

Public Safety Communications Task Force - Regular Meeting-20241030_111740-Meeting Recording

October 30, 2024, 3:15PM

37m 39s

● **Audet, Cally** started transcription

NB **Neal, Barbara** 0:04

Thank you. OK.

So I'm calling this meeting of the public Safety Communications task force to order.

It is 11/16 on October 30th, 2024 and I'm Barbara Neal.

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

We'll start with our usual roll call of Task force members.

So let's see.

Let's go to Ron Kumitz.

RK **Ron Kumetz** 0:35

I am here.

NB **Neal, Barbara** 0:36

The morning Jim Mack.

Dangers.

MD **Mike Doenges** 0:44

I am here.

NB **Neal, Barbara** 0:46

And I am seeing no other task force members just yet.

Paul White will not be with us today.

And Commissioner Morrison may join us, but not till a little bit after 11:30. If she is able.

OK.

So moving on, also joining us today for the last time is Kali Audette as our administrative support.

Once again.

Thanks for all you've done for us over the past many months.

We could not have gotten through this without you.

You do a good job of hurting cats so.



Audet, Cally 1:24

Thank you very much.



Neal, Barbara 1:26

So thanks.

We also have with us today our project management partners, Rick and Dom from Telebate.

And from mission critical I'm checking my screen again 'cause we've had some people jump in and out.



Rick Burke 1:37

Morning everyone.



Neal, Barbara 1:43

We have Jason.

I'm looking for Jason.

There he is, Jason Malloy, Bonnie Maney and Phil Sisk from mission critical. Good morning.

And also, Corey, would you like to introduce yourself?

You're muted, Corey.



Chase, Corey 2:07

Morning. I'm Corey chase.

I'm the director for radio technology services at the Department of Public Safety.



Neal, Barbara 2:14

Excellent. Thank you and Anthony Gregoire.



GREGOIRE, ANTHONY 2:20

Hey, good morning, everyone.

My name is Anthony Gregoire.

I am attending this meeting as a Vermont taxpayer. I hope that's all right, my day job.

NB **Neal, Barbara** 2:28

Of course.

GA **GREGOIRE, ANTHONY** 2:30

Thank you. My day job, I work for sisters that resilient 911 program. I've also I was also the telecom manager for CBP in Swansea and worked for the Radio Technology Services a couple years ago as well.

So again, just on here, as the Vermont taxpayer hope that's all right.

Nice to meet you all.

NB **Neal, Barbara** 2:51

That's certainly fine. Welcome.

We're glad you're here.

OK.

Let's go to our other members of the public. Kim Cheney, would you like to introduce yourself?

KC **Kimberly Cheney** 3:02

Good morning, Kim Chaney, former member of the Montpelier Public Safety Authority.

And.

What a surprise. I pay taxes too.

NB **Neal, Barbara** 3:17

Yes, OK.

Well, welcome, Senator Renner.

IW **Irene Wrenner** 3:24

Morning, everybody.

Serve in joint technology oversight among other committees, and, as always, interested in hearing your updates. Thank you.

NB Neal, Barbara 3:35

OK.

Thanks for joining us. And then we have one other person on the call that's identified by. It looks like an ailed ENISLED.

Would you care to introduce yourself?

OK, sounds like does not care to introduce themselves, so we will move on to approval of the agenda.

The agenda was distributed to Task Force members by e-mail.

It is also available on our web page do Task force members have any changes to the agenda?

OK, seeing and hearing, nothing will consider the agenda accepted and move on to approval of the Minutes.

These would be the minutes from the October 16th regular meeting #36.

Any changes needed to these minutes?

MD Mike Doenges 4:33

I'll make a motion to approve the Minutes as presented.

RK Ron Kumetz 4:37

I will second that.

JM James Mack 4:37

2nd in.

NB Neal, Barbara 4:37

Thank you, Mike.

OK.

I think I heard Ron as the second, but I'll leave that to Kelly. All in favor or I'm sorry, any discussion?

OK. All in favor of approving the minutes from October 16th?

Raise your hand or indicate by saying aye.

Thank you, Ron.

JM James Mack 4:57

Hi, thank you too.

MD Mike Doenges 4:57

Hi.

JM James Mack 4:57

Have a good day. Bye.

