savings.

0:47:27.390 --> 0:47:46.980

Matt Murano (Guest)

By local regional dispatch centers taking this burden on, there may be some cost sharing that will take place, and that's what we're looking at with some other towns. But again, we're in this position because we, you know, we're kind of been forced into it.

0:47:48.20 --> 0:47:57.880

Matt Murano (Guest)

It's not how we envisioned improving it. Our major concerns on the funding side will be the operational costs year after year, you know we.

0:47:58.680 --> 0:48:28.130

Matt Murano (Guest)

Equipment wise, Umm, you know, if you get technology and radio equipment and at last 10 years you got a good run out of it with the rate the how technology changes. But you know equipment can be factored in over that 10 years for replacement during the end of its service life etcetera and is a manageable piece of the funding puzzle. However, the operational costs and the personnel cost for staffing at 24/7 dispatch.

0:48:29.290 --> 0:48:34.200

Matt Murano (Guest)

You know, really are the heavy lift for what I see for regional dispatch.

0:48:35.390 --> 0:48:40.940

Matt Murano (Guest)

And how we share that cost? You know, we look at, you know, agencies that are gonna come on board.

0:48:42.50 --> 0:48:43.460

Matt Murano (Guest)

You know, either by.

0:48:44.620 --> 0:49:8.580

Matt Murano (Guest)

Caseload, or by a sheer numerical formula that everyone shares equally because it's a 24/7 operation. I'm not sure how that would look yet as far as guidance and governance of this program we we've started a little bit on some conversations about that, what it would look like. I think it would be a select board.

0:49:9.270 --> 0:49:24.650

Matt Murano (Guest)

Subcommittee type entity from from the towns Wilmington would only. Obviously, the facility which we already owned, the radio equipment and updating would be the responsibility for those areas, so.

0:49:25.750 --> 0:49:26.800

Matt Murano (Guest)

You know a.

0:49:27.470 --> 0:49:37.460

Matt Murano (Guest)

Another town looking to regional dispatch with us would be required to to do their own build out. Now in this grant application I submitted that includes the funding for.

0:49:39.240 --> 0:49:59.790

Matt Murano (Guest)

The other interested towns to do their initial equipment build out, but I'm talking down the road when technology changes or when Department of Homeland Security says, oh, by the way, you know you're removing the P25 compliancy and we're rolling back or or whatever changes come because they seem to happen quite a bit with technology.

0:50:1.590 --> 0:50:4.360

Matt Murano (Guest)

Paul, I don't recall what your third part was. You were looking for.

0:50:5.690 --> 0:50:7.510

Paul White

Yeah, and neither do I.

0:50:8.340 --> 0:50:9.90

Matt Murano (Guest)

OK.

0:50:10.930 --> 0:50:20.840

Paul White

We were looking at ongoing funding. You know what? How you would come up at at at what you charge your customer towns we're talking about which you covered. We're talking about governance and.

0:50:22.960 --> 0:50:23.230

Matt Murano (Guest)

Yeah.

0:50:22.90 --> 0:50:24.30

Paul White

Yeah, you could bring my notes up here.

0:50:25.320 --> 0:50:28.980

Paul White

Uh. In the meantime, any questions? Anybody have any questions for Matt?

0:50:30.350 --> 0:50:31.680

Paul White

All I'm looking at my notes here.

0:50:35.750 --> 0:50:40.900

Paul White

And I'm not. I can't see my team screen at the moment, so if there is a question, just go ahead and blurt it out.

0:50:46.290 --> 0:50:46.600

Matt Murano (Guest)

Morning.

0:50:52.720 --> 0:50:53.590

Paul White

Timelines, yes.

0:50:42.980 --> 0:51:3.370

Wooster, Mandy

Good morning, chief Mandy loser from department public safety. I just wanted to follow up. So one of the things we were trying to capture in this meeting was timelines and I know that you and I recently had a conversation, this timeline, the timeline for your agency, I think I noted nine months to start to be able to bring agencies on all the way up until 21 months. Does that seem accurate?

0:51:6.840 --> 0:51:23.640

Matt Murano (Guest)

On the outside of that. So if we got into EMS dispatching, I think that's going to be a bigger lift. It's gonna be a little more complicated. Those individual agencies, though, a lot of them fall under municipal governance and stuff. Some of them are still.

0:51:24.850 --> 0:51:31.740

Matt Murano (Guest)

A volunteer by nature, even though I think you know where we are, a lot of those agencies are now paid.

