

New River Valley Emergency Communications Regional Authority
Board Meeting
July 24, 2018 4:00 PM
Montgomery County Public Safety Building – Fourth Floor

Minutes

Attendees:

Members: Sherwood Wilson, Chair, *Vice President for Operations, Virginia Tech*; Craig Meadows, *Montgomery County Administrator*; Alan Fabian, *Joint Member*; Randy Wingfield, *Christiansburg Town Manager*

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

Guests: Kevin Foust, *Chief of Police, Virginia Tech*; Billy Hanks, *Fire Chief, Town of Christiansburg*; Michael Mulhare, *Director of Emergency Management, Virginia Tech*; Hank Partin, *Sheriff, Montgomery County*; Brian Roe, *Captain, Town of Blacksburg*; Mark Sisson, *Chair, Police Chief, Town of Christiansburg*; Brad St. Clair, *Captain, Montgomery County*; Neal Turner, *Emergency Services Coordinator, Montgomery County*

Absent: Marc Verniel, *Vice Chair, Blacksburg Town Manager*

Recorder: Sonia Ramsey, *Executive Assistant*

1. Call to Order

The Secretary/Treasurer called the meeting to order at 4:11 PM.

2. Approval of the Agenda

The Secretary/Treasurer presented the agenda for approval. A motion to approve the agenda was made by Mr. Wingfield and seconded by Mr. Fabian. All were in favor.

3. Approval of Minutes

The Secretary/Treasurer presented the minutes from June 26, 2018 for approval. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Wingfield and seconded by Mr. Fabian. All were in favor.

4. MAAP (Mid-Atlantic Aviation Partnership) Presentation- Mark Blanks

The Board, staff, and guests were given a short presentation on a project being done by MAAP involving drones and their functions. A Question & Answer session followed with these questions being answered:

a. Q: Chief Foust-How do you defeat a rogue drone?

A: Drones are regulated by the FAA and considered an aircraft so the same rules apply.

b. Q: Chief Foust- Can a drone be easily overtaken?

A: No, they are difficult to hack.

c. Q: Director Hobson-what if a drone used for a delivery function lands at the wrong location?

A: A policy has not been put into place as of yet for this incident.

d. Q: Chief Foust- are experimental drones used for delivery equipped with cameras?

A: Yes, but for purpose of beings the drones “eyes” for traveling.

e. Q: Director Hobson- are commercial vs residential drones easily identified?

A: This is a hot topic being addressed by the FAA.

f. Q: Chief Foust-what is the weight restriction for delivery?

A: Approximately four (4) pounds.

g. Q: Mr. Fabian – what is the timeline for the 3 phases:

h. A: Mr. Blanks advised the project should be completed by 2020.

Chief Foust advised that his department has a meeting set up to see if drone technology can benefit First Responders and if so, how. At his time Chief Foust and Mr. Meadows both advised the feedback they have received has been fear from citizens because of the unknown.

The contact for Mr. Blanks is as follows:



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5. Joint Advisory Committee Update – Chief Mark Sisson

Chief Sisson advised that on July 18, 2018 the Joint Advisory Committee met for the purpose of discussing the funding formula which they had tasked the Operations Committee to make a recommendation. The Operations Committee unanimously recommended a 25% split of the funding of the Authority. After much deliberation, the Joint Advisory Committee unanimously voted for a 25% split also. Therefore, the only recommendation the JAC has for the board regarding a funding formula is a 25% split by the four (4) contributing municipalities. The Chair stated that since the Vice Chair was not present at this Board meeting, the discussion of this would be postponed until all board members are present. It will be put on the next Board meeting agenda.

6. Secretary / Treasurer's Budget Report

An updated summary of the revenues and expenditures was provided to members. Mr. Meadows advised that the fiscal year 2018 budget ended with a positive balance. Mr. Hobson advised that the majority of the funds balance was due to being understaffed during the year. The Chair questioned whether or not the reserve was earning interest. Mr. Meadows will research this and report back.

7. Director's Report

Mr. Hobson presented the Executive Director's Report.

a. Regional Consolidated Emergency Communications Center

No further discussion.

b. Meetings/Discussions

Mr. Wilson commended the Radio RFP Sub-Committee on a job well done. Mr. Mulhare advised that the range for proposals was \$129,000-\$210,000.

The question of whether or not we will piggy back off the Tidewater NG-911 RFP or seek our own RFP will depend upon the results of the Tidewater RFP. Mr. Hobson advised there are not many providers in our area.

c. Personnel Report – New Hires/Promotions

Mr. Fabian questioned the turn-over rate and made the suggestion that we do a trend analysis of employment. Also he suggested that we allow persons interested in the job to shadow a current employee before the job offer is made.

8. Review of NRV 911 Monthly Performance Statistics for May 2018

The Chair questioned whether or not everyone was in agreement that the statistical information is correct. All guests stated that they were in agreement with the data.

Mr. Wingfield requested that monthly Calls for Service Statistics be presented as is but also presented using the weighted totals (multiplier of 3 for high priority, 2 for medium priority, and 1 for low priority).

9. Old Business

None

10. New Business

None

11. Public Comments

None

12. Board Member Comments

None

13. Adjourn

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 5:30 PM.