NB Neal, Barbara 4:59

Excellent. The Minutes are approved and we will move now to.

Public comment.

So I will call on folks.

Senator Renner, do you have any comment this morning?

IW Irene Wrenner 5:15

Not right now. Thank you.

NB Neal, Barbara 5:17

OK, kimchini.

Jim, did you have any comments this morning?

And you're muted.

Now I can't see Kim, so I'm gonna move on. Perhaps come back to Kim Anthony.

Do you have any comments for us this morning?

GA GREGOIRE, ANTHONY 5:55

Do not have any comment.

Thank you, Barbara.

NB Neal, Barbara 5:57

OK.

Thank you.

Anyone else wishing to make public comment?

OK, I'm not hearing or seeing.

Anything. So we will move on.

The next item on the agenda is an update from Corey on the congressionally directed spending the \$9 million.

Pot of funds.

So, Corey, I'll hand it over to you.



Chase, Corey 6:34

Great that you describe it as a pot of funds. Were it simply a pot.

As it turns out, it is not a pot.

It is a onion that has many layers that needs to be peeled back to get to the core.

So we we the the progress that we have been working diligently on this project.

The first thing we did was we retained a subject matter expert to review our proposed method of implementing the grant.

That that was a positive recommendation. That recommendation was reviewed by the two subject matter experts.

Group and also given.

A positive review.

We retained a project manager to assist us in steering this project.

Also, the bureaucracy of state government and not being a simple tool to took some doing.

We we have moved through the a number of the projects that we laid out in our implementation plan for this grant and we've issued RF PS for some of them, so.

We have active ongoing RFPs for generators.

Batteries and rectifiers and installation of this equipment. Those have been posted and they're cross. The links to those Rfp's are posted on our website and also cross posted on this website on the Task Force website.

So if any interested parties may look look into those.

We have three other.

Excuse me, we have four other RF PS that are.

Released from our department and are now in process by our counterpart agency, the build agency of Buildings and General Services.

And they are preparing to issue RFPs that is for the dispatch consoles.

The.

Telephone service for our dispatch consoles. We we intend to acquire new telephone service for those dispatch consoles from a voice over IP provider.

We looked into whether we could.

Either partner with the 911 board and use the service from its vendor in. In digital, we determined that that was not a reasonable process. It would be more cumbersome and complicated given the various kinds of procurement processes and cybersecurity issues.

We determined that it would be best to procure stand alone service for for that.

And we are still we, we it took some doing to wade through the various.

Parts of state government that.

Take care of things like cybersecurity, sieges, compliance.

General oversight over information technology procurements, at any rate that we are, we are nearing the phase where we're gonna that that has been released to BGS and we we also need firewalls to to address that problem, cybersecurity for that. So that's another RFP that's in flight and and.

A final RFP that's ready to to go is we intend to use mobile wireless service from.

Mobile wireless carriers.

As redundant backhaul for some of our towers that do not presently have multiple routes so that we we need equipment to make that happen and that that RFP is ready to go.

So.

We have a. Those are the projects that are released by the DOJ.

We have a number of other projects that are still under consideration given.

Concerns about environmental environmental assessments. So we our project in general what we intend to do is a statewide simulcast project.

We will end up with 10.

Separate simulcast UHF zones for Vermont State Police.

That project touches 50 different tower sites and.

That is a complicated endeavor, not least of which being determining the extent to which we need to address permitting and environmental compliance.

And what what? Which which specific regulations we need to address before we can even get started on that project?

Active discussion with.

Both internally and with the Department of Justice.

And we've been in discussion with your your consultants, both mission critical and telivate.

And we are grateful for their their support in in this process.

We don't have an estimate yet about when we will be finished with that initial environmental assessment, but we are quite close to having some news on that and I'll be willing to come back and give you an update.

Once we have our ducks in a row and we're we, we know we, we've, we've corralled the question about environmental compliance.

But I I have no more to say about that at at at present. That is obviously the majority of the grant.

So and roughly we've got about two million of the 9 million committed in current projects that we're either already issued RFPs or or released to BGS.

And the remaining 7 million are still pending.

Our assessment about how to proceed with environmental compliance.

So that's a high level update.

