

# Public Safety Communications Task Force - Regular Meeting-20240918\_111704-Meeting Recording

September 18, 2024, 3:15PM

46m 47s

● **Audet, Cally** started transcription

**NB** **Neal, Barbara** 0:05

Good morning, everybody.

I'm calling this meeting of the Public Safety Communications Task force to order. It is 11:15 on September 18th, 2024 and I'm Barbara Neal. As a reminder, the meeting's being recorded, and that recording will be posted to the Task force web page following the meeting.

I will start with our usual roll call.

Jen is not joining us today, just so everyone is aware.

If you could acknowledge your presence verbally when I call your name, that'd be great. So Paul white.

**WP** **White, Paul** 0:36

I am here.

**NB** **Neal, Barbara** 0:38

Ron koumetz.

**RK** **Ron Kumetz** 0:40

I am here.

**NB** **Neal, Barbara** 0:41

And Jim Mack.

**JM** **James Mack** 0:45

Here.

**NB** **Neal, Barbara** 0:46

OK.

Great. That looks like the sum total of task force members at the moment.  
Also joining us today, of course, is Kelly Audette for our administrative support and our project management team.  
Rick and Dom from Telivate.  
I see several people from mission critical, including Rant Stuffy, Jason Malloy, Gigi Smith.

**DA Dominick Arcuri** 1:04  
Good morning.

**NB Neal, Barbara** 1:13  
And I think that's it, correct.  
OK, good.  
And we do not have.  
Any members of the public joining us today?  
At least not at this point.  
OK.

So let's move to approval of the agenda. The agenda was distributed to Task Force members by e-mail.

**WP White, Paul** 1:29  
Are these fine?

**NB Neal, Barbara** 1:35  
It's available on our web page.

Do task force members have any changes to the agenda today?  
OK, hearing nothing will consider the agenda approved and move on to approval of the Minutes from the September 4th.  
Regular meeting #33.

Are there any changes needed to these minutes?

OK. Do we have a motion to approve the Minutes from September 4th?

**RK Ron Kumetz** 2:05  
I'll make a motion to approve the Minutes.

**WP White, Paul** 2:08

And I'll 2nd.

**NB Neal, Barbara** 2:08

Karan, thank you. Paul, any discussion.

OK. All in favor of approving the minutes from September 4th?

Please raise your hand or indicate by saying aye.

Thank you, Ron.

**JM James Mack** 2:22

Thanks.

**NB Neal, Barbara** 2:22

I see Jim Pauls, Jim and Paul's hands are up as well as was mine. Minutes are approved.

So let's go to the regional town hall update.

So the regional town halls are.

Underway the last we've held three of them.

The last one will be held tomorrow evening from 5:00 to 7:00 in Springfield.

**WP White, Paul** 2:42

I know.

**NB Neal, Barbara** 2:50

I wonder if we have a ransom.

I'm catching you off guard.

I wonder if we have a a total of the people that have attended either in person or remote.

**RD Rance Duffy** 2:59

Are you didn't catch me off guard.

I read your e-mail.

I have it.

**NB Neal, Barbara** 3:01  
Oh, OK.

**WP White, Paul** 3:03  
Hmm.

**RD Rance Duffy** 3:04  
I did get it together just before, so we are regional town halls. Just give you an update. We have conducted 3 so start with the the one we had started with. So Swanton and I know asked about a breakdown. We had virtually about 18 participants and in person. About 14.

**NB Neal, Barbara** 3:21  
Yep.

**RD Rance Duffy** 3:23  
And then we went to the Fire Academy in virtually 19 and in person about 30. And Northeastern, which was yesterday, was 26, virtually and 13 in person.

**NB Neal, Barbara** 3:29  
Please.

**WP White, Paul** 3:31  
Everything.

**NB Neal, Barbara** 3:36  
OK.

**WP White, Paul** 3:37  
Excellent.

**NB Neal, Barbara** 3:38  
Great. So that's 204060.

I mean, that's close.  
75 or better, right?

**RD Rance Duffy** 3:45

Yeah, that's pretty good. Yep. Yep.

**NB Neal, Barbara** 3:45

No over 100.

OK.

**RD Rance Duffy** 3:48

But I don't have registration numbers as of yet for tomorrow 'cause I usually get them in the, I'll get them in the morning so I can put that out.

**NB Neal, Barbara** 3:55

OK, great.

Well, it seemed to me from, you know, reviewing the the videos, the recordings rather and the transcripts and such, and then attending yesterday that there's pretty decent participation or attendance and also participation.

**WP White, Paul** 3:58

Perfect.

I wanted to leave.