0:51:33.520 --> 0:51:55.260

Matt Murano (Guest)

But so I think that will complicate that a little bit. That conversation for us, the UHF dispatching for the police agencies that we could take on, we could move that along fairly quickly. We are simulcast repeater system. Like I said, it's brand new, just was updated. So it really wanted it be a.

0:51:57.270 --> 0:52:12.910

Matt Murano (Guest)

Would it be too complicated of a task for the equipment side? It really is the management side that the continued funding, how we're gonna, how we're going to come up with that, this, this regardless of which direction we go in. I don't want to oversell that.

0:52:14.160 --> 0:52:20.870

Matt Murano (Guest)

We are going to use this grant funding. You know there was a there was a rapidly approaching deadline.

0:52:21.620 --> 0:52:52.450

Matt Murano (Guest)

On this equipment grant and we wanted to make sure that if we had the capability to do a manageable size regional emergency dispatch, that could actually improve emergency communications here that that we were part of that grant process. However, I want to stress that we are not committed to one way or the other here for where we're going. You know, we are in the initial budget conversations.

0:52:53.250 --> 0:53:10.580

Matt Murano (Guest)

And my concern is, you know, looking at each contract, dispatching for us for those hours and or regional dispatch is gonna, you know, be around 20 to 30% of our overall budget. That is significant for local agencies.

0:53:11.720 --> 0:53:13.410

Matt Murano (Guest)

And it is bound to.

0:53:14.590 --> 0:53:38.120

Matt Murano (Guest)

Have some impact on our operational capabilities. So you know we're we're coming into our budget season next week, we start budget conversations and where those go and what that conversation looks like may dictate how we can move down this road and manage that. You know that financial burden that's going to follow this so I.

0:53:38.970 --> 0:53:44.320

Matt Murano (Guest)

Equipment wise Umm, I'm fairly confident we can move to the UHF service.

0:53:45.960 --> 0:53:50.730

Matt Murano (Guest)

You know, within a 9 to 12 month time span, I think.

0:53:51.500 --> 0:53:57.690

Matt Murano (Guest)

You know, 21 months to two years for any uh folks on the VHF side is is realistic as well.

0:54:1.230 --> 0:54:1.450

Paul White

Yeah.

0:53:59.750 --> 0:54:6.490

Matt Murano (Guest)

That that's complicated down here in case you're not familiar with the VHS EMS systems and Southern Vermont.

0:54:7.950 --> 0:54:15.420

Matt Murano (Guest)

You know, they have at most agencies down here use keen mutual aid. Uh, that's an outside for profit agency and.

0:54:16.600 --> 0:54:21.470

Matt Murano (Guest)

Historically, I I don't know the background it was before I came to be an emergency services.

0:54:22.700 --> 0:54:24.20

Matt Murano (Guest)

The town owned.

0:54:31.320 --> 0:54:31.570

17fa7484-1584-4e40-ab47-f7ca519f154e

What?

0:54:24.740 --> 0:54:36.790

Matt Murano (Guest)

Repeaters for the VHF side were signed over to King Mutual aid at some point, so there's some ownership issues down here with equipment and towers, which would be complicated on that side.

0:54:39.20 --> 0:54:39.320

17fa7484-1584-4e40-ab47-f7ca519f154e

So.

0:54:38.840 --> 0:54:39.410

Wooster, Mandy

Thank you, chief.

0:54:40.230 --> 0:54:41.740

Wooster, Mandy

I have to hop off. Thank you everyone.

0:54:42.370 --> 0:54:43.220

Paul White

OK. Thank you, Mandy.

0:54:44.320 --> 0:54:47.770

Paul White

Any other questions for Chief Mirano, Mark, go ahead.

0:54:50.140 --> 0:54:51.270

Anderson, Mark

Matt, thanks for coming.

0:54:52.740 --> 0:54:59.670

Anderson, Mark

I'm gonna try to keep my question simple and certainly respect if we're getting too much into the weeds.

0:55:2.570 --> 0:55:20.300

Anderson, Mark

I know at one point we talked about the possibility of my regional dispatch supporting yours, and there's also other other opportunities for your agency. My question with your statement of your not necessarily committed to accepting the funds, would you want an opportunity to reapply?

0:55:22.40 --> 0:55:31.760

Anderson, Mark

To support your agency and or the agencies you're looking to cover, getting equipment to join another center. If your plan doesn't work out.

0:55:34.700 --> 0:55:35.160

Matt Murano (Guest)

Umm.

