

STATE OF VERMONT
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS TASK FORCE

Meeting No. 10 – Meeting Minutes

October 12, 2023

Via Microsoft Teams

10:00 AM - Call to Order

Co-Chair Morrison brought the meeting to order. Acting Clerk Soni Johnson conducted roll call and reminded attendees that the meeting was being recorded.

The following were in attendance:

Task Force Members Present

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

Others Present

Soni Johnson, E911 Board Clerk (subbing for Task Force Clerk Cally Audet)
Corey Chase
Mandy Wooster
Stephen Whitaker

Agenda Change – Public Comment was moved directly after Approval of Minutes.

Approval of Minutes from 9/11/23, 9/27/23, and 10/3/23

Motion: Mike Doenges moved to approve the minutes from the 9/11/23, 9/27/23, and 10/3/23 meetings; 2nd by Paul White. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

Stephen Whitaker reminded members that the legislation as passed only allows the committee to approve pilot projects during calendar year 23 (and requires approval by the joint fiscal committee before the end of the year). To not take action before then could put the initiative at risk. Mr. Whitaker also spoke of the need to: fine tune the dates that deliverable reports are due, collect data in advance, focus on a fixed geographic area, and test data collection/methodologies/workflows.

Status of Independent Legal Counsel RFP

Co-Chair Morrison advised members that the legal counsel RFP draft was shared with the Attorney General’s Office (they do not approve RFPs but do approve legal contracts). The Attorney General’s Office

has recommended that members confirm with the joint fiscal office that the funding to pay for this service is available; though members are free to release the RFP regardless.

Motion: Mike Doenges moved to release the independent legal counsel RFP; 2nd by Paul White.

Discussion: Co-Chair Morrison asked members for input on consulting with the Joint Fiscal Committee.

Task Force members present agreed that consulting with the Joint Fiscal Committee would be prudent.

Vote: There was no further discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

Pilot Project Considerations and Goals

Co-Chair Morrison asked members for their comments.

Members discussed:

- The Task Force should plan to focus on one area of the state, stand up a regional communications center, get it successful, and then use it as a proof of concept for projects in other areas of the state.
- When choosing a location, it will be important to find someone willing to host it and put the work in.
- Having a governance model in place (who's in charge, how are decisions made, how are disagreements resolved, who owns the equipment, how is it paid for, what happens if a host wants to stop hosting, etc.) will be vitally important.
- Funding is always an issue. How will towns pay for dispatch services? How will towns be billed for dispatch services? Could dispatch services be funded through a surcharge on phone bills?
- Towns need to vote on projects and budgets – none of this happens quickly.
- Rutland County could be a good place to start. Rutland PD and FD have expressed willingness to participate.
- Addison County could work as well (possibly as a failover for Rutland?).
- Is there a possibility that the DPS Derby & Rutland dispatch centers could re-open?

New Business

Three vendors that responded to the project management RFP have been invited to provide presentations to members. Co-Chair Morrison asked if this should be warned as a special meeting with the presentations scheduled to take place in executive session. Answer: yes.

Next Meeting Date and Adjournment

The next regular meeting is scheduled for 10/20/23 at 9:00 AM.

Motion: There being no further business, Jim Mack made a motion to adjourn; 2nd by Ron Kumetz. There was no further discussion and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 10:51 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Soni Johnson

Soni Johnson, E911 Board

10/17/23

Date