**NB Neal, Barbara** 4:11

So I'll go around to everybody to get your impressions of the how things are going with that in just a minute.

I did want to just convey what my impressions were yesterday.

At least there were at least one comment, maybe 2 about participants that were.

Appreciative of the opportunity to attend the forum and glad that we were holding that forum to give them an opportunity to share their experience once we have all of the regional town halls complete mission critical, will review and analyze all that information and feedback and incorporate it into.

Their assessment, really, of the current landscape and emergency communications.

I've noticed a few themes that have.

Come forward 11 is a need for a statewide CAD.

Local control is important as what I was hearing at least yesterday.

Equity and funding and access to resources.

Seem to repeat radio coverage is a big, big concern in multiple communities.

And I'm maybe we haven't even heard from all of the communities where that's a problem. And in Pittsford, at least, there was some discussion or considerable discussion you might say about the impact of the Rutland and Derby closures.

Back in 2015, I'm wondering if other task force members.

Have any thoughts on how the town halls are going, or other themes that you might have noticed? Task Force members 1st and then we'll go to Telivate and mission critical in the same question.

**WP** **White, Paul** 5:54

Yeah. So I only, I only went to the one in Pittsford and I have not reviewed the recordings of Swanton or St. Johnsbury.

But, but you're right. In Pittsford, I think there was definitely a strong theme there of if the state police would just reopen Rutland and Derby, then everything would be fixed and we could go back to normal. And I think that is somewhat a product of where we were.

**NB** **Neal, Barbara** 6:04

OK.

**WP** **White, Paul** 6:20

And who was in attendance?

Because, you know, like I think for example the entire.

Pittsford Volunteer Fire Department was there.

To your firefighters from Rutland County there.

And Rutland County is the one I think most impacted. Rutland County Fire agencies are the ones most impacted by the closure back in 2015, so.

I think that's the theme was definitely heard there. But again, I think it was because partly of where we were and who was in attendance and what I brought up the point of, yes, we could do that and I'm not in opposition to that idea and I Don.

Think the Commissioners, even in opposition to that idea.

That is not gonna solve all of the things that this task force has been tasked with

coming up with.

Yes, it might solve an immediate problem in Rutland County.

But it's not gonna solve the equity issues and the coverage issues and the resiliency issues.

**NB Neal, Barbara** 7:16

Wait, what is it that they wanted?

I mean, they say it would could go back to normal.

What are the pieces of normal that? I mean this might be too broad a question.

Pieces of normal that they're looking for.

**WP White, Paul** 7:30

I think they just don't like the fact that when they pick up the radio, they're talking to somebody in Westminster rather than somebody in Rutland and they think that because Rutland is a much more populous area, that VSP would have an easier time filling their vacancies in R.

Than in Westminster.

**NB Neal, Barbara** 7:48

Yeah. OK. Interesting.

Alright, we didn't.

We heard just one mention of the Derby closure yesterday at the hospital in St. Johnsbury, but it was certainly a more robust discussion on that in Pittsford. It sounds like so.

OK.

**WP White, Paul** 8:07

Well, and I think I think in Derby, the agencies that were affected in Derby, I think most of them have found a dispatch home at Newport and probably are more happy than they were before except for the fact that they're having to pay for it now.

**NB Neal, Barbara** 8:22

Hmm.

**WP White, Paul** 8:22

They're probably happier with the service that they're getting now than they were before.

**NB** **Neal, Barbara** 8:27

Interesting. OK.

All right.

Well, thank you, Paul.

Anybody else from the task force have any thoughts on?

Their attendance.

**RK** **Ron Kumetz** 8:39

So I was at the meeting in Swanton and.

Between that meeting and some conversations that I've had with people from the fire service who attended the Pittsford meeting, I have put together.

The opinion that.

One of our problems going forward is that two of those.

Issues.

Radio coverage and local control.

Are essentially part of the reason that we are where we are.

To to, you know, everybody wants local control. And so when Homeland Security money became available right after 911, when we had all that money that we were giving out for communications and stuff, they all went and they built something to solve what they perceived as their proble.

They didn't talk to any of their neighbors.

They all grabbed some money.

Built some little microcosm of a system.

It isn't quite as good as it could be if they had all got together and pooled their money and pooled their resources, and so now they're the radio coverage is.

You know, if you look at the money they spent, they could have had something that was a whole lot better, but they all ran off and did something because they didn't want to wait to have a conversation. It was going to take too long.

Long they didn't quite get along with their neighbors.

And so that whole local control thing is sort of mutually exclusive with putting together systems that will work for everybody.

They they need to learn to play well with others, they need to learn, you know, not to



throw sand out of the sandbox.

