New River Valley Emergency Communications Regional Authority

Board Work Session

August 6th, 2019 2:00pm

Montgomery County Public Safety Building – 4th Floor Training Room

Minutes

Attendees:

Members: Sherwood Wilson, Chair, *Vice President of Operations*; Craig Meadows, *Montgomery County Administrator*; Marc Verniel, *Town Manager, Town of Blacksburg*; Randy Wingfield, *Town Manager, Town of Christiansburg*; Alan Fabian, *Joint Member*

Staff: Brad St. Clair, *Interim Director*; Deborah O'Brien, *Operations Manager*; Derek Rogers, *Communications Systems Manager*; Rebecca Bopp, *Technology Coordinator*; Amber Stump, *Executive Assistant*

Guests: Hank Partin, *Sheriff, Montgomery County*; Pete Haislip, *Radio Technician, Town of Christiansburg*; Kern 'Lee' Watson, *Health and Safety Trainer, Virginia Tech*

Absent:

Recorder: NRV 911 Staff

1. **Call to Order**

   The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:12PM.

2. **Approval of the Agenda**

   The Chair presented the agenda for approval. A motion was made by Mr. Meadows and seconded by Mr. Verniel and passed unanimously.

3. **Update on SAN Server replacement**

   Ms. Bopp provided an update for the question of using a Cloud interface for New World CAD. New World stated that it does not support Cloud at this time, but it is a work in progress.

   Ms. Bopp provided an update on the SAN Server replacement through Dell. If paid in full, Dell agreed to drop the package price by $19k, making the outright cost $499,392. The current insufficiencies and need for server updates were revisited, along with the risk/reward of waiting an additional year for the upgrade. The risk of down time and information loss was deemed too substantial to chance.

   Recommendation was made by Mr. St.Clair to procure servers. A motion was made by Marc Verniel and seconded by Craig Meadows to procure SAN server update. Dr. Wilson noted an amended motion made by board to purchase the SAN update outright – amended motion was carried unanimously.

4. Radio Project

Mr. Rogers presented the need for updates to the main radio communication towers pertaining to the NRVECA. Details of each tower site, its users, and recent and needed upgrades were provided in a handout (attachment a) to each attendee and discussed.

The Board inquired on the estimated monetary need for all necessary updates, and a rough estimate of $3-5million was provided by Mr. Haslip. Issues of determining the fiscal responsibility, liability, and governance for the towers sites were raised by members of the Board. It was agreed that ideally The Authority would be the eventual overseer of tower site upgrades and maintenance to reduce confusion, conflict, lack of communication, and unnecessary costs caused by multiple site users.

The need for the reinstatement of a radio sub-committee to move the radio project forward and provide informed guidance was agreed upon. This sub-committee would ultimately report back to the Joint Advisory Committee. Dr. Wilson asked for previous meeting minutes to be researched to find out how the initial radio sub-committee was appointed to determine proper source for its re-establishment (attachment b).

No formal action was taken on this order of business.

5. Public Comments

None

6. Board Member Comments

None

7. Adjourn

The Chair adjourned the work session at 4:28PM.