0:55:36.220 --> 0:55:43.200

Matt Murano (Guest)

I I would really liked a lot more time on this, you know before.

0:55:44.830 --> 0:55:50.150

Matt Murano (Guest)

You know that deadline approach? That's really quick. I think we had about a five week window to apply for that grant.

0:55:51.360 --> 0:55:58.170

Matt Murano (Guest)

So I mean my, you know, my concern is that we're moving at a pace to fix a problem, and we're gonna end up with other problems and.

0:55:59.630 --> 0:56:28.520

Matt Murano (Guest)

You know, I've, you know, we're we're trying to make the best out of this looking at this grant funding to assist us. But like I said this, this is gonna be a significant shift in cost from the income tax raised funds in this state to the property tax. And if you own property or business and or both in Vermont, the property tax side is is pretty daunting right now. So I mean this this is going to impact local municipalities.

0:56:29.600 --> 0:56:46.210

Matt Murano (Guest)

Significantly, So what I like more time and possibly the ability to redirect our energy. Yes, I mean we're so the problem now is we're juggling like three or four different possibilities here plans. You know we're working different plans, different budgets.

0:56:47.390 --> 0:57:19.260

Matt Murano (Guest)

You know when DPS started notifying us that there was issues with with dispatch and covering dispatch,

you know? Well, I went to the select board in Wilmington. I said look, what can we do to help? They we freed up some money in our budget and we were able to expand our dispatch coverage. Not only that just so everyone's aware we went back and I went to my 2 dispatchers that cover those seven days a week. And you know during they took an hour on paid lunch in the middle of it where we would sign our phones over to.

0:57:19.580 --> 0:57:25.450

Matt Murano (Guest)

To a state where they would cover us for that hour lunch as well, and now would they work through lunch?

0:57:25.550 --> 0:57:38.80

Matt Murano (Guest)

Ohm and you know to try and soften and reduce our burden on DPS. So we we took to heart what DPS concerns were and we really tried to work.

0:57:39.290 --> 0:57:46.110

Matt Murano (Guest)

With what we had for resources locally to reduce our burden and that's really what we're trying to do now.

0:57:47.190 --> 0:57:47.740

Matt Murano (Guest)

Where we.

0:57:48.680 --> 0:58:1.930

Matt Murano (Guest)

You know, we also are trying to improve emergency communication down here while making it something that is manageable and that has a good investment from local communities now.

0:58:3.290 --> 0:58:14.550

Matt Murano (Guest)

You know, going with outside, larger regional dispatches, you become a much smaller piece in that. And when you're a small rural agency, you can get forgotten.

0:58:15.590 --> 0:58:44.220

Matt Murano (Guest)

And it does impact safety and I could get into specifics, but I don't think it's necessary. But if you are not a major controlling player in regional dispatch services that you are getting, you can be a second rate agency on that list and that puts our Community second rate and that's also a concern we have. So we're we're weighing mark all these options.

0:58:44.800 --> 0:59:13.890

Matt Murano (Guest)

We're trying to plan accordingly for the future, you know, because we realize whatever decisions we make here are are, are going to be the future of dispatch and southern Vermont. And we wanna make sure that not only is our plan solid for today, but manageable with whatever increase in workload or systems or technology or reduction in workforce is coming around the corner in the future for us.

0:59:15.500 --> 0:59:18.250

Matt Murano (Guest)

So yeah, I I would love more time to plan this out.

0:59:22.20 --> 0:59:24.540

Paul White

Thank you, Matt. Any other questions for the chief?

0:59:42.520 --> 0:59:42.780

Paul White

Yeah.

0:59:28.850 --> 0:59:45.450

Paul White

OK, I don't see any. I thank you again for joining us on short notice. You're welcome to hang out next half hour, but I know you probably got plenty of other things to do as well. So thank you for your time and we'll talk to you again. Well, thank you and thank you to everybody on the committee for your time and energy here as well.

0:59:46.580 --> 0:59:46.820

Paul White

Right.

0:59:52.540 --> 1:0:0.830

Paul White

From other business, Brian had to leave us, so I didn't get a chance to ask him about, you know, George Merkel was.

1:0:0.910 --> 1:0:7.40

Paul White

Umm, one of the designated members of this working group in George's retiring at the end of the month.

1:0:8.950 --> 1:0:25.320

Paul White

And George was representing the Police Chiefs Association in Brian being, Brian being the president and the Chiefs Association needs to appoint somebody to take George's place. And I was hoping that we would learn who that was going to be. But Brian had to leave. So I will connect with him offline to.