All that kind of stuff and and that's going to be an obstacle for us as I see it.

We need to convince them that things will actually improve.

If you put aside your differences and play with your neighbors.

**NB** **Neal, Barbara** 10:48

I I think there was one comment yesterday about just really a, a a fear that the needs of this particular Community would not be met at all if there was like a heavy state hand in in this.

But but anyway, Jim, I think you were about to say something.

**JM** **James Mack** 11:05

Yeah, I was gonna say the some of the similar things that Ron just said.

One of the things that I heard was we want local control, but we want you to give us the money.

That's one of the things that I noticed from the swan meeting also.

I watched the other meeting at the Academy and I there was some of that there, but there was also, as Paul had said, if you just turn everything back to the way it was, would fix all problems, which I don't think they understand.

We can't turn things back that way again.

Work because we don't have those dispatchers that they used to know.

**NB** **Neal, Barbara** 11:50

OK. Is that it for yes. For our task force members, TELEVATE and mission critical.

What are your thoughts on the town halls and all of this?

**DA** **Dominick Arcuri** 12:02

This stomach, if I can.

**NB** **Neal, Barbara** 12:04

Sure, go ahead, Dom.

**DA** **Dominick Arcuri** 12:04

Sorry, Barb.

Yeah. If I can just comment.

I certainly agree with the themes that you identified.

We've we've seen those and I guess continue to see those.

Very interesting analysis, Ron.

I agree with that and I think that's critical and something that needs to be addressed as to you know, how we.

How we move forward and how we can satisfy?

You know, as obviously as many municipalities as we can while.

You know, improving the systems potentially if you know a regional approach is recommended, I I will point out that we've heard some success stories in terms of regional approaches.

Such as Lamoille County, Shelburne. I think there was another one in.

In the first first meeting and it's not. Yeah, St.

**RB** **Rick Burke** 13:05

In albums.

**DA** **Dominick Arcuri** 13:08

Alban, right.

Yeah, we've heard some 6 success stories of regional systems where a number of towns or number of communities have gotten together, pooled their resources, and made a system that's better than each of them could have done individually.

And I I think we need to.

We're looking to find out more about that and how they were successful.

And trying to see how that potentially gets into some of our options and plans.

**A** **anonymous** 13:36

It's not.

**NB** **Neal, Barbara** 13:43

I think Hartford might be another example of a success story.

I don't know if we've spoken.

Or if they've attended many of these yet, but that's another one to keep on the radar.

**WP** **White, Paul** 13:55

There were people from Hartford at Pittsford.

**DA Dominick Arcuri** 13:56

Thank you.

**NB Neal, Barbara** 13:58

OK, OK.

Ron, you have your hand up.

**RK Ron Kumetz** 14:04

Yeah, to go one step further.

I I think maybe the best service that we can provide to move forward with some of this stuff is to come up with a template for them to work together.

**JM James Mack** 14:11

Run.

**RK Ron Kumetz** 14:22

You know to to essentially give them a model to bring them together so they don't have to work it all out on their own and then?

Essentially, make the funds available contingent on.

I'm developing, you know, local relationships to build something bigger than little tiny systems that are gonna serve one or two communities. If they understand that, you know that that's the way the money is best spent. And we're not just going to give it out to make little you.

Know like we're not going to just put iron on patches on their old jeans.

Then you know, maybe it will encourage them to to think bigger than their own personal little problems.

And I hope that I I I made the you know it's just sort of something that popped into my head.

**NB Neal, Barbara** 15:16

It makes sense to me like like if there is a is, if there is a pot of money. I think that's a big if or where that pot of money is going to be filled from is still unknown.

But if they want access to those hypothetical funds.

They could be used to incentivize really. Is that a word incentive regionalization.

And and also I would think in this you know if you need if you want access to that pot of money.

Then you need to be building systems that are meeting some base level of standards that are to be determined through this work as well.

Would be one of the other factors I think.

Who else?

**RB** **Rick Burke** 16:02

I'll be happy to give a few thoughts.

So I agree.

I agree with everyone's comments.

I think everyone's obviously been very.

Observant of of this and and and some of the needs are are kind of obvious.

I mean, we all know that radio coverage and wireless coverage cellular coverage is not good in the state and and and it's to the detriment of not only the responders but of the citizens that they represent.

So there were conversations about a statewide radio network, a regional radio network.

And Owen, I think the idea is that that.

Ron just mentioned and you know are certainly.

You know should be considered for sure.

There are also a couple other themes and and and Barbie just mentioned them.

There was conversation regarding policy and procedures and standards.

