

New River Valley Emergency Communications Regional Authority

Joint Advisory Committee Meeting

July 18, 2018 1:00 PM

Montgomery County Public Safety Building – NRV 911

Minutes

Attendees:

Members: Mark Sisson, Chair, *Police Chief, Town of Christiansburg*; 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*; Neal Turner, *Emergency Services Coordinator, Montgomery County*; Anthony Wilson, *Chief of Police, Town of Blacksburg*

Alternate Members: Kris Weaver; *Captain, Montgomery County Sheriff's Department*

Absent: John Akers, *Chief, Shawsville Rescue*; David English, *Vice Chair, Blacksburg Rescue*;

Staff: Matt Hobson, *Executive Director*; Deborah Stump, *Operations Manager*

Recorder: Sonia Ramsey, *Executive Assistant*

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:03 PM.

2. Roll Call of Members

The Recorder performed a silent roll call of members.

3. Approval of Agenda

Neal Turner moved to accept the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Chief Foust and passed unanimously.

4. Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of the February 14, 2018 Joint Advisory Committee meeting (Attachment A) were presented for corrections. With no corrections requested, Neal Turner moved to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Chief Foust and passed unanimously.

5. New Business

a. Update on the request for a radio system consultant

Director Hobson gave an update to the Committee on the progress of the Radio System Consultant Sub-Committee. They reached out for Requests for Proposals (RFPs) with a deadline of July 10, 2018. Nine (9) proposals were received. Mike Mulhare advised the Sub-Committee will proceed by reviewing the proposals, making a short-list of acceptable proposals, and then reaching out to the companies should any further questions arise. They will be making a recommendation to the Board of Directors at the September meeting if all goes as planned.

b. Discussion of the NRV 911 funding formula

Director Hobson referenced the proposed updated Resolution (Attachment B) in reference to the funding formula for the member's annual contributions. The suggested changes to the Resolution come from meetings held with the Fire and Rescue Commission and the Operations Committee. The Fire & Rescue Commission advised they do not feel it is their duty nor right to make any recommendations. The Operations Committee has made the suggestions outlined on Page 2 of the proposed Resolution.

Director Hobson also presented the Committee with the Calls for Service statics for Year to Date as of June 2018 (Attachment C). These are the same statistics that will be presented to the Board on July 24, 2018. This is a different option to provide funding based on raw data.

The Chair opened the floor for discussion on the recommendation. Member responses are as follows:

- Chief Foust: His recommends a 25% split advising that all agencies receive the same consideration and thus should pay equally.
- Chief Wilson: His recommendation is also for a 25% split stating that in order for the municipalities to continue to work as a united group of first responders, the question of funding should not come into play. Agreeing on a 25% split also would lay the foundation for future group endeavors and is really the only right way to do it.
- Chief Hanks: He also recommends a 25% split which alleviates hardships on budget balancing for all municipalities.
- Ms. Stump: Advised that all municipalities require extra resources for events, ball games, etc and thus the total amount of resources provided balances out in the long run.
- Sheriff Partin: He strongly recommends a 25% split and that we move on from the idea of having a funding formula.
- Director Hobson: Expressed concerns that changing contribution percentages driven by statistics could result in operational changes by the public safety agencies to drive down statistics in order to reduce costs which would reduce communication, not encourage it.
- Mr. Turner: Made a motion to recommend to the Board that there is a 25% split for the four (4) entities to fund the NRV ERCA. The motion was seconded by Sheriff Partin and all were in favor.

The Chair agreed to make this recommendation to the Board at the meeting on July 24, 2018. The alternate funding formula options will be placed on hold until after this meeting. He also asks that each Department head attend the Board meeting.

6. New Business

None

7. Public Comments

None

8. Committee Member Comments

None

9. Adjourn

At 1:34 PM, Neal Turner made a motion to adjourn the meeting. This motion was seconded by Sheriff Partin and all members were in favor.