

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

**Special Meeting No. 15 – Meeting Minutes**

January 26, 2024

Via Microsoft Teams

**9:00 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 Calx Ambulance

**Task Force Members Absent**

**Others Present**

Cally Audet, Task Force Clerk  
Stephen Whitaker  
Jared Lamere, 911 Board IT Manager  
Jim Morgan, Altairis Technology Partners  
Rick Burke, Televate  
Dominick Arcuri, Televate  
Richard Townend, Altairis Technology Partners

**Approval of Agenda**

No changes.

**Public Comment**

Co-Chair Neal opened the floor to public comment.

Stephen Whitaker shared concerns regarding recent correspondence with the Legislature regarding congressionally directed funding, as well as perceived lack of due diligence in vendor selection.

For additional details, please see the meeting transcript (attached)

Michael Wright entered the meeting at 9:07 AM.

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

*Motion: At 9:10 AM, Co-Chair Neal moved that the Task Force finds sharing information about bidder responses publicly would put the task force at a substantial disadvantage in making a decision about awarding a contract); 2<sup>nd</sup> by Co-Chair Morrison. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously.*

*Motion: At 9:10 AM, Barb Neal moved that the task force enter into Executive Session for the purposes of discussing one or more contracts and invite Televate representatives as well as Jared Lamere; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jim Mack. The motion passed unanimously.*

Executive Session was entered at 9:10 AM. Task Force Members Barb Neal, Jennifer Morrison, Paul White, Ron Kumetz, Jim Mack, Michael Wright, Mike Doenges and clerk, Cally Audet attended, as well as Televate representatives, Rick Burke, and Dom Arcuri, and Jared Lamere, E911 Board IT Manager.

Ron Kumetz entered the meeting at 9:23 AM.

*Motion: Co-Chair Morrison moved that the task force exit Executive Session; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jim Mack. The motion passed unanimously.*

Executive Session ended at 12:07 PM.

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

None.

**Set Next Meeting Date and Adjournment**

The next meeting is scheduled as a regular meeting on Wednesday, January 31, 2024, at 11:15 AM.

*Motion: There being no further business, Mike Doenges 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 12:09 PM.*

Respectfully submitted,

Cally Audet  
Cally Audet, Clerk

01/26/24  
Date

0:0:0.0 --> 0:0:0.390

Neal, Barbara

OK.

0:0:0.860 --> 0:0:1.380

Neal, Barbara

Alright.

0:0:1.390 --> 0:0:3.490

Neal, Barbara

Thanks Kelly for starting the recording.

0:0:3.900 --> 0:0:5.70

Neal, Barbara

Good morning everyone.

0:0:5.80 --> 0:0:9.870

Neal, Barbara

I'm calling this meeting of the Public Safety Communications Task force to order.

0:0:10.320 --> 0:0:15.830

Neal, Barbara

It is 9:00 o'clock on January 26, 2024, and I'm Barbara Neal.

0:0:16.200 --> 0:0:22.770

Neal, Barbara

As a reminder, the meetings being recorded and that recording will be posted to the Task force web page following the meeting.

0:0:23.180 --> 0:0:27.350

Neal, Barbara

Let's start with a roll call of Task Force members.

0:0:27.820 --> 0:0:29.990

Neal, Barbara

Please verbally acknowledge your presence.

0:0:30.0 --> 0:0:32.20

Neal, Barbara

When I call your name Jen Morrison.

0:0:32.680 --> 0:0:33.100

Morrison, Jennifer

I am here.

0:0:33.960 --> 0:0:34.470

Neal, Barbara

Paul white.

0:0:35.740 --> 0:0:36.260

White, Paul  
Here as well.

0:0:37.420 --> 0:0:38.470

Neal, Barbara  
K uh.

0:0:38.760 --> 0:0:39.320

Neal, Barbara  
Dangerous.

0:0:40.40 --> 0:0:40.620

Doenges, Mike  
I am here.

0:0:41.980 --> 0:0:42.950

Neal, Barbara  
And Jim Mack.

0:0:44.600 --> 0:0:44.910

James Mack  
Ear.