1:0:26.40 --> 1:0:27.150

Paul White

Ask about that.

1:0:28.660 --> 1:0:29.410

Paul White

UM.

1:0:30.260 --> 1:0:36.10

Paul White

Anybody have any comments on what we just heard from Shelburne, Windham County in Wilmington?

1:0:44.880 --> 1:0:46.50

Paul White

Not seeing any hands.

1:0:47.150 --> 1:0:47.860

Paul White

I like.

1:0:50.530 --> 1:0:57.280

Paul White

I don't want to quote him without his permission, but I think keep me around. All really hit on the head. Some of the issues here in that.

1:0:58.200 --> 1:1:3.150

Paul White

In my opinion, this whole grant process really was rolled out far too quickly.

1:1:6.20 --> 1:1:9.490

Paul White

It could benefit from having some more time to to plan it properly.

1:1:11.20 --> 1:1:11.560

Paul White

Umm.

1:1:13.350 --> 1:1:22.770

Paul White

So we've been plugging along at this document that Mandy is sort of the keeper of. I know Lance has access to it, but Mandy's kind of been the the one driving the ship there.

1:1:23.670 --> 1:1:25.420

Paul White

With the goal of.

1:1:26.180 --> 1:1:30.60

Paul White

Producing something for a report by December 1st.

1:1:31.560 --> 1:1:32.750

Paul White

And I'm I'm really.

1:1:35.50 --> 1:1:47.10

Paul White

A lot of people have whispered to me and I kind of myself of the mind set of, you know, which which makes more sense to to submit a report by December 1st. It really doesn't accomplish.

1:1:48.70 --> 1:1:59.400

Paul White

What was intended or to go to the legislature? Well, we're we're directed to submit this report to the legislature and the governor. What does it make more sense to simply go to those bodies and just say?

1:2:0.150 --> 1:2:3.800

Paul White

What you asked was unreasonable. We need more time and we need some funding to.

1:2:4.240 --> 1:2:13.890

Paul White

Umm, bring on a subject matter expert or maybe even two to guide us because you know we can. We can submit a report recommending.

1:2:15.400 --> 1:2:27.280

Paul White

Something, but I don't mean to diminish the knowledge or the skills of anybody in this group, but we are not experts on how much it's gonna cost to stand up a true regional dispatch network.

1:2:28.640 --> 1:2:34.130

Paul White

And what the timeline is and what all the steps are, you know we don't know. We don't know what we don't know in my opinion.

1:2:34.410 --> 1:2:37.660

Paul White

Uh. And so I am, uh, waffling between.

1:2:38.440 --> 1:2:53.110

Paul White

Moving forward with what we've been working on with trying to produce a report, even if it's not complete or simply going to the powers that be and saying what you've asked of us is not reasonable and we need.

1:2:54.510 --> 1:3:1.780

Paul White

We need you to retain a consultant to study this situation so that we can write a thorough professional report.

1:3:4.480 --> 1:3:6.80

Paul White

And we are now.

1:3:7.460 --> 1:3:12.350

Paul White

Midway through October is this report is due in six weeks or less so.

1:3:14.50 --> 1:3:16.110

Paul White

Here is what others have to say on that.

1:3:20.100 --> 1:3:20.390

Burnham, Lance

Well.

1:3:20.330 --> 1:3:21.990

Paul White

Let yeah, go ahead.

1:3:21.720 --> 1:3:22.150

Burnham, Lance

I guess.

1:3:23.480 --> 1:3:41.620

Burnham, Lance

I hear what you're saying. I guess my question is, what is it that the group feels that were not able to answer that legislative is asked for the extension? I'm not. I'm not against the extension. I just wanna be forefront with that.

1:3:42.600 --> 1:3:52.850

Burnham, Lance

However, I'm just curious what the group feels that were not able to answer on on the specific questions that the legislature is asked for the group.

1:3:56.730 --> 1:3:58.90

Paul White

Well, I think that.

1:3:59.520 --> 1:4:0.260

Paul White

We don't.

1:4:1.530 --> 1:4:2.350

Paul White

Yeah, we have.

1:4:3.90 --> 1:4:17.480

Paul White

On the the parallel track through the grant process, we have a whole bunch of proposals as Chief mirano just told us, some of them, I'm sure we're proposals that were just thrown together hurriedly because there was a deadline that they had to meet.

1:4:18.800 --> 1:4:19.330

Paul White

But.

