

New River Valley Emergency Communications Regional Authority

Join Advisory Committee Meeting

October 19th, 2021 1:00PM

Montgomery County Public Safety Building

Minutes

Attendees:

Members: Mark Sisson, Chair, *Police Chief, Town of Christiansburg*; David English, Vice Chair, *Blacksburg Rescue*; Tony Haga, *Deputy Chief of Police, Virginia Tech*; Michael Mulhare, *Director of Emergency Management, Virginia Tech*; Tyler Hall, *Deputy Emergency Services Coordinator, Montgomery County*; Brian Roe, *Captain, Blacksburg Police Department*; Kris Weaver, *Captain, Montgomery County Sheriff's Office*

Absent: Billy Hanks, *Fire Chief, Town of Christiansburg*; Hank Partin, *Sheriff, Montgomery County*; Anthony Wilson, *Chief of Police, Town of Blacksburg*

Staff: Jason Milburn, *Executive Director*; Derek Rogers, *Communications Systems Manager*; Amber Pratt, *Executive Assistant*

Guests: Pete Haislip, *Radio Technician, Town of Christiansburg*

Recorder: Amber Pratt, *Executive Assistant*

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:01pm.

2. Roll Call of Members

The Recorder performed a silent roll call of members.

3. Approval of Agenda

The Chair presented the Agenda for approval. A motion was made by Mr. English and seconded by Mr. Mulhare and passed unanimously.

4. Approval of the Minutes

The Chair presented the minutes from the October 20th, 2020 JAC Meeting (attachment a) for approval. A motion was made by Mr. Mulhare and seconded by Mr. Haga and passed unanimously.

5. Old Business

None

6. New Business

a. Radio Infrastructure Needs, Goals, and Planning

Mr. Milburn advised that there have been several radio changes in the past year along with several upcoming changes with the goal of becoming more coordinated across jurisdictions. Mr. Milburn provided a summary of upcoming radio improvements for local jurisdictions.

Mr. Sisson stated that reestablishing a radio subcommittee would be beneficial to determine the best way to move forward cohesively. Mr. Rogers agreed and the intent is to bring it forward at the next Fire/Rescue Commission meeting.

i. Existing Site Capacity

Mr. Milburn advised that both Price Mountain and Buffalo Mountain towers are full and cannot be equipped with anything else without interference – the analog UHF system is maxed out. Switching to a digital system would cut the load significantly and also address the interference issues.

ii. Radio Subcommittee

Points of Contact for the radio subcommittee were determined:

Brian Roe – on behalf of Blacksburg Police Department

Brad St.Clair – on behalf of Montgomery County Sheriff's Office

Sean Smith – on behalf of Virginia Police Department

Pete Haislip – on behalf of Christiansburg Police Department

iii. Countywide 4.9 Ghz Microwave Band License

Mr. Rogers detailed the current issues regarding microwave band licensing. He stated that ideally the license would be under NRV 911 since they are responsible for the majority of radio operability. Mr. Sisson stated that NRV 911 can move forward with communicating with Blacksburg to get the license transferred. Mr. Milburn advised that it was his understanding that the desire of all 4 jurisdictions is for NRV 911 to be the manager for radio systems.

7. Public Comments

None

8. Committee Member Comments

None

9. Adjourn

The Chair presented a motion for the adjournment of the JAC meeting. Mr. Roe made a motion and Mr. Mulhare seconded. JAC meeting adjourned 1:37pm.