Across dispatch centres across communication platforms, and I think that was that was good to hear that that kind of, you know builds upon local control but you know, but under some policy guidelines, procedures that we can all agree to which kind of builds the theme of you know.

Building reach.

Statewide communication of solutions.

Another thing that I think is really important is that the this the legislature legislative members that attended these meetings were very engaged.

They really wanted to learn.

Think some of them were hearing and and you know, for the first time that we got a serious problem here and, you know, some brought up.

I need to know more.

I want to be sure that you know you give me, give the legislator legislative body of actions that they can undertake and and, you know, I think that's really important. And I think that is not only the 1st responders talking, but they hear the legislative members that attended hearing and directly. It's really relevant. And of course one thing that you hasn't been mentioned is the funding. You know, how much money, where's the funding going to come from?  
And how are we sustain these networks?  
I I think you know these are all very critical.  
They kind of, you know, policy procedures.  
And and funding and sustainability are kind of the foundation. It has to be established before I think you can achieve these other objectives that were talked about.

**NB** **Neal, Barbara** 18:27

Good insights?

Rance, I thought you had your hand up a minute ago.

Did you have things to share?

**RD** **Rance Duffy** 18:35

I did.

I was just kind of waiting for my turn.

I wanted to listen to everybody in their comments and you know from our perspective, we've been in the state for the last six weeks and we've been talking to getting down into more of the, I'd like to say getting more into the weeds than we did with the.

The town halls and some of the things that we've observed with the on sites in addition to the child halls. And it was actually brought up so CAD.

The CAD at the on site levels, yes, there is a significant CAD issue that has been brought to our attention over and over and over again, which I know we've heard at the town hall. So just want to refer that.

I may have some noise in the background also 'cause I'm I'm outside right now. Still in your state by the way.

We're we're still finishing up our week.

The other one is those two piece apps.

Closing it did get brought up at Swanton or not Swanton. The Fire Academy there.

Paul, you heard it as well as I did, but we've heard it on site several times about those peace apps closing and the effect that the the effect of those peace apps closing had on the state. And from my understanding and there's some still some very raw N. Over that, I mean we're talking.

I guess I understood. It's like 10 years ago.

Now, but there are some people that are still very, very irritated about how that went down. And I I do not know the full history.

That's that's for you guys to, you know, we'll have to deal with that at some point.

**WP** **White, Paul** 19:46

Bye bye.

**RD** **Rance Duffy** 19:50

But to that point, bringing those peace apps online, his point Paul to you, what you brought up?

Yeah. You know, let's turn those back on.

That'll fix everything, and I'm with you, Paul.

No, that's not going to fix it in an element of it.

Would it help?

Sure, but there's all these other things that you need to attach to that.

So ultimately, you could potentially.

Open those back up and you need to address all these other issues in order to really get into how that would help fix that and the other one we already heard a radio coverage, radio, radio, radio.

Can't just say radio enough. We've heard that you know, and it's and then right behind it is sell, sell, sell, sell coverage, sell coverage, sell coverage.

So we know what we're just, how we're going to deal with that.

I know is a bigger, larger problem in almost a whole different subsection to this whole entire project, and it's the financing and equitability I do want to bring.

I do have a couple comments talking about these regional dispatch centers you actually have.

Several. You actually have several existing regional.

Dispatch.

Functions going on across the state.

What I believe what we're observing is, is they've grown organically.

If you'll follow me, they've grown because that region did not have any use of coordination from the state as far as helping that and or what happened. They organically grew because of those two other peace apps closing. So they they came together and said let's create this and.

You have actually several of those across the state.

Well, what I'm what?

I'm what we're observing is it's just a lack of coordination between them and then between them up to the state and so they, they've done their little thing. It's kind of like.

They created their own little regional dispatch, which seems to have worked somewhat well for them.

And they've done what they could with what they have. But then there's that that there's a higher coordination above that. And then to to Rick, we heard the same thing about the policy procedures. A lot of difficulty with that because I'll go back to the organically created Reg.

Dispatch centers.

They have policy procedure themselves.

They've kind of built their own within the region, but then again, it's not cross coordinated between the peace apps, the peace apps to deliver the calls also back.

To them, and then just between each other in the state.

That's what we're kind of observing just some of our thoughts.

Initial thoughts off the top of my head.

Obviously a lot more. This will get more detail when we get we're going to be digging a lot more into the analysis of the of what we have collected.

NB

**Neal, Barbara** 22:04

Great. Thank you, rance.

Anybody else from task force or partners on this?

We're really glad that we have you, Rick.

Or televate and mission critical to take all this information and chop it all up and spit it back out into a cohesive, coherent set of information.