1:4:20.130 --> 1:4:21.590

Paul White

Do those proposals.

1:4:22.410 --> 1:4:34.810

Paul White

Even if they were all funded fully fully through, those proposals really give us a true network of regional dispatch centers. Or does it just create 11 silos operating by themselves?

1:4:35.430 --> 1:4:39.710

Paul White

Umm. And I'm certainly not qualified to.

1:4:41.510 --> 1:4:45.490

Paul White

To say if if we if we fund those 11 proposals.

1:4:46.190 --> 1:4:56.960

Paul White

Is that good? Do we just OK, that takes agencies away from DPS and we're good. We can brush our hands and walk away. You know, I don't know what is truly needed in the state.

1:4:58.710 --> 1:5:10.960

Paul White

To have a true system of regional dispatch centers, you know, so that if one fails, someone else can pick up the workload. And if you know to reach the dead zones that we don't even know where they all are yet.

1:5:12.200 --> 1:5:31.550

Paul White

I just I think if we hand in a report, yeah, we can make recommendations on how to take workload off from DPS's plate, but I don't know that we're really, truly making a a good recommendation on how to have a good network of regional dispatch centers going forward.

1:5:32.750 --> 1:5:34.20

Paul White

And if that answers your question.

1:5:36.520 --> 1:5:42.150

Burnham, Lance

Yeah, I I know Bob's got his hand. I know there's a couple. I'll let other people and then I'll.

1:5:42.940 --> 1:5:45.860

Paul White

Just give my opinion. Go ahead. OK, Bob, go ahead.

1:5:47.270 --> 1:6:18.100

Bob Schlachter (Guest)

Uh, yes, I agree with you, Paul, that I think there's a lot left uncovered here. And to say we're gonna be

able to stand up regional dispatch centers, you know, with the information that we have right now, I don't believe it even gets anywhere near what has to be done. And I read your comments to the Commissioner and, you know, I do represent the fire service statewide. I'm also involved with Rutland County. And we are the largest user of DPS services. And I understand where they're coming from.

1:6:18.280 --> 1:6:20.380

Bob Schlachter (Guest)

And what they want to do but.

1:6:21.190 --> 1:6:53.520

Bob Schlachter (Guest)

We here are still haven't had the discussion with the one agency that really is talking about doing this. The Sheriff's Department on funding because at one point we were told that DPS would continue for two years before they started charging towns and would have money for the transition, particularly personnel and the like. And you know, I'm not sure that that's out there at the moment. And again, our sheriff, I don't think wants to take on something that is going to.

1:6:53.880 --> 1:6:56.480

Bob Schlachter (Guest)

Not have some type of dedicated.

1:6:56.740 --> 1:7:26.430

Bob Schlachter (Guest)

Uh, you know, funding for it for startup, and then we work through the process of coming up with what we're gonna do here locally. And then is there something that the state really should be doing as far as not necessarily the property tax, but some broad based tax. I suggest the marijuana tax to fund our dispatch centers. And I mean, I'm that's a little tongue in cheek that I just said, but it's possibility certainly it's gonna create issues for our public safety agencies and.

1:7:26.590 --> 1:7:57.660

Bob Schlachter (Guest)

That'd be great place for it, I guess. But I think we have a lot more work to do and I think your idea of having somebody subject matter experts come in here and help us is gonna go a long way toward creating something that will work for many years into the future will address public safety's concern about wanting to shed the other non public safety, non DPS assets or entities out here. But I think we have a lot to do still and I'm not sure that it's moving.

1:7:58.30 --> 1:8:1.460

Bob Schlachter (Guest)

Very fast in a particular direction because we still have a lot of unanswered questions.

1:8:4.850 --> 1:8:7.40

Paul White

OK. Thank you, Bob, Barb.

1:8:9.120 --> 1:8:15.790

Neal, Barbara

Umm, I'm thinking I should just say Ditto show what Bob just said, cause he addressed a lot of the things I was thinking, but.

1:8:17.150 --> 1:8:26.640

Neal, Barbara

I think as far as the report goes, we need to be prepared and and Mandy is kind of leading us through that work to be prepared to answer the questions that we can.

1:8:28.390 --> 1:8:34.240

Neal, Barbara

And identify what we can't answer, and then I maybe our our.

1:8:36.150 --> 1:8:44.340

Neal, Barbara

You're one of the recommendations that we would have as this working group is this more time, you know, more time, more subject matter experts.

1:8:45.730 --> 1:8:53.260

Neal, Barbara

On it, you know, we each have our own little corner or own little piece of this. But I'm thinking if somebody that that can.