0:0:46.100 --> 0:0:46.810

Neal, Barbara  
Great.

0:0:47.380 --> 0:1:7.700

Neal, Barbara

And at the moment I do not see Michael Wright or Ron Krumitz OK also joining us is Kelly Audette as our administrative support person and our project management team from televote, Rick and Dom or, I'm sorry, Doms not on the call just yet, but Rick is here.

0:1:8.450 --> 0:1:10.340

Neal, Barbara  
Welcome to all of you.

0:1:10.530 --> 0:1:24.700

Neal, Barbara

Also, Jared Layer is here from he is the 911 board IT manager so he'll be joining the call today and we have looks like two members of the public.

0:1:24.710 --> 0:1:26.490

Neal, Barbara

Steven, would you like to introduce yourself?

0:1:29.670 --> 0:1:30.620

3565466f-452f-498e-8ec5-ab802cecf5

Uh, Steve Whittaker.

0:1:31.10 --> 0:1:32.140

3565466f-452f-498e-8ec5-ab802cecf5

For better or for worse.

0:1:34.150 --> 0:1:35.810

Neal, Barbara

Welcome Stephen, Jim Morgan.

0:1:37.40 --> 0:1:37.670

Jim Morgan

Good morning, all.

0:1:37.680 --> 0:1:39.720

Jim Morgan

Jim Morgan with all terrorist technology partners.

0:1:40.790 --> 0:1:41.290

Neal, Barbara

Good morning.

0:1:42.180 --> 0:1:46.950

Neal, Barbara

OK, so let's see, let's move to approval of the agenda.

0:1:47.400 --> 0:1:51.70

Neal, Barbara

The agenda was distributed to Task Force members by email.

0:1:51.80 --> 0:1:56.720

Neal, Barbara

It's also available on our web page do Task Force members have any changes to the agenda for today?

0:1:59.190 --> 0:2:6.930

Neal, Barbara

OK, hearing nothing will consider that approved and move a consider the agenda approved and will move to public comment.

0:2:7.890 --> 0:2:12.80

Neal, Barbara

Umm, Steve and I assume that you will like to make a comment.

0:2:14.530 --> 0:2:19.530

Neal, Barbara

Is there anyone else from the public who intends to comment if you could raise your hand or otherwise indicate?

0:2:23.800 --> 0:2:24.830

Neal, Barbara

OK, seeing nothing.

0:2:24.840 --> 0:2:28.220

Neal, Barbara

Steven, go ahead with your public comment.

0:2:27.910 --> 0:2:39.0

3565466f-452f-498e-8ec5-ab802cecf5

Yeah, I guess I wanna just brief the other members on some of the complications that I see you're wrestling with the.

0:2:40.450 --> 0:2:56.160

3565466f-452f-498e-8ec5-ab802cecf5

Legislature is being told that the \$9 billion cannot be overseen by the task force, whereas the enabling legislation clearly defined the Commissioner, consulting with the task force.

0:2:56.170 --> 0:2:58.80

3565466f-452f-498e-8ec5-ab802cecf5

And it didn't say that was a one and done.

0:2:59.50 --> 0:3:9.660

3565466f-452f-498e-8ec5-ab802cecf5

That's there's in my view, there's an ongoing obligation to make sure that the cart doesn't get out before the horse and that the.

0:3:10.970 --> 0:3:40.70

3565466f-452f-498e-8ec5-ab802cecf5

Congressionally directed spending chart for regional dispatch transition not be spent to fluff the departments nest, which is what's happened for way too many years with Homeland Security funds that any pieces of the proposed wish list from the department be demonstrably linked to this planning, which has yet to begin by the subject matter experts on behalf of the task force.

0:3:40.620 --> 0:3:53.20

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So you've got a real urgency and I'm beginning to suspect the anchor dragging for the last six months is to attempt to free that 9,000,000 from any oversight or restrictions.

0:3:53.420 --> 0:4:33.900

3565466f-452f-498e-8ec5-ab802cecf5

But to have a, you know, it represented that the legislature has no authority to put oversight over the 9,000,000, while y'all are going to be responsible for whether you're \$11 million to start the project is undermined by how the 9,000,000 is spent or if it's found, determined by even the governor who is actively engaged in this discussion, that these are information technology activities which is self evident from a reading of the statute that the.