At least I am.

So we'll look forward to that analysis that you're going to be working on.

I want to turn now to the to the topic of the upcoming Community listening sessions.

These are the forms that are designed to give the general public.

An opportunity to provide input similar to the regional town halls, but geared to the broader audience.

So we're looking at putting together 2 remote virtual sessions.

In early to mid-october.

Rick and Dom are working with ramps and team to nail down potential dates.

What or or to nail down dates we've we've provided some potential dates for them to work with.

Once we know those, we can circulate them out. I think Cali, maybe like we did last time with a poll to see who from the task force might be available to attend each of those, and then we'll we'll set up the schedule based on those responses.

And so also finalizing the the content and how those?

How those sessions will run?

So, thoughts? Questions. Other input on the community listening session?

OK.

OK, great.

Let's move on then to public comment.

And I do see it looks like maybe Stephen Whittaker has joined us.

Steven, do you want to offer comment today?

**A** **anonymous** 24:14

Am I the only one?

**NB** **Neal, Barbara** 24:15

Yes you are.

**A** **anonymous** 24:19

So having listened to a couple of these.

Town halls.

I am seeing what and hearing what I expressed this concern if you don't give people a basic understanding of what is possible and what's near term and you're going to get a lot of very.

Low signal and noise ratio.

There were a few people who knew what they were talking about.

And could ask intelligent questions, but for the most part it's just scattershot and it's like going through the motions to say we invited everybody, but.



We didn't propose governing structures. We didn't take the opportunity to teach any of these folks what a regional authority, you know, that has bonding authority and that has, you know, mistake analysis and reporting.

You know, we we didn't.

In effect, we wasted the opportunity with these town halls.

And I again am concerned that we are running towards the end of the year. We have yet to address the issue of getting access to the cell database to complete the propagation study.

I don't know why.

Mission critical is not pushing that issue.

They they need to get started on finding the cell dead zones so that we could estimate what it's going to cost to fill them.

There's needs to be analysis of the benefits of neutral hosts.

Versus single carrier solutions, the cut the conversation of about first step yesterday was so ill informed.

It's it's pathetic.

It means that you all did not do your homework before you conducted these.

You didn't brief these folks on what failover would be you. We can't afford any to anywhere.

You know, Burlington takes over dispatching for Brattleboro, so.

You you need in effect to program.

Radio codes ahead of time.

Into paired dispatch centers so that if either failed, the other could pick up without having to rework the systems, or without even having to retrain people.

And none of this stuff is being talked about. So I just had words with dungeons. Who was here in our City Hall to talk about the homeless and, you know, having met with him and made the effort to, I've met with Paul.

You know.

Ron has made himself unavailable.

So y'all were supposed to be.

You're elected and or appointed to be accountable under Vermont's constitution and you're not accountable in this case, and you're being.

Negligent in the way you're handling and squandering valuable time because the legislature is not going to be pleased with your product.

Because you have failed to address virtually everything I raised in public comments

since this task force first convened, and I'd like you all to speak to that one of these days.

On the agenda and and have some, you know, candid conversations. Thanks.

**NB** **Neal, Barbara** 27:37

Thank you, Stephen. OK.

I'm seeing nobody else from the public, so let's move on to project updates.

Rick televate.

**RB** **Rick Burke** 27:49

OK. Don was going to, I think Dom just left this so.

**NB** **Neal, Barbara** 27:53

Yeah.

**RB** **Rick Burke** 27:55

He hung in there as long as he can.

Alright, let me let me share my screen with you if I could.

And.

All right, let me know when you can see the screen.

**WP** **White, Paul** 28:14

Can see it.

**RB** **Rick Burke** 28:15

Alright, very good.

Alright, so I think you know most of us not only know what you know we've accomplished, but you were actively engaged and participating in it, so.

And and Rance can follow up. You know, after after I present.

But there were, you know, there MCP completed two of the remaining 8 dispatch centres over this past week and I think this week they were working on completing all of them.

In fact, I think may have all may have completed.

We'll soon hear that.

Certainly the data from you know the data that's been collected from the the surveys,

the questionnaires that were sent out and their visits are you know, I'm sure there's a wealth of information that rants just previously referenced, that they're learning and and that data is going to be.

A processed.

And is being processed.

You know, as it's being gathered and and over the next coming weeks.

Phase of the project, the MCP wireless team has also been collecting.

We've had a number of meetings with them and they're collecting data and building.

They're gonna build a propagation study on that data to look at coverage of radio statewide. So that is is ongoing.

Telvate has actually had meetings with some of the locals to get some additional insight into some of the.

Some of their specific challenges and or activities that they are undertaking.