1:8:53.340 --> 1:8:57.630

Neal, Barbara

Umm, you know, kind of look at the bigger picture.

1:8:59.540 --> 1:9:0.370

Neal, Barbara

Would be helpful.

1:9:3.910 --> 1:9:24.900

Neal, Barbara

And I I very much appreciated Paul's comments as well to Commissioner Morrison on the grant program, and I thought there were several good comments that came in on that. And Paul kind of seemed to include all, all of the concerns that have been voiced by different members of the working group. So I know he identified those as a.

1:9:25.580 --> 1:9:35.570

Neal, Barbara

As his own comments, but I thought they they spoke very well to what this entire group has been considering, so I just wanted to add that are we expecting?

1:9:39.100 --> 1:9:50.650

Neal, Barbara

Well, I guess the the comments are in the hands of the Commissioner now to do with what she sees fit as far as the the grant plan. So I'll take back that question and that's all I have.

1:9:52.220 --> 1:9:56.690

Paul White

OK. Thank you, Barb. Bob, did you have your hand back up or you still up from before?

1:9:57.840 --> 1:9:59.440

Bob Schlachter (Guest)

No, I'm asking you up from before.

1:10:3.120 --> 1:10:4.490

Paul White

OK. Lance, did you have?

1:10:5.600 --> 1:10:6.790

Paul White

More to say.

1:10:6.840 --> 1:10:19.740

Burnham, Lance

Yeah, I I guess I know Bob touched on just kind of my big thing is I hear everything everybody is saying and I I wanna be again. I wanna be up front and saying that I am not against asking for an extension.

1:10:21.0 --> 1:10:52.250

Burnham, Lance

But what I do, what I would caution the work group is I'm reading the mandate that is put forth through US, and I will say like the very first question that seems is the long term funding model. And if they're these are recommendations, long term funding model for regional centers and we if you read what we have in this report thus far we I think we have come close to to answering that and I understand that's probably the biggest stickler for.

1:10:52.570 --> 1:10:54.400

Burnham, Lance

A lot of the members of the working group.

1:10:55.820 --> 1:11:19.570

Burnham, Lance

A lot of these other questions that we are well on our way of answering and I agree with Barb that we do have to submit something to legislature by December 1, whether or not be a complete document or not and whether we ask for an extension at that time, I I'm fine with that. I I absolutely am. But I also wanna emphasize that.

1:11:20.740 --> 1:11:25.680

Burnham, Lance

We're we're, Paul said. We're not experts in these matters. None of us are.

1:11:26.960 --> 1:11:30.650

Burnham, Lance

So for us to come up with a long term funding model.

1:11:31.290 --> 1:11:33.240

Burnham, Lance
Is unrealistic, right?

1:11:33.110 --> 1:11:34.560

Burnham, Lance
We should not be doing that.

1:11:35.700 --> 1:11:51.40

Burnham, Lance
That is why we vote these people into office, but they wanted the job. They got it. Here you go. Here's our suggestions. Here's our recommendations. So I'll be it. I hear everything that everyone says. But is that what legislative is asking us to do?

1:12:3.780 --> 1:12:4.30

Paul White
Right.

1:11:52.360 --> 1:12:17.610

Burnham, Lance
And then finally, I think we also need we have Members in this working group that quite frankly I don't see and I don't we're not getting anything from them. We need help getting this thing written and whether that be we start a making assignments, I don't know but we need help writing this. It can't be just a select few of us that are actually submitting paperwork for this.

1:12:18.880 --> 1:12:19.560

Burnham, Lance
And that's.

1:12:20.190 --> 1:12:21.20

Burnham, Lance
That's my thoughts.

1:12:24.260 --> 1:12:31.30

Paul White
OK. Yeah, I don't. I mean, I don't disagree with you, Lance, that I mean, yes, we need to submit something. Obviously, we're not gonna just.

1:12:32.500 --> 1:12:44.870

Paul White
Ignore the the mandate. I don't know if it's, you know, this is my first time in this position. You know, we are. This working group was established by the legislature.

1:12:46.790 --> 1:12:56.380

Paul White
Directed to be convened by the Commissioner, the DPS is was mandated to provide administrative, technical, legal assistance, so you know, I guess.

1:13:0.200 --> 1:13:7.430

Paul White

There, there's a lot of things that we're, you know, I and I, I hear. I know I'm in a few minutes, we're going to hear from Steve Whittaker who's going to say.

