New River Valley Emergency Communications Regional Authority

Joint Advisory Committee Meeting

July 28th, 2026

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;* Chris Ramsey, *Chief, Christiansburg Police Department* Billy Hanks, *Chief, Christiansburg Fire Department*

Absent: Andrew Marinik, *Executive Director for Emergency Management, Virginia Tech;* Sean Smith, *Operations Captain, Virginia Tech Police Department;* Brandon Marshall, *Support Services Lieutenant, Montgomery County Sheriff's Office;* Dr. Eric Stanley, *OMD, New River Valley Emergency Communications Regional Authority*

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

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 Mr. Ramsey and passed unanimously.

3. **Approval of the Minutes**
   The Chair presented the minutes from the April 14th, 2026 JAC Meeting (attachment a) for approval. A motion was made by Mr. Hanks and seconded by Mr. English and passed unanimously.

4. **Old Business**

   a. **Radio System Subcommittee**

      All members have been designated for the subcommittee.

   b. **Fire/EMS Procedures for MVCs & Structure Fires**

      Mr. Geary advised that, based on findings from the comprehensive Fire/Rescue Report, several initial areas have been identified for procedural review. One focus

will be adding more specific call types for motor vehicle crashes and structure fires to help better allocate resources and ensure appropriate responses.

5. **New Business**

   a. **Potential Communication Procedure Changes**

   Mr. Geary discussed several communication procedure changes that will need to be considered in preparation for the new radio system, specifically unit-based dispatching, station alerting, and common operating channels. He noted that transitioning to common operating channels would represent the most significant change but would provide more effective communication across agencies. Mr. Milburn advised that operational and communication changes will need to progress together for successful implementation. He noted that a gradual approach would likely be best received, with implementation potentially possible in late fall or winter.

   Mr. Geary advised that unit-based dispatching would provide a clearer understanding of resource availability and reduce delays when assigned resources are unavailable. Station alerting would automatically send an alert prior to dispatch, and Mr. Milburn noted that voice dispatch may also be a beneficial addition.

   b. **Law Enforcement: Driver & Vehicle Information**

   Mrs. Moye advised of concerns regarding driver and vehicle information not consistently being added to calls by dispatchers. It was confirmed that the standard is for dispatchers to enter information provided by the officer into the call to the extent necessary for it to remain searchable for future reference.

   Mr. Hanks inquired whether there may be an easier way for Fire personnel to obtain needed vehicle or insurance information when it cannot be obtained at the scene. Mr. Milburn advised that access may become easier once Fire Mobile is implemented, but noted that access would need to be limited to appropriate users and remain mindful of CJIS requirements.

6. **Public Comments**

   None

7. **Committee Member Comments**

   None

8. **Adjourn**

JAC meeting adjourned at 1:36pm.