On their own so that it can be.

Provided to the overall effort so that we have a fuller understanding of what additional activities are going on now to fit into the wireless program. Most of the efforts are are wireless oriented that we've been investigating I think.

In yesterday's session.

You know, some couple of people, one in person and one on the phone from hardware were there and that, you know, we've had some meetings with them.

To learn more about what they what, what they're doing and what their needs are.

And I think their needs in a, you know, in a, in a town in a valley are pretty common throughout the state and for the, you know, last week and a half, I've dri.

Pretty extensively, and you know it's clear why there are many challenges of in radio coverage, not enough towers, towers that are on mountaintops that overshoot the the the towns below where coverage needs to be provided. And so you know that effort is ongoing and very important to to.

To the program and we completed 2 town halls in great attendance and.

I think excellent participation from those who attended there was learning on all sides and.

**WP** **White, Paul** 30:59

You hear me? Now hear me now.

**RB** **Rick Burke** 31:03

I think you know that just just shows the wisdom of having these town halls the the pursuit of the additional cybersecurity surveys was put on hold until after Labor Day. So that also will will kick off soon.

Regarding what we have planned, I mean obviously we've got another town hall tomorrow.

We've had one yesterday.

Final dispatch centres are going to be visited.

We have certainly began articulating, discussing the listening session.

Well, the topics and the dates and the process and that'll be as a team.

I think we're all going to get together on that again.

The you know MCP also cyber best practice assessment.

So they've been putting that together.

They're ready to to put that survey out and support it and the data that's been collected, MCP is certainly going to begin development of their model for advancing public safety.

The the maps analysis for the project that basically is.

Is, you know, their special approach to assessing a data to, you know, to for us all to better understand its simplified and and digested in a manner. And we are wireless team from MCP.

We're still working with them.

We've got meetings again this week and you know it's been we've had a full plate and a lot has been accomplished over the last couple weeks and plan for the next next two weeks beyond that.

Regarding action items, I think you know these are still on there.

There's nothing urgent, but there's they haven't. You know, there's nothing that I think we need to focus on.

We have done a good job of catching up.

You know our risk.

We've caught up on on getting, you know, the dispatch center questionnaires done. There's still a few remaining, and and all the site visits, so very impressive effort by MCP to make that happen. And from all of the the the communication centres and P saps that have provided that information, very valuable and in terms of the schedule, I mean we are.

You know we are, we're good.

We've we've caught up where we behind.

We don't have, you know, hasn't been a great impact other than you know it's going to may delay some of the assessment because all the data has been delayed coming in. But right now we don't see any greater risks on the schedule and.

You know, confident that what we have accomplished so far and what we have to come, I think you know the it's all, it's all moving along as as designed and and anticipated by the task force and.

I don't have anything more to say other than I'm happy to answer any questions that you may have.

**NB** **Neal, Barbara** 33:52

Rick, any any questions from Task force?

**RB** **Rick Burke** 33:54

Pleasure.

Lance. Yeah.

**NB** **Neal, Barbara** 34:01

See.

**RB** **Rick Burke** 34:02

Lance may want to may add to it, and so please do.

**NB** **Neal, Barbara** 34:04

Yeah.

Yes. So we're we'll turn it over to mission critical. And I think, Rance, you you may have something to add to what Rick just reported, but I also think you want to tell us about some upcoming personnel changes and shifts on the mission critical team. So I'll let.

**RD** **Rance Duffy** 34:20

Yeah.

**NB** **Neal, Barbara** 34:20

You do that in the order that you prefer.

RD

**Rance Duffy** 34:24

Sure. Actually Rick hit that course with collaborate a lot.

So what Telivate has is a lot of the information that we have.

That we have been doing has been provided, so can't really add too much more that other than we are here. This the finishing out this week and by Friday of this week we'll have visited all your centers in your state and also finished up your you know the.

Town halls as we have them scheduled.

You see the rest of it. The other piece of it is is just all the data, all the stuff we have collected.

We got the questionnaire from the beginning and all the information we've collected on site plus the town halls, all the.

I call it my big pile of stuff.

Now you gotta take that big pile of stuff and you gotta pull it all together and make it make it readable so that everybody understands. You know what they're looking at right now. It's just raw data. Doesn't mean anything to anybody.

So we got, we got to work on that part and start the analysis piece of that.

So that's all I have to add on that part. On a personal note for myself, unfortunately, I unfortunately, but fortunately for me I am got offered a full time job with the military.

And I am going to go back into take that position position I couldn't couldn't overlook and.