1:13:8.130 --> 1:13:21.30

Paul White

I give you people comments every week and you don't act on any of them, and he's absolutely right about that. You know, we haven't even addressed a lot of the issues that he has tirelessly brought before us, week after week.

1:13:23.280 --> 1:13:37.540

Paul White

But a lot of those issues are things that are way beyond the knowledge or skills of this group, you know, think talking about things like LTE and failover and resiliency and all of that. It's we need somebody who knows.

1:13:38.940 --> 1:13:41.390

Paul White

Public safety radio systems to to.

1:13:42.830 --> 1:13:49.410

Paul White

I'm not explain it to us, but to tell us what's what's needed. What do we not know? What are we not thinking of? What should be included?

1:13:50.870 --> 1:14:6.940

Paul White

So I guess yeah. So I mean we can we can submit a report that says this is what we know so far. These are our recommendations on what we're able to recommend. But if you want a more thorough picture, more time is needed and some consultants are going to be required.

1:14:9.890 --> 1:14:10.220

Paul White

Part.

1:14:11.540 --> 1:14:22.170

Neal, Barbara

I just wanted to add a comment. With all due respect to to Steven Whittaker and his input on on this group and any other input that comes in.

1:14:23.790 --> 1:14:33.550

Neal, Barbara

I think this group passed to remain focused on what the mandate was to what questions the legislature is asking and.

1:14:34.320 --> 1:14:43.350

Neal, Barbara

All of the other information that's coming in is part of the conversation, but I don't know that it's always directed at the scope that we are faced with right now, so.

1:14:44.70 --> 1:14:45.490

Neal, Barbara
I just wanted to.

1:14:46.550 --> 1:14:47.500

Neal, Barbara
To add that.

1:14:48.290 --> 1:14:49.300

Paul White
OK. Thank you.

1:14:51.540 --> 1:14:54.390

Paul White
OK. Any other comments before public comment?

1:14:59.370 --> 1:15:2.330

Paul White
Uh, just so you all know, next week.

1:15:3.130 --> 1:15:8.0

Paul White
We are going to hear from Steve Locke from the Chittenden County project.

1:15:8.810 --> 1:15:25.230

Paul White
Followed by John Bixby and Dave Fox from the Rutland County Sheriff's Office and then Ben Couture from Saint Albans PD to talk about those 3 proposals. So that will eat up a good share of our meeting next week. But I'm sure it won't take it all.

1:15:27.330 --> 1:15:38.320

Paul White
And so I guess we can continue this conversation next week if anybody who is a part of the, I get a lot. I've had, I've forwarded you comments that I've received from.

1:15:39.710 --> 1:15:53.780

Paul White
Well, Steve's comments that he sent to Commissioner Morrison, he shared with me and I shared with you all. And then also I got comments from former Senator Vince Illuzzi that I shared with you. I did not forward. I also got an e-mail from Senator Jeanette White.

1:15:54.640 --> 1:16:2.690

Paul White
Windham County, who essentially echoed what Vince Illuzzi had to say. I did, did not bother to forward that e-mail. But.

1:16:4.630 --> 1:16:11.580

Paul White

Just so you all know, I am getting various comments sent to me from a whole bunch of different entities I didn't know I would hear from.

1:16:13.840 --> 1:16:33.160

Paul White

But with that being said, anybody on the working group who has has, you know, not like like glance said there are several members of the group not contributing a whole lot during our meetings. If there are comments that you would like to make or things that you want to see make it into this report, please put them in writing and send them to me and we will make sure that they are included.

1:16:34.670 --> 1:16:36.460

Paul White

And with that, unless there are any other.

1:16:37.100 --> 1:16:41.330

Paul White

Closing comments from the working group members, I will open it up to public comment.

1:16:47.740 --> 1:16:48.750

advocate (Guest)

Steve Whitaker here.

1:16:49.260 --> 1:16:49.930

Paul White

Go ahead, Steve.

1:16:53.980 --> 1:17:9.70

advocate (Guest)

With all due respect, I'll use that same double entendre here. Barq's comment about what is she's being beyond the scope, the scope of the work group from the legislative charge is to include.

1:17:9.900 --> 1:17:31.550

advocate (Guest)

Forward-looking costs and a funding model and you can't ignore capital costs, resiliency costs, failover and even LTE. You can't ignore those. If you're gonna put a credible funding model forward because those have to be included in that funding model. So even though there.

