

New River Valley Emergency Communications Regional Authority

Join Advisory Committee Meeting

October 20th, 2020 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*; Michael Geary, *Emergency Services Coordinator, Montgomery County*

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

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

Recorder: Amber Pratt, *Executive Assistant*

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:05pm.

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. Haga and passed unanimously.

4. Approval of the Minutes

The Chair presented the minutes from the February 13th, 2019 JAC Meeting (attachment a) for approval. A motion was made by Mr. English and seconded by Mr. Geary and passed unanimously.

5. New Business

a. Update on Rapid SOS

Mr. Milburn explained the purpose and function of Rapid SOS. The technology uses phone sensors to get a more precise location for users with supported phone

types and systems. Mr. Milburn stated that this technology is a glimpse of advanced location data hoped to be achieved by Next-Generation 911.

b. NG-911

Mr. Milburn provided an update for the progress of NG-911 implementation. A contract was signed with AT&T in August permitting them to start working behind the scenes in preparation. NRV 911 is working with GIS for the 4 jurisdictions to ensure all mapping data meets these standards. In addition, NRV 911 is preparing for upgrades on call handling equipment in preparation for NG-911. It is estimated at this time that this technology will be implemented starting in the 3rd quarter of 2021 or the 1st quarter of 2022.

c. Staffing

Mr. Milburn stated that 36 out of 40 available positions are currently filled, with 5 of the 36 being in training and 2 being out on FMLA. 2 applicants are set to start in November with 1 still in background. Mr. Milburn advised 1 Classified and 4 Unclassified Part-Time personnel are currently employed and have been used to cover several sick leave/vacation vacancies.

Mr. Milburn noted that training is taking slightly longer due to the span of months the COVID-19 pandemic reduced call volume and officer-initiated calls for service.

d. CARES Radio Improvements

Mr. Milburn advised that NRV 911 received a significant grant (CARES) that will allow for major radio upgrades. The following is a summary of those upgrades:

- Adds transmit/receive to Buffalo Water Tank Site for MCSO, BPD, VTPD, Riner Fire/Rescue, Shawsville Fire/Rescue, and Elliston Fire/Rescue
- Adds transmit for FR1 to Buffalo Water Tank and Fisher View sites
- Adds transmit for Christiansburg Rescue to Price Mountain and Poor Mountain sites
- Adds microwave to Brush Mountain to move Blacksburg Fire, Blacksburg Rescue, and MCSO off of radio frequency links onto microwave links
- Makes Events 1 & 3 channels - a 3-site simulcast for Price Mountain, Poor Mountain, and Marshall sites to be used by anyone for events or backup
- Upgrades BDA in the public safety building so it will cover most agencies

Mr. Milburn also stated that discussions were had with LGHM to try to get them to upgrade BDA within the hospital so agencies have better radio reception within the building

6. Public Comments

None

7. Committee Member Comments

Mr. Geary stated that the radio project Mr. Milburn discussed will greatly improve radio communications across agencies, especially within the rural agencies.

Mr. English advised the committee that the F/R Commission moved forward on a Swift Water Rescue policy that dispatch can follow in the case of a swift water emergency.

Mr. English also stated that MCSO has signed on with Active 911.

Mr. Sisson stated, for benefit of new members and attendees, that the JAC can be used as a resource if any issues arise.

Mr. Sisson also stated his appreciation for Mr. Milburn for stepping up into a leadership position for NRV 911 and Mr. Rogers for implementing his knowledge for improvements in radio technology.

8. Adjourn

The Chair presented a motion for the adjournment of the JAC meeting. Mr. English made a motion and Mr. Geary seconded. JAC meeting adjourned at 1:20pm.