 **Neal, Barbara** 12:32

Thank you.

 **Chase, Corey** 12:33

Sorry, I'm sorry for that.

 **Neal, Barbara** 12:34

Thank you very much.

 **Chase, Corey** 12:34

Lot of weird salad there.

 **Neal, Barbara** 12:36

Yeah. No, I I I followed right along.

I probably all these RF PS that have already been issued or or BGS is about to issue.

They must have a variety of like deadlines for response and and.

Is there any kind of timeline on those particular projects or are they also dependent on the work that would be done in this environmental assessment?

 **Chase, Corey** 13:02

Projects that we're doing now.

Are we we?

The Department of Justice raised concerns with us about environmental compliance, so we looked through all of our projects and peeled out the ones that had no environmental compliance concerns because they're indoors.

So we we we, we're proceeding with those projects.

I don't have them at the top of my head.

And some of them are issued, some of them aren't.

But there's there are links on York website cross link to our website to the the Vermont BGS.

Excuse me, BGS buildings and General Services.

They do all of the state procurements and the links to all of those procurements are on our website.

And those include the dates when they're issued, when the questions are due, when the proposals are due.

 **Neal, Barbara** 13:51

OK.

Great. Sounds like you'll be doing a lot of RFP response evaluations coming up, so.

 **Chase, Corey** 13:57

Yes, yes.

 **Neal, Barbara** 13:58

I see Mike Dungus has his hand up. Go ahead, Mike.

 **Mike Doenges** 14:03

Yeah, just a quick question.

You know, we've had the conversation around.

You know that nine, the 9 million was originally intended for you know the the whole of the state and and resolving some of these issues and the conversation over the past you know year or so with the restrictions that were put were put on it because it can.

Be sub granted and going to TPS instead. Was that what DPS was doing?

Tried to stay focused on something that could be shared throughout.

For the rest of regional dispatch, regardless of where we land, do you feel like?

You're looking more at the engineering side, but do you feel like all of those

resources, all of those RF PS that are out there in one way or another will allow us to integrate with the systems that you're putting in place when we design what's going forward? What?

Happening next.



Chase, Corey 14:54

Mike, that's a that's a complicated question.

But I I it was our intent to try to craft something, craft a slate of projects that would harden our network and provide.

An improvement to our network that when I say our network the the services that we that the state provides to our state agencies including AOT, Fish and Wildlife, Vermont State Police and a number of our a number of other first responders also. I should this from the outset mention that our channels are monitored and actively, actively monitored and sometimes used by many other agencies beyond our agencies.

That said, the primary focus of our of our we're intending to, we're intending these projects are primarily focused on hardening our network and improving our network. But it's certainly a building block that can that.

Improving improving our core network.

And making it a a better, more robust network will certainly help any other networks that might come in the future based on that.

But I think that to answer your specific question, I I think that a it's best to point you to the the the work that was done in reviewing our slate of projects.

There was the as as I mentioned the the strategic.

Analysis That that, that we.

Employed an outside vendor, came in and reviewed our slate of projects.

And there's a report on this website that to have task Force website and then the public safety task, force experts also reviewed that that same slate of projects and the work done by that independent expert and I I think that those those reports stand on they address your.

Question more fully and and succinctly than I could.



Mike Doenges 16:50

Great. Thanks Corey.

NB **Neal, Barbara** 16:53

Any other questions for Corey from Task Force members?

OK.

How about? Also, I'll open it up to Televate and mission critical.

Do you have any questions for Corey for today?

DA **Dominick Arcuri** 17:13

This is Dominic. I do not.

NB **Neal, Barbara** 17:15

Next time.

RB **Rick Burke** 17:17

Only from my end.

I just really appreciate Corey's sharing of information and collaborating.

And so thank you, Corey.

 **Chase, Corey** 17:27

Yes.

We have a constant stream of inquiries about our network.

There are many entities that are already at various levels of using our network, attaching on various places, getting service from us, and we're whenever there's more activity on that front. We share it with both MCP and TELEFADE so that they have a situational awareness of the of.

NB **Neal, Barbara** 17:53

Great. OK. So.

 **Chase, Corey** 17:56

What?

What we're running into.

NB **Neal, Barbara** 18:00

Sounds good. Excellent.