0:4:35.890 --> 0:4:44.440

3565466f-452f-498e-8ec5-ab802cecf5

End the agency of Digital Services has admitted that they don't have any plans to support the \$9 million proposed wishlist.

0:4:44.660 --> 0:5:8.780

3565466f-452f-498e-8ec5-ab802cecf5

They have not completed any of the due diligence required for spending that money, so Plan B is going to of course be pilot projects and y'all would have to hit the ground running, which you've so far this has been disinclined to do to get the pilot projects planned in time to get procurement and the funds incumbered by the end of the year, so.

0:5:10.870 --> 0:5:19.410

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This is further complicated by the choice of a project manager which is in direct competitive conflict with the people they're supposed to be.

0:5:20.60 --> 0:5:22.800

3565466f-452f-498e-8ec5-ab802cecf5

Uh you selecting or have a handed?

0:5:22.810 --> 0:5:26.610

3565466f-452f-498e-8ec5-ab802cecf5

They shouldn't have a hand in selecting their direct competitors.

0:5:27.430 --> 0:5:47.620

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Uh, potentially to use proprietary information or methodologies to compete in future procurements or to steer the task force and a direction which might advantage their firm in the future at the expense of Vermont's program integrity.

0:5:48.30 --> 0:6:4.930

3565466f-452f-498e-8ec5-ab802cecf5

So I've raised issues regarding the integrity of the project managers, and the Commissioner has declined to say whether due diligence was completed, but it's really on the task force, complete due diligence and my conversations with several of the Members indicated it wasn't done.

0:6:5.260 --> 0:6:7.570

3565466f-452f-498e-8ec5-ab802cecf5

So we've got a problem there too.

0:6:7.820 --> 0:6:39.320

3565466f-452f-498e-8ec5-ab802cecf5

So I'm encouraging you to get SME on board immediately and you know, figure out how what portions of what portions, if any, of the proposed \$9 million wish list are, uh, unarguably in support of regional dispatch transition in the next few years and find a way to help get that money encumbered by the end of the year.

0:6:39.570 --> 0:6:42.920

3565466f-452f-498e-8ec5-ab802cecf5

And to get started, there's also a a anyway.

0:6:44.950 --> 0:6:54.700

3565466f-452f-498e-8ec5-ab802cecf5

I know that's a lot to throw on Jim Mack and and Mike down just said all white, but this process needs to be depoliticized.

0:6:54.710 --> 0:7:6.800

3565466f-452f-498e-8ec5-ab802cecf5

The gaming going on in the background with the Commissioner telling legislators that she could go to jail if she lets the task force have control over that 9,000,000, is absolutely untenable, unconscionable.

0:7:7.60 --> 0:7:15.460

3565466f-452f-498e-8ec5-ab802cecf5

And uh, I look forward to restoring some integrity to this process. Thanks.

0:7:16.990 --> 0:7:17.320

Neal, Barbara

OK.

0:7:18.600 --> 0:7:19.590

Neal, Barbara

Thank you, Steven.

0:7:19.820 --> 0:7:24.910

Neal, Barbara

I do see a a few other people have joined, so good morning Dom from Tel of eight.

0:7:25.0 --> 0:7:25.690

Neal, Barbara

Nice to see you.

0:7:25.390 --> 0:7:25.820

Dominick Arcuri

Morning.

0:7:26.410 --> 0:7:27.290

Dominick Arcuri

Sorry for being late.

0:7:28.560 --> 0:7:29.130

Neal, Barbara

Great.

0:7:29.440 --> 0:7:33.430

Neal, Barbara

Also, Michael Wright from the task force has joined.



0:7:33.440 --> 0:7:34.180

Neal, Barbara  
Good morning, Michael.

0:7:35.470 --> 0:7:35.890

Michael  
Morning.

0:7:35.900 --> 0:7:36.520

Michael  
Busy morning.

0:7:36.530 --> 0:7:37.70

Michael  
Sorry I'm late.

