New River Valley Emergency Communications Regional Authority

Board Meeting

September 22nd, 2026

Montgomery County Public Safety Building – 4th Floor Training Room

Minutes

Attendees:

Members: Marc Verniel, Chair, *Town Manager, Town of Blacksburg*; Angela Hill, *County Administrator, Montgomery County;* Kim Eagle, *Town Manager, Town of Christiansburg;* Brad St.Clair, *Joint Member*

Staff: Jason Milburn, *Executive Director;* Derek Rogers, *Communications Systems Manager;* Deborah O'Brien, *Operations Manager;* Valerie D'Intino, *Training Coordinator;* Amber Pratt, *Executive Assistant;* Alex Hoback, *911 Systems Technician*

Guests: Michael Geary, *Chief, Montgomery County Fire-EMS;* Drew Smith, *Chief, Blacksburg Fire Department;* Kevin Foust

Absent: Amy Orders, *Associate Vice President for Public Safety, Virginia Tech*

Recorder: Amber Pratt, *Executive Assistant*

1. **Call to Order**

   The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:01pm.

2. **Approval of the Agenda**

   The Chair presented the agenda for approval. A motion was made by Mrs. Hill to approve the agenda and seconded by Dr. Eagle. All were in favor.

3. **Approval of the Minutes**

   The Chair presented the minutes from the August 25th, 2026 Board Meeting *(attachment a)* for approval. A motion was made by Dr. Eagle to approve the minutes and was seconded by Mrs. Hill. All were in favor.

4. **Secretary/Treasurer's Budget Report**

   Updated summaries of the revenues and expenditures for August were provided at the start of the meeting *(attachment b).* Mrs. Hill reviewed the reports and noted no items of concern.

5. **Executive Director's Report**

   Mr. Milburn presented the Executive Director's report *(attachment c).*

6. **Review of NRV 911 Performance Statistics for August 2026** ***(attachment d)***

   Mrs. O'Brien presented the statistics to the Board.

7. **Old Business**

    a. **Non-Disclosure Procedures**

Mr. Milburn provided the Board with a draft agreement addressing the confidentiality and protection of information disseminated by NRV 911. The draft was presented for Board review and feedback prior to being forwarded for legal review.

8. **New Business**

    a. **Joint Member Appointment**

The Board expressed its appreciation to Mr. Foust for his service, and Mr. Foust expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to serve. The Board welcomed Mr. Brad St.Clair as the newly appointed Joint Member.

9. **Comments from Public**

Mr. Geary provided an update on behalf of the JAC. He discussed adjustments to Long Shop-McCoy Fire and Rescue operations due to the impending retirement of the agency's most active members.

Regarding the goal of working toward shared fire & rescue operations channels, Mr. Geary advised that a lack of communication and training surrounding recent changes has caused some confusion in operations, particularly during higher-priority calls with heavier radio traffic. He noted that clear radio etiquette and proper notice will be important as changes continue to be implemented.

Mr. Milburn advised that, from the dispatch perspective, the shared channel approach has reduced strain on dispatchers and resolved many of the concerns related to relaying information across agencies.

Mr. Geary noted that the approach generally works well for agencies with lower call volumes, but issues become more noticeable during periods of heavier activity. He reiterated the importance of providing adequate notice and training with future changes to help improve overall reception and implementation.

Mr. Verniel proposed a meeting between himself, Mr. Milburn, and the respective Blacksburg Fire and Rescue chiefs to discuss the remaining operational concerns and possible solutions.

10. **Board Member Comments**

None

11. **Adjourn**

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 4:27pm.