Well, thank you for the update Corey and.

We'll look forward to hearing back from you at some point as all this work progresses, so I'm sure you'll keep busy in the meantime.



Chase, Corey 18:11

Yes.



Neal, Barbara 18:17

OK, if there's nothing more on the congressionally directed funds, let's move to community listening sessions and the subject specific workshops update.

Excuse me. I'll kick this off by.

Reminding everyone or letting everyone know. I'm not sure the state had been confirmed.

The third community listening session is planned for the week.

I'm sorry is planned for.

November 21st and I'm hoping that Dom will correct me if I have that date wrong.



Dominick Arcuri 18:56

Correct. Sorry. You got the the right day and and it'll be a midday session.



Neal, Barbara 18:57

Thank you. OK.

Midday session. OK, and we'll get that perfect. Thank you.



Dominick Arcuri 19:04

Beginning at 11:30.



Neal, Barbara 19:08

Sorry, my notes were a little jumbled there.

So 11:30 on November 21st this will be promoted a little bit differently than the prior community listening sessions and will be geared toward providing a forum for input from non-english speaking communities, though everyone is welcome to attend.

So that is planned again for November 21st.

And then we have the subject specific workshops.

Which we discussed at the last task force meeting and there's been several

conversations going on in the background between that meeting and this.

We've identified several areas of workshop topics.

For most of them.

One exception we think it's important to wait until we have some of the inventory data completed from mission critical.

Some of that analysis, done as an understanding of, you know, the current landscape is going to be key to many of these conversations.

The exception would be.

A workshop that is planned on lessons learned from previous regionalization attempts. Commissioner Morrison has been working on.

In a small group of task force, folks have been working on identifying.

Like a targeted audience where invitees that we would like to have at that workshop to understand.

What's good about what's happened in the past?

What's not so good?

And so forth. And you know areas we might want to be on the lookout for.

We don't have dates for that session, or frankly any of these.

That will come once the work that's being done by mission critical.

Evolves. So we have the lessons learned.

Session we're planning a telecommunicator focused slash Center operations workshop.

Also one on coverage.

That's LMR and cellular and interoperability.

A governance workshop, A funding workshop, and perhaps CAD and other technology.

Workshop so.

I'll continue to work with the Commissioner and also Rick and Don from Televate to develop the list of subject matter experts or invitees that we'd like to hear from at these workshops.

I hope that task force Members will let me or Jen know if you have ideas about those subject matter experts in any of these categories or if you have a, you know, a preference for which workshop you would like to participate in or or take an active role.

In.

So that's really where we stand right now on those two items.

Does anyone have any questions?

OK, Dom. Did I miss anything on the status of the workshops and the listening session?

DA **Dominick Arcuri** 22:31

No, I think you captured everything you mentioned 6.

Focus areas that we are working on right now.

You got them accurate. Thank you.

NB **Neal, Barbara** 22:41

Excellent. Thank you. Always like that confirmation.

So OK then, if there's no questions on workshops or listening sessions, let's move on to project updates and we will start with Dom from Telebate.

DA **Dominick Arcuri** 22:58

Thanks, Barb, and good morning, everyone.

Just a note, I am remote at a conference.

Hopefully there's not too much background noise.

Actually, Jason just walked by a little while ago, but we didn't coordinate enough to get on the same.

The same video, but we'll be getting together later.

This past few weeks have been focusing primarily on analysis of all the data that has been collected, of course.

Task Force members and the public is familiar that we have been working.

Accumulating and compiling a lot of data both from the data questionnaires that we distributed and received.

The Dispatch center visits that MCP has performed, reaching all 37 dispatch centers and also compiling the great input we got from the workshop or the.

The town halls, the four town halls that we held in September and of course, more recently we had additional input during the Community listening sessions.

So all of that data is being compiled, analyzed.

The also the wireless systems are being analyzed by Mcpi believe they have completed the wireless analysis for the state owned assets and they are working on.

Developing similar.

Propagation characteristics for some of the regional assets as well. So that is a lot of

work going on in the in the background. We have looked at the.
Mcp has generated.

A.

A draft outline for the inventory and assessment report and we have reviewed that
and commented on that and then has been updated as well.

We do have some work on.

