

New River Valley Emergency Communications Regional Authority

Joint Advisory Committee Meeting

October 21st, 2025

Montgomery County Public Safety Building

Minutes

Attendees:

Members: Michael Geary, *Chair, Chief, Montgomery County Fire-EMS*; Jessica Moye, *Vice Chair, Services Captain, Blacksburg Police Department*; Dave English, *Chief, Blacksburg Rescue*; Sean Smith, *Operations Captain, Virginia Tech Police Department*; Andrew Marinik, *Executive Director for Emergency Management, Virginia Tech*; Chris Ramsey, *Chief, Christiansburg Police Department*

Absent: Dr. Eric Stanley, *OMD, New River Valley Emergency Communications Regional Authority*; Billy Hanks, *Chief, Christiansburg Fire Department*

Staff: Jason Milburn, *Executive Director*; Derek Rogers, *Communications Systems Manager*; Deborah O'Brien, *Operations Manager*; Amber Pratt, *Executive Assistant*

Guests:

Recorder: Amber Pratt, *Executive Assistant*

1. Call to Order

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

2. Approval of Agenda

The Chair presented the agenda for approval. A motion was made by Mr. English and seconded by Mrs. Moye and passed unanimously.

3. Approval of the Minutes

The Chair presented the minutes from the June 3rd, 2025 JAC Meeting (attachment a) for approval. A motion was made by Mr. English and seconded by Mr. Smith and passed unanimously.

4. Old Business

None

5. New Business

a. Committee Member Reports

None

b. Requesting/Cancelling Lifeguard by LEO

Mr. Geary advised that, while LEO making requests for Lifeguard to be on standby is acceptable, cancelling the standby prior to EMS arrival is not preferred. It was concluded that decisions on standby cancellations be reserved for EMS when possible.

c. Fire Department Response with EMS on I-81/460 Bypass

Mr. Geary discussed having a fire apparatus positioning behind the scene of motor vehicle crashes on I-81/460 Bypass adopted as a universal response plan to provide better scene security and responder safety. Mr. Rogers advised it can be added into CAD as an automatic dispatch recommendation if it is decided to be a universal response.

d. Faxing to the Magistrates Office

Regarding ongoing discussion about magistrate faxing procedures for CPD and MCSO paperwork, Mrs. O'Brien advised that a more convenient approach that is still within VCIN regulations is actively being researched.

e. Minor Fire/Rescue Operation Changes

Mr. Geary discussed that, given the significant operational changes anticipated with the implementation of the new radio system, small adjustments to fire and rescue operations will begin once there is a clearer understanding of how the system will function. He emphasized the importance of taking a gradual approach to allow agencies to better adapt.

f. Radio System Subcommittee

Mr. Geary advised that a request has been made to form a Radio System Subcommittee to begin discussions on the operational aspects of the new radio system. He noted that the bulk of the work is expected to occur over the next 12–18 months and asked committee members to begin considering who they would like to appoint as their representative to serve on the subcommittee.

6. Public Comments

None

7. Committee Member Comments

Mrs. Moyer requested an informational push regarding the *what3words* application and its usefulness to emergency responders.

Mr. Ramsey raised concerns regarding radio communication issues believed to be associated with new construction at Christiansburg High School. Mr. Rogers advised that the issue has been confirmed and will be following up to try to find a solution.

8. Adjourn

JAC meeting adjourned at 1:36pm.