1:17:32.210 --> 1:17:40.860

advocate (Guest)

Not being discussed doesn't mean they don't have need to be discussed and need to be budgeted in order to complete the assigned task of the working group.

1:17:42.410 --> 1:17:42.920

advocate (Guest)

So.

1:17:43.630 --> 1:17:55.540

advocate (Guest)

I'm a little perturbed that the department wants to, you know, take the can down the road, but we have to understand that they take their orders from.

1:17:56.130 --> 1:18:10.200

advocate (Guest)

Uh IT floor and it's politically in the 5th floor's interest to not have any specifics to act on so that there won't be momentum to act on raising of a statewide funding mechanism so.

1:18:11.400 --> 1:18:28.560

advocate (Guest)

Delay, delay, advocate advocate responsibility in effect, the administration needs to cover for the Department of Public Safety's 10 year telecommunications plan, absolute failure and the failure to implement the interoperability plan.

1:18:29.640 --> 1:18:34.250

advocate (Guest)

Or even to an appoint the emergency's advisory account.

1:18:36.80 --> 1:18:36.980

advocate (Guest)

In effect, there's.

1:18:38.680 --> 1:18:41.980

advocate (Guest)

I don't want to stand on there, so the report.

1:18:42.720 --> 1:18:44.720

advocate (Guest)

You could put a report together that.

1:18:45.520 --> 1:19:11.330

advocate (Guest)

And I commend Barb for recommending this. You can put a report together that tells what you do know and fleshes out the issues to the degree you've learned about them. You can also point gaps in the report and how your report will be that much more useful if you do get some money for a so that subject matter experts or project manager. But I would encourage you not to wait till the legislature.

1:19:14.890 --> 1:19:18.350

advocate (Guest)

How do you charge you not to wait till the legislature approves that?

1:19:19.10 --> 1:19:19.650

advocate (Guest)

Ohh.

1:19:21.240 --> 1:19:30.650

advocate (Guest)

Report in June, I would ask the Joint Fiscal Committee. I wouldn't recommend work through the Commissioner to ask the Joint Fiscal Committee to.

1:19:33.140 --> 1:19:42.650

advocate (Guest)

Release some of the funds to get those consultants on board so that you potentially could have some of these answers in before the end of the session.

1:19:43.600 --> 1:19:44.60

advocate (Guest)

Right.

1:19:44.830 --> 1:20:3.740

advocate (Guest)

And because if you wait until leave it to the legislature, you're not gonna get budgeted money that's released till next July. And this whole thing will be set back by another year. So you some of the not six and a half million to get these processes started potentially with some deliverables during the session.

1:20:4.870 --> 1:20:5.460

advocate (Guest)

So.

1:20:6.230 --> 1:20:29.240

advocate (Guest)

Governance again briefly, is not just an Advisory Board. Governance means you've gotta have executive powers to dig into, such as in one central Vermont. We've had both deaths and delays 30 minute delays in ambulance being dispatched because somebody went on break and forgot, you know, it happens multiple times.

1:20:31.440 --> 1:20:36.410

advocate (Guest)

Also, regarding the Rutland model proposing.

1:20:38.400 --> 1:21:0.970

advocate (Guest)

To rely on the sheriff, just look at what happened in Addison County with the sheriff again, I'm not a reason for regional authorities to own the infrastructure and convene the governance so that if you do have a bad actor or a problem with any particular dispatching entity like an Addison County Sheriff, you can move your contract operating contracted operator to another body.

1:21:2.60 --> 1:21:2.450

advocate (Guest)

Uh.

1:21:7.230 --> 1:21:14.460

advocate (Guest)

I hear southern Vermont really describing a duct tape and bailing water bailing wire patchwork.

1:21:15.660 --> 1:21:21.820

advocate (Guest)

You know of radio design and I I think that's not what we're here for. Thank you.

1:21:23.70 --> 1:21:25.780

Paul White

Thank you, Steve. Penny, other other public comment.

1:21:33.550 --> 1:21:33.850

Paul White

OK.

1:21:38.10 --> 1:21:45.610

Paul White

Anything that comes up in the interim, let me know and we will look forward to hearing some more guests next week. Thank you all for your time today.

1:21:46.970 --> 1:21:47.480

Burnham, Lance

Thank you.

1:21:47.510 --> 1:21:47.890

17fa7484-1584-4e40-ab47-f7ca519f154e

Thank you.

1:21:48.770 --> 1:21:49.150

Bob Schlachter (Guest)

Thank you.

1:21:48.570 --> 1:21:49.240

Neal, Barbara

Thank you.