

STATE OF VERMONT
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS TASK FORCE

Meeting No. 12 – Meeting Minutes

October 25, 2023

Via Microsoft Teams

2:02 PM - Call to Order

Co-Chair Neal brought the meeting to order, conducted roll call. She reminded 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
Michael Wright, CEO of Calnex Ambulance
Mike Doenges, Mayor, Rutland City
James ‘Jim’ Mack, Shelburne Dispatch
Ron Kumetz, VSFA

Others Present

Cally Audet, Task Force Clerk
Phillip Sisk, Mission Critical Partners
Darek Wiczorek, Altairis Technology Partners
Richard Townend, Altairis Technology Partners
Stephen Whitaker
Kim Cheney

Agenda Changes

No changes.

Ron Kumetz entered the meeting at 2:06 PM.

Approval of Minutes from 10/17/2023 and 10/20/2023

Motion: At 2:07 PM, Ron Kumetz moved to approve the minutes from the 10/17/2023 Special Meeting No. 6 as written; 2nd by Co-Chair Morrison. No discussion; motion passed unanimously.

Motion: At 2:08 PM, Mike Doenges moved to approve the minutes from the 10/20/2023 Regular Meeting No. 11 as written; 2nd by Jim Mack. No discussion; motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

Co-Chair Neal opened the floor to public comment and gave members of the public a 5-minute limit each.

Stephen Whitaker expressed his beliefs that the RFP's the Task Force had released to date, for both the project manager and subject matter experts were not inclusive of all items he felt were important to convey, such as the need for pilot project planning prior to the close of the calendar year, as well as the need for a plan that encompasses both LMR and LTE. He requested that the Task Force consider these items as action items on a meeting agenda.

For additional details, see pages 10-14 of the meeting [transcript](#).

New Business

Co-Chair Morrison provided a brief update on the \$9 million of congressionally directed spending funds. She shared that she had just received word from the Attorney General's Office regarding the requirements for independent review. She shared that due to the fact that the project at hand is not defined as an IT project, it did not require an independent review to be completed. She also shared that while that was the determination, an independent review would in fact take place prior to moving forward as it was important to receive an outside prospective.

Co-Chair Neal also provided a clarifying note that it was her understanding based on the legislative language, that the Commissioner was to consult with the Task Force prior to making any decision on how the congressionally directed funds would be handled, but ultimately it is her responsibility to make the decision.

Paul White inquired where and how does one find an expert for independent review in this case. Co-Chair Morrison shared that she had asked her team to begin looking into it, but it was possible another RFP would need to be released for this matter as well.

Co-Chair Morrison opened the floor for task force members to discuss the matters of pilot projects and LMR and LTE inclusion in the RFP's as addressed previously by Mr. Whitaker; nothing further.

Co-Chair Neal shared she would review the RFP questions and answers to recall if and how the task force responded specifically to the LMR/LTE questions.

Little RFP Next Steps Discussion and Big RFP Responses Evaluations (Executive Session)

Motion: At 2:22 PM, Co-Chair Neal moved that the Task Force found sharing information about bitter presentations and responses publicly would put the task force at a substantial disadvantage in making a decision about awarding a contract to the successful bidder for both RFP's; 2nd by Jim Mack. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

Motion: At 2:23 PM, Co-Chair Morrison moved that the task force enter into Executive Session; 2nd by Jim Mack. The motion passed unanimously.

Executive Session was entered at 2:24 PM. All task force members and clerk, Cally Audet attended.

Motion: Mike Doenges moved that the task force exit Executive Session; 2nd by Co-Chair Morrison. The motion passed unanimously.

Executive Session ended at 2:54 PM.

Potential Vote Regarding Next Steps for Little RFP

No action taken.

Potential Vote Regarding Next Steps for Big RFP

Motion: At 2:56 PM, Co-Chair Neal moved to reopen the RFP period on the big RFP for the minimum required 5-days and require all vendors to resubmit their bids for proposals; 2nd by Jim Mack. No discussion; motion passed unanimously.

Next Meeting Date and Adjournment

The next meeting was scheduled as a special meeting on Friday, November 3, 2023, at 1:00 PM.

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 2:57 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Cally Audet
Cally Audet, Task Force Clerk

10/26/23
Date