Or with that, with that change, I will be coming out as a coming off as the project manager and we will be Jason Beloit, which is on the phone with us, will be moving into that position. However, to make sure that to make sure not let him let.

Him give his spiel if he has something to say here in a minute. I am staying on part time.

So obviously I have a lot of knowledge of Vermont.

I think Vermont now is my second home because I've been here for a long period of time.

And I know a lot of things going on in the state and I will be able to help Jason transition over as we continue on this project.

And I will be helping still.

So I'll stop there, Jason, if you wanna pop in with anything on your end.

**JM Jason Malloy** 36:13

Good morning, everyone. Appreciate the opportunity.

As far as the project, I'm not coming in completely blind.

I was actually part of the initial team during the first several weeks of on site visits with the peace apps, so I've been involved with the project from the beginning and I've actually worked with Rick and Dom from Telivate during my days as a peace app manager here.

In Virginia, on the other side of the fence, so.

I've got 30-4 years.

Public safety both both sides of the headset. So in the field as well as starting as a telecommunicator and working up through the level of peace app director. So.

Understand your challenges quite extensively.

One of the management roles that I held in a peace app was in a rural community where there were more cows and deer than there were people, and there was a single radio tower for about 330 square miles.

**JM James Mack** 37:16

Is it OK?

**JM Jason Malloy** 37:19

Of coverage.

So I definitely understand the challenges Rick and Dom worked with me on some stuff in that area.

So they they know what?

Rick knows what I'm talking about.

I can see the smile on his face, but yeah, I'm just glad to be here and I'll be working with Rance over the coming weeks to to get transitioned in as the project manager.

So thank you.

**NB Neal, Barbara** 37:46

Thank you, Jason, and welcome.

Well, well, I was going to say welcome to the team, but it sounds like welcome back to the team.

We're we're looking forward to working with you, getting to know you and sounds like you're already up to speed are going to be very, very quickly.

**JM James Mack** 37:53  
OK.

**NB Neal, Barbara** 38:00  
So that's great.

And I do want to say, Rance, I'm sure the entire task force joins me in thanking you for your good work.

All these past several months and and also staying on part time for this transition period is very helpful.

But we certainly appreciate your commitment to this project.

And we wish you only the very best as you move forward.

**RD Rance Duffy** 38:22  
You very much. I appreciate it.

**NB Neal, Barbara** 38:24

Alright, moving on then, if we're all set on project updates.

To new business, I have one quick item. Do task force members have anything other task force members OK.

**RK Ron Kumetz** 38:40

I don't, Barb.

I just wanted to share one more thing that I I you know, I'm unfortunately I didn't think of this before we started doing town hall meetings.

**NB Neal, Barbara** 38:43  
Yep.

**RK Ron Kumetz** 38:50

It is.

It is abundantly clear to me that when we, when we ask people about things and I'll use radio coverage as an example because it's easy for me to put that in perspective.



When you ask any particular Volunteer Fire chief if he's got good radio coverage.

There is a very wide range.

Of what?

His perception of good radio coverage is now, you know, I I regularly tell these guys, hey, you should not be standing outside of a burning building talking to firefighters inside that building on your repeater.

That's 11 miles away, because if somebody falls into the basement, they can't talk to you anymore. And they insist on doing it and they think they should be able to do that.

They do things like direct traffic on a dispatch channel that's shared by, you know, 12 other agencies and and towns.

So I I I think there needs to be a baseline where when we are asking these questions we say you know, can you do this, this, this and this 'cause I don't want to hear it if you're telling me that you can't do that, but you shouldn't be.

Doing that anyway, or that's not a good idea.

Or that's an unreasonable expectation.

You just can't expect to go to every basement in in a in your huge mountainous town.

And be able to talk to everybody.

So I I think that we when we ask the questions, they need to be more pointed, leaving them too open-ended.

Is essentially gonna gather.

Painted information for lack of the right word. But you you catch where I'm gone with this.

Does.

NB

**Neal, Barbara** 40:39

Yeah, I do.

I think that's an interesting point we need to put into the the mix, maybe as we do our last town hall and any any follow-ups is maybe to add more context to what we it is what we're asking.

Interesting. Like like. Yeah, OK.

So let me just let that sink in and hopefully Rick and Rick has made note of how we might incorporate some some context, I think is what we're looking for in some of these questions.

OK. All right.

Thanks Ron.

So the only item I had I wanted to let everybody know that I got a really a last minute invitation yesterday to speak to the Vermont EMS Advisory Council that's meeting today at 1:00.

They're looking for a task force update, so I will let them know where we are with the regional town halls.

And and the the themes that we're seeing so far where we are in the project and keep them engaged in the conversations. I have had conversations with Doctor Dan Wolfson, who is actually the 911 board's medical control.

