

STATE OF VERMONT
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS TASK FORCE

Regular Meeting No. 33 – Meeting Minutes

September 4, 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, Vermont E911 Director, Co-Chair

James ‘Jim’ Mack, Shelburne Dispatch

Ron Kumetz, VSFA

Paul White, Regional Dispatch Working Group, Vice-Chair

Michael Wright, CEO of Calx Ambulance

Others Present

Cally Audet, Task Force Clerk

Dominick Arcuri, Televate

Rick Burke, Televate

Rance Duffy, Mission Critical Partners

Philip Sisk, Mission Critical Partners

Kim Cheney

Stephen Whitaker, Montpelier

Senator Irene Wrenner, Joint Technology Information Oversight Committee

Approval of Agenda

No changes.

Approval of Minutes

- 08/21/2024 – Regular Meeting No. 32

Motion: At 11:20 AM, Jim Mack moved that the Task Force approve the minutes as written; 2nd by Ron Kumetz. Motion passed unanimously.

Regional Town Hall and Community Listening Session Planning Discussion

Co-Chair Neal provided a brief updated on upcoming Regional Town Hall meetings. She reiterated that these sessions are intended to gather input primarily from emergency responders and state/local personnel.

The Regional Town Hall sessions are schedule for the following dates and times:

- Northwest: September 11, 2024, from 5-7 p.m. at the Swanton Town Hall.
- Southwest: September 12, 2024, from 12-2 p.m. at the Vermont Fire Academy in Pittsford.
- Northeast: September 17, 2024, from 8-10 a.m. at the Northeastern Vermont Regional Hospital in St Johnsbury.
- Southeast: September 19, 2024, from 5-7 p.m. at the Springfield Parent Child Center.

There can be no more than three (3) Task Force members present at each session. An availability poll will be distributed to Task Force members following the meeting.

The meetings will start with introductory comments from the Task Force to include an introduction of members in attendance, as well as members of Televate and Mission Critical Partners teams. Introductions will be followed by minor housekeeping items and an overview of Task Force work to date, as well as project updates from the project management team.

Co-Chair Neal shared that it is important to convey to session attendees that there is no predetermined outcome for these meetings.

Dom Arcuri shared the draft presentation slide deck to be used during the town hall meetings and provided a brief overview of the intended meeting agenda.

Rance Duffy shared the following registration statistics for each of the Town Hall sessions as of September 3rd:

- Swanton – 21 Registered
- Fire Academy – 25 Registered
- NVRH – 22 Registered
- Springfield – 13 Registered

Mr. Duffy also shared that there will be a whiteboard option available to display conversation points throughout the meeting; available virtually and in-person.

Co-Chair Neal encourage Task Force members to reach out to organizations in their constituencies to ensure they are aware of the meetings, and shared that she would be calling several board members as well as key legislators.

Michael Wright entered the meeting at 11:33 AM.

Public Comment

Co-Chair Neal opened the floor to public comment.

Kim Cheney inquired if the public is invited to the Regional Town Hall Meeting. Co-Chair Neal shared that community members are invited; however, these sessions will be used to gather input from the intended target audience, and that there would be availability for community members to provide feedback during Community Listening Sessions be scheduled for a later date.

Mr. Cheney also discussed a recent article sent to Co-Chair Neal and Rick Burke.

Senator Wrenner shared that there might be SMEs from other critical infrastructure sectors that would have valuable feedback that may not have received the original invitations.

Stephen Whitaker provided the following comments:

- Interested to hear more about the concern raised by Senator Wrenner
- Concerned that the Regional Town Hall meetings are designed to prevent members of the public from sharing their concerns about the Task Force and the work they have completed to date.
- He expressed continued concerns regarding the Task Forces' oversight of the earmarked congressionally directed spending funds.

Project Updates:

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

- Televate and MCP teams have completed the initial round of Dispatch Center visits and are currently working on analyzing the data collected.
- Mission Critical Partners (MCP) continue to work on scheduling the remaining 8 site visits.
- Continue to work on planning Regional Town Halls sessions.
- MCP team continues to work on gather wireless system data to identify specific gap areas.
- Have worked with various stakeholders (i.e. Hardwick) to discuss some of the gaps and concerns in local communities.

Rance Duffy from the Mission Critical Partner team provided the following updates:

- Reiterated items shared by Dom as the teams have been working closely on tasks currently.
- Working on data analysis to include wireless and cellular data.

Co-Chair Neal inquired if the Community Listening Sessions are scheduled. Televate and MCP confirmed that these sessions have not yet been scheduled, however the planning for these sessions is underway.

New Business

Co-Chair Neal provided rationale behind planning for stakeholders who received invitations for the Regional Town Hall sessions. She also reiterated that for those who were not in the initial round of

invitations, there would also be Community Listening Session for stakeholders outside of the initial target audience. Co-Chair Neal also noted that the meeting invitations included language about recipients distributing the invitations far and wide with whomever might be interested in attending.

Rance Duffy shared that providing conversations for these various groups at different times is important because the needs of these stakeholders are all very different.

Jim Mack shared that he feels it is important to have these separate group specific meetings and agreed that the immediate need is to focus on emergency response and communications personnel as well as state and local officials first.

Paul White reiterated points previously made by other Task Force members that everyone will have the opportunity to share their opinions, just not all at the same time. He reminded attendees that many folks routinely attend regularly scheduled Task Force meetings to provide their opinion and feedback; however, the Task Force also needs to provide a forum in which they can gather data and feedback specifically from the first responder communities. Community Listening Sessions will be scheduled for a later date to allow for community members and other interested parties to provide their thoughts as well.

Confirm Next Meeting Date and Adjournment

The next regular meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 18th, at 11:15 AM.

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 11:54 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Cally Audet

Cally Audet, Clerk

09/06/24

Date