

STATE OF VERMONT
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS TASK FORCE

Meeting No. 26 – Meeting Minutes

May 22, 2024

Via Microsoft Teams

11:15 AM - Call to Order

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

The following were in attendance:

Task Force Members Present

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

Others Present

Soni Johnson, E911 Board Clerk (subbing for Task Force Clerk Cally Audet)
Rance Duffy
Rick Burke
Senator Irene Wrenner
Kim Cheney
Stephen Whitaker

Proposed Agenda Changes – none

Approval of Minutes from 5/8/24 (Regular Meeting #25)

Motion: Mike Doenges moved to approve the minutes from the 5/8/24 meeting; 2nd by Ron Kumetz. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

Stephen Whitaker:

- It is under the jurisdiction of the Task Force to oversee the use of the congressionally directed funds. The Department of Public Safety is planning to use those funds for items not related to the transition to regional dispatch. This is a misappropriation of funds. He has repeatedly asked the Task Force to discuss this.
- The Task Force should not rely on Televate for the review of the plans for the congressionally directed funds.

- The Task Force should use the one-year extension for Mission Critical to get a planning framework and architecture in place.
- Task Force members are being led around by the Co-Chairs.
- Both Task Force Co-Chairs have a conflict of interest.
- These items should be added to a future meeting agenda and discussed in an open meeting.

Co-Chair Neal advised that the Televate review of the congressionally directed spending plan will be on the agenda for the next regular meeting.

Mike Doenges responded that the majority of the systems currently included in the congressionally directed spending draft plan could be utilized for regional dispatch.

Project Updates – Televate

Rick Burke provided updates on:

- Review of the COPS Grant is ongoing.
- Dispatch survey/questionnaire updates have been made and it has been released to the Task Force for final review.
- Work with Mission Critical Partners on the outreach schedule is ongoing.
- Mission Critical Partners met with VCIC (Vermont Crime Information Center) to discuss obtaining information for the data collection process.

Dispatch Survey Status Update

Rance Duffy provided a brief overview of the changes made to the dispatch survey draft. The draft questionnaire was sent to Task Force members in advance of this meeting. Senator Wrenner, Stephen Whitaker, and Kim Cheney asked that a copy of the latest draft be forwarded to them. Acting Clerk Johnson marked a copy as ‘draft’ and sent it out via email.

Co-Chair Neal reviewed the updated document section by section, asking members for any changes:

- Introduction – no changes
- Contact Information & Demographics (questions 1-12)
 - Law/Fire/EMS agency questions should also gather information on the towns covered.
- Technology (questions 13-30) – no changes
- Wireless Communications (questions 31-58) – no changes
- Facilities & Equipment (questions 59-68) – no changes
- Operations (questions 69-82) – no changes
- Personnel & Staffing (questions 83-109) – no changes
- Calls & Incident Data (questions 110-121) – no changes
- Governance, Leadership, Planning (questions 122-130) – no changes
- Budget & Finance (questions 131-135) – no changes
- Data Request Checklist (question 136) – no changes

Motion: James Mack moved to approve the dispatch survey (with the town/coverage change previously discussed); 2nd by Ron Kumetz. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously. Note: Mike Doenges was not available for this vote.

Next Steps: An introductory email will be sent to the stakeholder list, to be followed by the survey a few days later.

Note: Co-Chair Morrison left the meeting at 11:58 AM.

New Business – none

Next Meeting Date and Adjournment

The next regular meeting is scheduled for 6/5/24.

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. Note: Mike Doenges was not available for this vote. The meeting adjourned at noon.

Respectfully submitted,

Soni Johnson
Soni Johnson, E911 Board

5/24/24
Date