

New River Valley Emergency Communications Regional Authority

Joint Advisory Committee Meeting

February 14, 2018 1:00 PM

Montgomery County Public Safety Building – NRV 911

Minutes

Attendees:

Members: Mark Sisson, Chair, *Police Chief, Town of Christiansburg*; David English, Vice Chair, *Blacksburg Rescue*; Kevin Foust, *Chief of Police, Virginia Tech*; Michael Mulhare, *Director of Emergency Management, Virginia Tech*; Hank Partin, *Sheriff, Montgomery County*; Neal Turner, *Emergency Services Coordinator, Montgomery County*

Alternate Members: Nathan O'Dell, *Captain, Town of Blacksburg* Drew Smith, *Blacksburg Fire Department*; Kris Weaver; *Captain, Montgomery County Sheriff's Department*

Absent: John Akers, *Chief, Shawsville Rescue*; Anthony Wilson, *Chief of Police, Town of Blacksburg*

Staff: Matt Hobson, *Executive Director*; Deborah Stump, *Operations Manager*; Derek Rogers, *Communications Systems Manager*

Recorder: Sonia Ramsey, *Executive Assistant*

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:07 PM.

2. Roll Call of Members

The Recorder performed a roll call of members.

3. Approval of Agenda

Neal Turner moved to accept the agenda as presented. The motion was passed unanimously.

4. Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of the October 17, 2017 Joint Advisory Committee meeting were sent to all members via electronic mail for review prior to the meeting (Attachment A). The Chair asked for corrections to the minutes. With no corrections requested, Neal Turner moved to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Chief Foust and passed unanimously.

5. Public Comment

No public comments were received.

6. New Business

a. Update from the radio sub-committee

Derek Rogers advised that the Radio Sub-committee had met several times in reference to obtaining a radio system which would move Shawsville Rescue Squad, Elliston Fire Department, and Riner Fire Department to UHF from VHF. Out of those meetings, a recommendation was sent to the Joint

Advisory Committee to present to the Board of Directors for the 911 Authority to fund a consultant to provide guidance on a county-wide radio system that would bring all 15 agencies under the same system.

At this time a small subsection of the Radio Sub-committee is working together to get the three (3) agencies above to UHF as quickly and efficiently as possible. This sub-section is currently meeting with ProComm to request a reasonable quote for a joint project versus the separate quotes (one per agency) that ProComm had previously produced.

The Chair added that the Sub-committee had been very productive and the Joint Advisory Committee appreciated all of their efforts.

b. Update on the request for a radio system consultant

The Chair gave an update to the Committee on the recommendation to the Board of Directors by the Joint Advisory Committee to fund a consultant as presented to the Joint Advisory Committee by the Radio Sub-committee. The Board of Directors ultimately decided to table this until a special meeting could be held. This work session was held on February 6th and resulted in the following:

The initial project of the Board of Directors was two-fold:

1. Regional 911 Center
2. Unified Radio System

This is still the goal of the Board. At this time, the Board feels it would be better suited to hire a consultant to prepare a strategic recommendation versus a technical recommendation. The three (3) main topics to be covered should be:

1. Funding
2. Governance of the radio system
3. Buy-in from all agencies involved

A sub-committee was proposed by the Board to consist of Neil Turner and Michael Mulhare as co-chairs with Derek Rogers and Billy Hanks as members, along with whomever else the sub-committee felt would provide significant knowledge and resources. The goal of the sub-committee would be to prepare a RFP for a consultant who could accomplish the desired goals.

c. Discussion of the NRV 911 funding formula

Director Hobson referenced the proposed Resolution (Attachment B) in reference to the funding formula for the member's annual contributions. The Board has advised that any changes to the funding formula would need to come from the Joint Advisory Committee. Two (2) items should be addressed:

1. Geography-should a responding agency pay for their services that are performed outside of their jurisdiction? This occurs frequently in rescue calls as confirmed by Vice Chair English as the Towns of Blacksburg and Christiansburg frequently answer calls that are in the jurisdiction of the County.
2. Calls for Service versus Status Calls. We currently have calls for service that technically are status calls but result in creating an incident for the agency. An example of this is an officer is marked on a CAD report for call type "Radar". That officer conducts a traffic stop. The officer is cleared from the "Radar" incident and another CAD report is created with a call type "Traffic

Stop". The "Traffic Stop" ends, officer is cleared, and another CAD report is created with a call type "Radar". This skews the statistics dramatically because each traffic stop results in two (2) CAD reports. Copies of call types were provided (Attachment C) and it was requested that the Joint Advisory Committee review these call types to determine if each is a true call for service versus a status call.

The Chair advised the funding formula was a product of the Operations Committee and thus should be sent back to them for any revisions rather than be a function of the Joint Advisory Committee.

Chief Foust proposed the question of what other agencies do in reference to funding. Ms. Stump advised that previous research had shown that it varied greatly among Regional Centers. The reasoning for the weights previously had been that some agencies had several more high risk calls and the weight system evened this out. She requested that members of the Joint Advisory Committee discuss beforehand the funding formula with their respective Operations Committee members to allow for a smooth process during the next Operations Committee meeting.

Neal Turner made a motion for the discussion and revision if needed of the funding formula to be a function of the Operations Committee for Law Enforcement and the Fire and Rescue Committee for those call types. This motion was seconded by Chief Foust and all were in favor.

7. Old Business

a. EMD Update

Ms. Stump advised that EMD is up and running well. Per our Q&A reports which grade upon questions asked by call taker, coding of the call, instructions given, and customer service, the 911 Authority is progressing nicely. In the month EMD has been utilized, there have been approximately 600 calls, with some of those being test calls for training purposes. Communications Officers are rotating through as call takers in order that they each get training and experience.

The Authority is working with Montgomery County Public Information Officers to push out information about the EMD process and also to educate the public as well as health care professionals.

At the request of Chief Foust who would like to know more about the EMD process, Ms. Stump advised she would do a mini-tour of the processes after the meeting.

8. Committee Member Comments

No comments

9. Adjourn

At 1:48 PM, Neal Turner made a motion to adjourn the meeting. This motion was seconded by Michael Mulhare and all members were in favor.