Modifying the schedule somewhat.



Audet, Cally 25:08

I don't mean to interrupt, but it looks like Jim Mack may have dropped off and I
don't believe we have a quorum at the moment.



Dominick Arcuri 25:13

Yeah, sorry.



Neal, Barbara 25:15

OK.

Yeah, I don't see him on the screen. Thank you, Kelly.

Let's pause for a minute and let me reach out to Jim and see what's going on.



Dominick Arcuri 25:23

OK.

Certainly.



Kimberly Cheney 25:30

Hi can I ask Dominic a question about data?



Neal, Barbara 25:37

Umm.

Yes, Kim, go ahead.



Kimberly Cheney 25:45

Do you have a cat?

Cost per capita.

Measured by the equalized grand list.

For.
That's being spent.
By each dispatch center today.
That's a critical number.

DA **Dominick Arcuri** 26:05

We do not have that at this time, Kim.
Thanks for that input.
We have gathered the costs that are being spent for operations at each dispatch center that is part of what is being analyzed. So certainly as part of the analysis, we can develop that metric as well.

KC **Kimberly Cheney** 26:23

Thank you very much for your time.
OK, I wish you would because when.
Finance got hold of this last session.
People have no idea what they were spending and relatively whether it was high or low, and we've already heard testimony of some very wide divergences.

DA **Dominick Arcuri** 26:50

The point?
Thank you for that, Kim.

KC **Kimberly Cheney** 26:52

Thank you.



Audet, Cally 27:03

It looks like he's back online.

JM **James Mack** 27:07

I'm back.
I got kicked off.

NB **Neal, Barbara** 27:11

Thanks Jim.

I'm about to hang up on you. Whoever answered the phone. Now that you're back, OK?

JM **James Mack** 27:15

Yeah. Alrighty.

NB **Neal, Barbara** 27:18

Great. OK.

Good so.

Dom, go ahead and continue and I'm. I didn't really hear the question from Kim.

DA **Dominick Arcuri** 27:25

All right.

Thanks Brian.

NB **Neal, Barbara** 27:27

Maybe you could just recap so Jim would didn't hear that either, so.

DA **Dominick Arcuri** 27:32

Kim was asking if we had collected data on the cost per capita for the grand list for the different dispatch centers, and I did indicate that we have captured the cost at each dispatch center currently spending four operations.

So that is data that we have and we can do that analysis as as we go through the.

The analysis portion of the project.

We don't have those metrics yet, but we have the the cost, so we can certainly develop those.

NB **Neal, Barbara** 28:09

OK. Thanks.

DA **Dominick Arcuri** 28:11

And continue on with the status mentioned that we are currently reworking the schedule right now. The system and inventory report had originally been due last week actually October 25th due to all of the data that we've accomplished and all of the analysis that it's ongoing and some.

Of a later start.

As as we put together the questionnaire we, we will be delaying that.

Delivery of that somewhat, we are still working that those details. So I hope to have exact dates for the next update at the at the next meeting. But right now we are looking to have a delivery of the inventory and assessment report later in November and then a.

Review period by the task force and then.

Development of the final report.

Since that is being delayed, the the overall project is requiring more work in parallel, so we are working with our teams to do that to begin analysis of the potential solutions and attributes of those solutions in parallel with the information being put together for the inventory report.

And we are looking to have the.

There, there may be a slight change in the delay of the final report.

As well, but our goal is to still have that in the January time frame.

We anticipate having a first draft delivered and a review and a quick turn around by the task force and our goal is to recognize that we need a second draft that can be released to a more broader audience for review, including state legislature.

Public other first responders and that so that is our planning to to up the schedule.

And again, I'll have details on that next time.

Barb, you mentioned the community listening sessions. We got good input from those.

I think we had, you know, 20 issues. So people at each of the sessions, we do have the third one planned for later in November as you as you identified. And we are also working as you mentioned, putting together plans for the workshops and we have the six.

Focus areas that you mentioned.

And out of those, we've identified candidate 10.

For the first three, the lessons learned, the governance and the funding, and we will be continuing to develop the details for those, including both the logistics and the content plan for those.

Also, we are continuing to gather input from other key stakeholders. Rick and I have had a number of meetings with other potential stakeholders throughout.