0:7:37.880 --> 0:7:39.470

Neal, Barbara  
So, OK, glad you're here.

0:7:39.620 --> 0:7:44.130

Neal, Barbara  
And finally, Richard Town and I believe from all terrace, correct.

0:7:45.80 --> 0:7:45.610

Richard Townend  
That's right.

0:7:45.620 --> 0:7:46.70

Richard Townend  
Good morning.

0:7:46.80 --> 0:7:46.710

Richard Townend  
Sorry I was late.

0:7:47.120 --> 0:7:47.280

Neal, Barbara  
Yep.

0:7:46.720 --> 0:7:47.470

Richard Townend  
I had IT issues.

0:7:48.450 --> 0:7:49.780

Neal, Barbara  
OK, good morning.

0:7:50.210 --> 0:7:55.300

Neal, Barbara

Alright, so we have a finished up public comment.

0:7:56.130 --> 0:8:0.10

Neal, Barbara

Is there anyone who just joined that would like to add public comment?

0:8:3.70 --> 0:8:12.150

Neal, Barbara

OK, hearing nothing will move on to the next agenda item, which is to move into executive session for the purpose of discussing one or more contracts.

0:8:12.490 --> 0:8:14.500

Neal, Barbara

So we'll start with step one.

0:8:14.550 --> 0:8:29.20

Neal, Barbara

I will make a motion that the task force find that the sharing of information about bitter responses publicly would put the task force at a substantial disadvantage in making a decision about awarding a contract.

0:8:29.90 --> 0:8:30.50

Neal, Barbara

Is there a second?

0:8:33.360 --> 0:8:34.40

Morrison, Jennifer

I can second that.

0:8:34.80 --> 0:8:34.480

James Mack

2nd.

0:8:35.420 --> 0:8:36.750

Neal, Barbara

OK, I heard Jen.

0:8:37.640 --> 0:8:38.360

Neal, Barbara

Any discussion?

0:8:41.50 --> 0:8:41.840

Neal, Barbara

All right.

0:8:41.950 --> 0:8:44.890

Neal, Barbara

All in favor, raise your hand or indicate by saying aye.

0:8:46.300 --> 0:8:46.850

Doenges, Mike

I.

0:8:47.880 --> 0:8:48.140

Michael

Aye.

0:8:47.670 --> 0:8:53.600

Neal, Barbara

OK, I see all task force members hands are up or they've said aye.

0:8:55.160 --> 0:9:13.100

Neal, Barbara

So the task force has made that finding and the next step is I will make a motion to move into executive session for the purpose of discussing one or more contracts and including I would like to include the televote representatives in that executive session.

0:9:13.110 --> 0:9:17.180

Neal, Barbara

And Jared Lemaire, the board's IT manager, along with Kelly, of course.

0:9:19.360 --> 0:9:20.460

Neal, Barbara

Is there a second?

0:9:21.360 --> 0:9:21.820

James Mack

2nd.

0:9:21.700 --> 0:9:21.910

White, Paul

Check.

0:9:21.750 --> 0:9:22.70

Doenges, Mike

2nd.

0:9:23.60 --> 0:9:26.570

Neal, Barbara

Thank you, Jim, and all in favor, raise your hand or indicate by saying aye.

0:9:29.90 --> 0:9:29.550

Morrison, Jennifer

I.

0:9:30.50 --> 0:9:33.940

Neal, Barbara

OK, I see all hands are up and and Jen put a fresh new hand up.

0:9:33.950 --> 0:9:34.620

Neal, Barbara

So good.

0:9:34.690 --> 0:9:38.170

Neal, Barbara

Alright, so we will move to executive session.

0:9:38.180 --> 0:9:40.170

Neal, Barbara

You should see that on your calendars.

0:9:41.840 --> 0:9:53.660

Neal, Barbara

Kelly, I think typically we notify our guests when we're gonna return to public session, which will be maybe a bit, but I'll leave that to you too to watch for that.

0:9:53.730 --> 0:9:54.360

Neal, Barbara

OK.

0:9:53.740 --> 0:9:54.540

Audet, Cally

I can do that, yeah.

