

**STATE OF VERMONT**  
**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS TASK FORCE**

**Regular Meeting No. 15 – Meeting Minutes**

January 3, 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  
Ron Kumetz, VSFA  
Mike Doenges, Mayor, Rutland City  
Michael Wright, CEO of Calnex Ambulance

**Task Force Members Absent**

Paul White, Regional Dispatch Working Group, Vice-Chair

**Others Present**

Cally Audet, Task Force Clerk  
Phillip Sisk, Mission Critical Partners  
Stephen Whitaker  
Kim Cheney  
Jay Gagne, Windham County Sheriff’s Dept.  
Jim Morgan

**Approval of Agenda**

No changes.

**Approval of Minutes**

- 12/19/2023 – Regular Meeting No. 14
- 12/22/2023 – Special Meeting No. 14

*Motion: At 11:19 AM, Barb Neal moved that the task force approval all minutes listed on the agenda as written; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ron Kumetz. Motion passed unanimously.*

## **Review of Draft Report to Legislature**

Co-Chair Neal shared that a copy of the draft report to the legislature was distributed to task force members last week and displayed the draft report on the screen for all attendees to view and emphasized that this was a draft document only. The Chairs stated that this was an opportunity for the task force members to provide feedback, and members of the public would have the opportunity to do so during the public comment portion of the meeting.

Co-Chair Neal proposed adding language to the document acknowledging what the legislature requested in the report and the fact that the task force would be unable to deliver those items in said report. She then shared additional feedback received from other task force members to date, proposing a change in language to the final paragraph regarding the task force anticipating being able to meet the September 24<sup>th</sup> deadline for certain deliverables. There were no objections from task force members to these proposed changes.

With no objections, the Chairs shared they would continue to work on the previously noted language and send it back to the task force for final review and approval at a subsequent meeting.

Co-Chair Morrison asked that additional information be added to the stakeholder engagement section of the report, as both chairs have engaged in stakeholder engagement with various groups throughout the process thus far both individually and at other meetings.

The final report is due on Monday, January 15, however due to the holiday the task force is aiming to have the report submitted on Friday, January 12, 2024.

Conversation was had regarding whether or not the final draft must be voted on in public session. The task force will revisit approval at next week's meeting.

## **Public Comment**

Co-Chair Neal opened the floor to public comment.

Stephen Whitaker shared many concerns he had with the drafted report to the legislature, inclusive of the following topics: confidentiality policies, independent counsel, meeting quorum, project management and subject matter expert selection, access to 911 Board cell antennas, congressionally directed spending, and the development of procedures and best practices to name a few.

For further details, please see the meeting transcript (attached) beginning at 0:13:37.510.

Kim Cheney expressed his concerns regarding lack of information and decisions being shared publicly. He shared that he would have liked to review draft contracts and other documents prior to their release. He expressed that he did not feel that the Task Force had made much progress to date.

For further details, please see the meeting transcript (attached) beginning at 0:19:50.470.

Co-Chair Neal stated that much of the contract process to date has needed to occur in executive session due to the legal process. Once these items have been finalized, more information will be available for public consumption.

Steven Whitaker asked that it be noted that Kim Cheney used to be the attorney general.

### **New Business**

Co-Chair Neal opened the floor to task force members for discussion of new business. She shared that she did not find reason to enter executive session as there were no further updates to discuss regarding contracts at that time.

Co-Chair Morrison provided a brief update on the current status of contract development, stating that the contract for the project manager had entered its final stages of development and approval. She shared that they hope to have the contract available for public consumption by the end of the week. She also shared that the contracting process continues for the task force's independent counsel, with a few things to work through in the vetting process.

Co-Chair Morrison shared that the chairs would be speaking with members of the House Committee on Government Operations later in the day to catch them up on the activities of the task force to date, to seek feedback or suggestions they have on the report that will later be provided to them on January 12<sup>th</sup>.

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

No business to discuss in executive session.

### **Potential Action(s) as a Result of Executive Session**

None.

### **Set Next Meeting Date and Adjournment**

The next meeting was scheduled as a regular meeting for Wednesday, January 10, 2024, at 11:15 AM.

*Motion: There being no further business, Michael Doenges made a motion to adjourn; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ron Kumetz. There was no further discussion and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 11:44 AM.*

Respectfully submitted,

Cally Audet  
Cally Audet, Clerk

01/03/24  
Date