The throughout the state, including.

Some local government legislature.

Other dispatch.

Managers, for example, and we are continuing to do that together to gather additional input.

That's that.

That's kind of summary for today.

Happy to answer any questions.

NB **Neal, Barbara** 31:58

Any questions from Task force members for Dom?

Hey, mission critical update. Any updates from you or did Dom cover everything?

JM **Jason Malloy** 32:13

Dom pretty much covered everything.

Just the one thing, Barb, just a quick thank you for the phone calls that you guys made last week.

For the cybersecurity assessment, we did get a few additional responses from folks.

So we're we're going to attribute that to your your extra effort after after we had sent that list to you guys.

So thank you for that.

At this point, we have officially.

Closed the cybersecurity data collection. We do have a little less than half, so not quite what we had hoped.

They do have to, unfortunately, put a hard stop at some point to be able to start the data analysis portion.

So that got underway this week. If there are one or two that come in between now and when the inventory is delivered, they'll work that information in. But.

You know, of course, we're not proactively going out and telling people.

Sure, you can turn it in the last day because we know that that's exactly what would happen.

NB **Neal, Barbara** 33:23

Hey.

JM **Jason Malloy** 33:25

So officially speaking, we've closed the data collection piece.

And they are going through that analysis portion and of course that'll be represented for each agency on that individual maps diagram.

That gets presented for each one of the agencies in that inventory document.

Other than that, I'm covered everything.

Thank you.

NB **Neal, Barbara** 33:51

OK.

Well, it's too bad that we're not quite at at 50% or or better where we wanted to be, but I assume that they'll will have the ability to draw some sort of meaningful conclusions from what we do have correct.

JM **Jason Malloy** 34:07

Yes. And I've spoken with that team several times about that.

They do have some folks that they spoke with that.

In in general, weren't sure how to answer questions.

NB **Neal, Barbara** 34:23

Hmm.

JM **Jason Malloy** 34:24

So. So even though those individuals may not have responded, that is still a data point that they can speak to to, you know, to show that there there might not be as broad of an understanding you know.

Or something to that effect.

To include with the with the summary for the cyber assessment piece. So.

While we might not have the the numbers that we were hoping for, we are still able to draw some additional conclusions from the folks we spoke to and folks that did not submit anything for their agencies.

NB **Neal, Barbara** 35:05

OK, great.

Any questions for mission critical from Task Force members?

All right, Kim, I do see your hand up. But but I I need to limit the public comment to. I can't have, you know, public comment on every single section. So I'm happy to

accept.

An e-mail from you or save your comments for next time.

And then we will move on to new business.

I have one item.

And that is.

Speaks to the stakeholder outreach.

So Jim Mack and Dom.

Going to attend a session with a group of dispatchers from various agencies around the state that have been involved in training of voluntary training of dispatchers for many, many years to hear about their ideas and thoughts and opinions on mandatory training requirements or minimum training requirements.

For the dispatch function.

So that'll happen on November 14th.

And thanks to both Jim and Dom for attending that so.

Is there any other new business?

OK, hearing none, we will.

We have our next meeting date is on the books for November.

13th.

And.

If there's nothing else, we can take a motion to adjourn.

JM **James Mack** 36:53

Take a motion to adjourn.

NB **Neal, Barbara** 36:56

Thank you, Jim.

MD **Mike Doenges** 36:58

2nd.


NB **Neal, Barbara** 36:59

Thank you, Mike.

All in favor of adjourning?

Raise your hand or signify by saying aye.

 **Mike Doenges** 37:05
Right.

 **Neal, Barbara** 37:07
OK.


I see the hands up.


There's Ron, OK.


All right, the meetings adjourned.


Thank you all very much.


For your work this morning and and all along. Callie, thanks once again for all your dedication and we'll talk to everybody soon. Thank you.


 **Audet, Cally** 37:26
Thank you.
Have a good one.

 **Rick Burke** 37:27
Take care, everyone. Thank you, Kelly.

 **James Mack** 37:29
Thank you.

 **Audet, Cally** 37:30
Thank you.

 **Rick Burke** 37:30
Been a pleasure.

 **Irene Wrenner** 37:30
Thank you.

 **Audet, Cally** stopped transcription