0:9:54.790 --> 0:9:55.250

Neal, Barbara

Thank you.

0:9:58.20 --> 0:9:58.180

Audet, Cally

Yeah.

0:9:53.870 --> 0:9:58.700

Morrison, Jennifer

And Callie, let's, uh, let's get ourselves settled before we let anyone in.

0:9:58.500 --> 0:9:58.860

Morrison, Jennifer

Thank you.

0:10:0.500 --> 0:10:1.110

Neal, Barbara

OK.

0:10:1.160 --> 0:10:1.600

Neal, Barbara

Thank you.

0:0:0.0 --> 0:0:0.630

Neal, Barbara

OK. Hey.

0:0:1.260 --> 0:0:1.840

Dominick Arcuri

And we're back.

0:0:2.640 --> 0:0:4.490

Neal, Barbara

Is the gang all here?

0:0:3.180 --> 0:0:4.800

Morrison, Jennifer

Through Yep, we're all here.

0:0:4.580 --> 0:0:12.500

Neal, Barbara

Looks to be OK, so the next agenda item I don't have it in front of me, but as I recall is potential action from executive session.

0:0:12.510 --> 0:0:19.970

Neal, Barbara

We don't have an action for today, so we'll move to the to the final agenda item.

0:0:19.980 --> 0:0:27.710

Neal, Barbara

I'll remind everybody that there's a regular meeting scheduled for next Wednesday at 11:15, I believe is the time.

0:0:28.0 --> 0:0:29.660

Neal, Barbara

So that's when we'll get back together.

0:0:30.480 --> 0:0:36.360

Neal, Barbara

Umm Jen, do you have anything else to add in closing here on on the meeting or anything?

0:0:37.20 --> 0:0:41.180

Morrison, Jennifer

No, I will do my very best to join on Wednesday, but I am unlikely to be able to.

0:0:42.0 --> 0:0:43.870

Neal, Barbara

OK, understood.

0:0:43.940 --> 0:0:44.900

Neal, Barbara

OK, so with that.

0:0:47.340 --> 0:0:49.600

Neal, Barbara

I'd like to hear a motion to adjourn if we're ready.

0:0:50.970 --> 0:0:52.340

Neal, Barbara

Mike Dunn just so moved.

0:0:53.240 --> 0:0:53.600

James Mack

2nd.

0:0:53.620 --> 0:0:55.550

Morrison, Jennifer

Jim, Jim's giving us a second.

0:0:56.30 --> 0:0:56.800

Neal, Barbara

Sam, thank you.

0:0:56.810 --> 0:0:57.320

Neal, Barbara

OK.

0:0:57.370 --> 0:1:0.220

Neal, Barbara

All in favor, raise your hand or signify by saying aye.

0:1:1.120 --> 0:1:1.430

Morrison, Jennifer

Aye.

0:1:1.440 --> 0:1:1.620

Doenges, Mike

Right.

0:1:1.960 --> 0:1:5.400

Neal, Barbara

I see all the hands are up for task force members.

0:1:5.450 --> 0:1:6.170

Neal, Barbara

Excellent.

0:1:6.300 --> 0:1:7.700

Neal, Barbara

So we are adjourned.

0:1:7.710 --> 0:1:13.590

Neal, Barbara

Thank you very much everybody for all your efforts today and we'll talk to everybody soon.

0:1:14.0 --> 0:1:14.770

Neal, Barbara

Have a great weekend.

0:1:14.620 --> 0:1:14.800

Doenges, Mike

Hi.

0:1:14.530 --> 0:1:14.960

White, Paul

Take care.

0:1:15.100 --> 0:1:15.840

White, Paul

Have a good weekend.

0:1:14.140 --> 0:1:15.910

Morrison, Jennifer

Thanks I.

0:1:16.50 --> 0:1:16.370

Dominick Arcuri

Thank you.

0:1:16.320 --> 0:1:16.530

Michael

Bye bye.

0:1:16.200 --> 0:1:16.870

Neal, Barbara

OK.

0:1:17.340 --> 0:1:17.620

Neal, Barbara

Bye bye.