

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

**Regular Meeting No. 25 – Meeting Minutes**

May 8, 2024

Via Microsoft Teams

**11:16 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  
Paul White, Regional Dispatch Working Group, Vice-Chair  
Mike Doenges, Mayor, Rutland City  
James ‘Jim’ Mack, Shelburne Dispatch  
Ron Kumetz, VSFA  
Michael Wright, CEO of Calnex Ambulance

**Others Present**

Cally Audet, Task Force Clerk  
Kim Cheney  
Rance Duffy, Mission Critical Partners  
Dominick Arcuri, Televate  
Stephen Whitaker  
Rick Burke, Televate  
Bonnie Maney, Mission Critical Partners

**Approval of Agenda**

No changes were made to the agenda.

**Approval of Minutes**

- 04/24/2024 – Regular Meeting No. 25

*Motion: At 11:19 AM, Paul White moved that the Task Force approve the minutes as written; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jim Mack. Motion passed unanimously.*

## **Public Comment**

Co-Chair Neal opened the floor to public comment.

Stephen Whitaker provided the following comments:

- Requested that Task Force members discuss comments provided during his public comment testimony given on April 24, 2024, particularly those regarding the pending amendment to inventorying the right-of-way to create the visibility of a potential sustainable revenue source to support dispatch.
- Expressed concerns regarding potentially entering the largest or most numerous hurricane season and are predicted to enter solar maximum in the coming year without near term enhancements to emergency communications or a plan to get cellular to current dead zones.

Michael Wright entered the meeting at 11:21 AM.

## **Project Updates - Televate**

Dom Arcuri from the Televate project management team provided the following project updates:

- Focus has been on data collection for the dispatch questionnaire - there are additional ongoing updates on this being made. Specific questions were added regarding radio and wireless communications and cybersecurity.
- Mission Critical Partners (MCP) is currently working on developing a schedule for on-site visits.
- Ongoing communications continues with Corey Chase, Statewide Interoperability Coordinator regarding radio and wireless communications.
- Project Frequently Asked Questions document was posted on the Task Force website.
- Televate is continuing their review of the COPS Technology and Equipment Grant Program assessment and hope to have final feedback to share at the next Task Force meeting

Co-Chair Neal opened the floor to questions - no questions.

## **Dispatch Survey Status Update**

Rance Duffy shared that MCP has completed initial review of the survey questionnaire and has had preliminary conversations with the Task Force chairs and Televate team members. He shared that additional questions would be added from their wireless team. Once that is complete, MCP will go back to Televate and Co-Chairs for additional review and will then bring the document back to the Task Force.

## **New Business**

Paul White followed up on a comment made by Mr. Whitaker during public comment regarding the Task Force members being “led around” by the Co-Chairs. He shared that personally, he felt that that was exactly what was intended by the legislature when creating the Co-Chair positions. He also shared that this is what he believed the task force members both want and expect since the Task Force as an entire body does not

have the time to be intimately involved in every conversation. He shared that while he will admit he does wish there had been more progress at this point, being led by the Chairs is exactly what he would like to happen in this situation.

Mr. White went on to discuss and gather thoughts from Task Force members regarding his appointment to the Task Force. He reminded folks that he was initially appointed to the Public Safety Working Group two years ago as a representative of the Vermont Leagues of Cities and Towns (VLCT) because of his role as Select Board Chair in Barre Town. Due to his role on this first working group, he was appointed by the legislature to the now existing Public Safety Communications Task Force. Mr. White went on to share that his term on the Barre Town Selectboard is coming to a close next week.

Having shared the news of his term ending, Mr. White shared that he was happy to continue to serve on this Task Force, but provided the opportunity for the other Task Force members to share their opinions on if they felt he should step down from his current appointment to this Task Force.

Co-Chair Morrison stated that she believed this decision would be up to whomever appointed Mr. White to this specific Task Force and does not believe any changes need to be made as he was appointed by the legislature.

Co-Chair Neal stated that she was in agreement with Co-Chair Morrison, and reminded members that VLCT was allowed to weigh in with their appointment of Mike Doenges as Mayor of Rutland City.

Jim Mack and Michael Wright shared they did not feel anything needed to change.

Ron Kumetz entered the meeting at 11:32 AM.

Co-Chair Morrison acknowledged Mr. Whitakers' earlier comments regarding parts of the solution that he envisions as being inevitable in any design, sharing that in her opinion this process is a constant struggle of not jumping to conclusions and appearing to preordain what is being built and what solutions will be proposed at the end of this process. She reiterated her continued sentiments that it is important to involve the stakeholders in a way that allows them to feel heard, and not feel as though decisions are being forced on them.

She shared that she feels it's important for the Task Force to trust in MCP and the subject matter experts to do the work implicated in Act 78 and for the Task Force members to continue to support them as they do this work; as there will come a time where there are options presented that need to be evaluated, just not yet.

Co-Chair Morrison acknowledges the continued frustration expressed by Mr. Whitaker but believes it's important to honor the process and to work through the steps methodically. Co-Chair Neal was in agreement with Co-Chair Morrison's comments.

Jim Mack shared that although in his current daily occupation he is faced with the real challenges regarding a CAD system, he too expressed the need to follow through on this process to ensure it is done correctly for the state as a whole.

Co-Chair Neal opened the floor to Kim Cheney for public input as he was not present at that time.

Kim Cheney shared that he is looking for a hard copy of the DOJ COPS report as he believes it needs to be brought before the Task Force to review the requirements on governance.

Co-Chair Neal shared with Mr. Cheney that the email he provided after the last meeting was circulated to the Task Force Members in the morning prior to today's meeting.

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

The next regular meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 22, at 11:15 AM.

Mike Doenges entered the meeting at 11:37 AM.

*Motion: There being no further business, Co-Chair Morrison made a motion to adjourn; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jim Mack. There was no further discussion and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 11:38 AM.*

Respectfully submitted,

Cally Audet

Cally Audet, Clerk

05/08/24

Date