About.

The Advisory Council and and others.

Opinion that there needs to be a like a priority dispatch and a tiered response approach to dispatching and resource management.

So I expect I'll hear about that at this meeting and get those lines of communication opened back up or opened up.

So I'll be doing that in about an hour.

Rance, I see your hand up.

**RD** **Rance Duffy** 42:22

Carbs in chimichi.

I want to mention that registration for tomorrow is still open, so if you want to, if you want to throw that out to them, it's same web page, just that we sent before.

**NB** **Neal, Barbara** 42:26

OK.

**RD** **Rance Duffy** 42:31

So they want to register for that by all means.

I mean, there's there's a great audience of people we should probably have there so they can come to that town hall.

**NB** **Neal, Barbara** 42:38

Yeah. Excellent.

I will.

I will do that indeed and and give them a little bit of a heads up on the kinds of conversations we're having at those town halls so they can come prepared.  
I think it would be a really good opportunity for them.  
OK, Ron.

**WP White, Paul** 42:51  
Yeah, that's.

**NB Neal, Barbara** 42:51  
Your hand, Ron.

**RK Ron Kumetz** 42:54  
Yes, I am curious.

Did did, did. Did anybody have a conversation with the Commissioner? She was supposed to have been zooming in or attending the VSFA board meeting in Pittsford on Sunday.

To give you an idea how well communications among the first responder organizations works, I too is supposed to zoom in, but my own organization neglected to send me the link. So instead I got to do gardening.

So I'm just curious how that went.

Also, I had a conversation with her and we, you know, I I think we've seen that some of the first responders may not be entirely willing to gripe on their own.

So we're going to have to have sort of a pilot meeting with some of the first responders here in the county to just let them unload.

And and just put all their gripes on a piece of paper and and that kind of thing and see how that works.

You know, in an effort to get more of them to participate so that.

When when something does happen, they can't say we didn't give them that opportunity, giving them more opportunities is certainly better than giving them less opportunities in this case.

**NB Neal, Barbara** 44:15  
Sure. Yeah. I did talk to Jen Morrison about that, that last idea, Ron.

I don't remember having a conversation about the Vsfa presentation, but I'll catch up with her.

**RB Rick Burke** 44:29

Hey, Ron, I'd be happy to sit in or join you for that if if if you like, you know, I mean anything, any, any any information of value to the program, be happy to record it if you want.

**NB Neal, Barbara** 44:30

And see.

**RB Rick Burke** 44:43

So just let me know.

**NB Neal, Barbara** 44:47

OK, Paul, I see your hand up.

**WP White, Paul** 44:50

Oh, I was just curious the the attendance in Pittsford seemed to be primarily fire and police.

I was just curious if there was EMS representation in Swanton and St. Johnsbury.

**NB Neal, Barbara** 45:05

I know there were.

**JM James Mack** 45:07

There were a few EMS at Swanton, but there wasn't that many.

**NB Neal, Barbara** 45:15

I know there was one in in St. Johnsbury.

In the room, I'm not certain about who was there online, so I guess we'll need to look into it, Paul.

**WP White, Paul** 45:24

OK.

OK.

**JM James Mack** 45:28

No, I'll just write.

**NB Neal, Barbara** 45:30

So good.

Well, I'll keep everybody informed on what I learn at this Advisory Council meeting and try to get them engaged for tomorrow or set up an opportunity for them to be engaged if they can't, if they can't get there, then so OK. Anything else under new business.

Alright. Our next meeting date is on the books already for October 2nd at 11:15.

And we will be in touch in the meantime on potential participation in the Community listening plans to get that on the OR listening sessions, get that on the calendar for everyone.

So with that, I think we can take a motion to adjourn.

**JM James Mack** 46:20

So moved.

**RK Ron Kumetz** 46:21

I will second that.

**NB Neal, Barbara** 46:21

Thank you, Jim. Thank you, Ron.

All in favor, raise your hand or indicate by saying I I see all hands and I hear Ron and the meeting is adjourned.

**RK Ron Kumetz** 46:29

Hi.

**JM James Mack** 46:30

Alright.

**NB Neal, Barbara** 46:33

Thank you very much.

And we'll we'll be talking to you all all along the way.

Thank you.

**RB** **Rick Burke** 46:40

Thank you everyone. Have a great day.

**RD** **Rance Duffy** 46:41

We're good.

**WP** **White, Paul** 46:41

Bye now. Bye.

**NB** **Neal, Barbara** 46:41

Have a great day.

**RD** **Rance Duffy** 46:41

See you. Bye bye.

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