

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Date: September 15th, 2020
Bowers Conference Room
Room 417, Rembert C. Dennis Building
10:00 am
(Members attending via WebEx)

Subject: Minutes of the South Carolina 911 Advisory Committee Meeting

Attendees: *Committee Members* - David Morrison - RFA SC 911 Program Manager, Rick Blackwell - PSAP Rep. Greenville County, Dent Adams - Wireless Rep. FTC, Ben Spearman - Wireline Rep. Comporium, Adam DeMars - GIS Expert/RFA, Jack Maguire - Consumer Rep., Tommy Paradise - SC Association of Counties, Mike Flynn - PSAP Rep. Spartanburg County, Neil Baxley - PSAP Rep. Beaufort County. *Staff* - Paul Athey - RFA Division Director, Amy Simpson - RFA SC 911 Program Coordinator.

- I. Chairman Blackwell called the meeting to order at 10:00am.
- II. Chairman Blackwell presented the July 28th, 2020 meeting minutes to the members and asked if any member had edits or questions. Jack Maguire made a motion to approve the minutes. Mike Flynn seconded the motion. All members voted aye in favor, and Chairman Blackwell declared the minutes approved as written. (*See attached*)
- III. NG911 Manager Position
 - A. David Morrison informed the committee that RFA selected Michael Ball from Charleston County to fill the NG911 Manager position with a hire date of mid-October. Mr. Ball comes to RFA from Charleston County Consolidated Dispatch Center where he served two years as their E911 Technician and ten years as their 911 center's Technology Manager. He also served as a senior consultant with RFA during the RFP process for the past three years.
 - B. Chairman Blackwell asked if there were any comments or questions of the committee. Jack Maguire congratulated Mr. Ball on his selection. Chairman Blackwell agreed and added that Mr. Ball would be an asset to RFA. David Morrison offered his appreciation to Chairman Blackwell, Wendi Rooney, Adam DeMars, and Carrie Bundrick for serving on the interview panel.
- IV. ESInet Implementation Update
 - A. Mr. Morrison presented the committee with a draft timeline for ESInet implementation developed during the most recent project meeting held with Comtech.
 - The current stage consists of creating NG911 core services and PSAP design which should be completed by the end of September.
 - The second phase consists of ordering NG911 core services equipment, which should begin during the month of November.

- System configuration is slated to begin mid-January 2021.
 - ESInet readiness testing would then begin mid-February.
 - The final phase includes migrating the first group of PSAPs to the statewide ESInet beginning mid-May or June 2021.
- B. Mr. Morrison asked if there were any questions or comments from the committee. Chairman Blackwell asked if the first group of PSAPs would begin receiving 911 calls over the statewide ESInet once the migration is completed. Mr. Morrison confirmed. Adam DeMars asked if the first group of PSAPs had been identified. Mr. Morrison confirmed and clarified this group consists of Allendale Co., Bamberg Co., Barnwell Co., Batesburg Police Dept., Cayce DPS, Lexington Co., Newberry Co., and West Columbia PD. Mr. Morrison added that a second set of PSAPs in the upstate region have been identified for potential migration following the first group.
- C. Mr. Morrison further explained to the committee that a site survey is required for each PSAP joining the statewide ESInet. These surveys will be distributed via email to the PSAPs prior to their migration. The purpose of the survey is to assist with gathering information in order to obtain the proper equipment, bandwidth for communication traffic, etc. Site visits will be scheduled upon completion of the surveys.
- D. Mr. Morrison stated he had obtained commitments from 36 PSAPs throughout the state intending to join the statewide ESInet. Some PSAPs currently utilizing their own local ESInet have stated their preference to delay committing to the statewide network until the system is fully operational. Mr. Morrison again asked if there were any further questions or comments.
- E. Tommy Paradise asked a question regarding the PSAP names crossed out on the list presented to the committee. Mr. Morrison clarified the list was originally based on the National PSAP registry. Upon reviewing that list, Mr. Morrison crossed out the names of PSAPs that no longer exist. Richard Crowe (Pickens Co.) also inquired about the list of PSAPs in regards to PSAPs listed as "Easley Main" in one of the columns. Mr. Morrison clarified that the column to which Mr. Crowe had inquired references the location of the selective router.
- F. Chairman Blackwell asked if there were any other questions or comments from the committee. Hearing none, Mr. Blackwell mentioned that transitioning PSAPs will present new opportunities regarding the way these PSAPs would transfer calls to another jurisdiction in the event of an emergency. Currently, that process is determined by the PSAP who receives the call. Mr. Blackwell stated that this process will need to be discussed further by the committee. Mr. Morrison agreed and advised that this topic, as well as potential solutions, had been discussed in the last project meeting with Comtech.

V. Fiscal Update

- A. RFA emailed the August statement of activity report to the committee members prior to the meeting. Paul Athey advised the committee that, as discussed in the July meeting, he made two adjustments to the 2020 projections in the 911 fiscal model. Mr. Athey made a slight increase in the 2020 projections for cost reimbursements to PSAP to account for a significantly higher trend through the first six months of the year. He added he would present the updated fiscal model in the October meeting so the committee can determine their recommendation to the RFA board regarding the status of the wireless fee.
- B. Based on the updated fiscal model which includes NG911 transition costs, Mr. Athey stated he does not anticipate a need to increase the fee from \$0.62 to \$0.64 until the year 2022. Additionally, at this time, he does not anticipate a need to reduce the cost reimbursement percentage until 2023. Current estimates include a reduction for cost reimbursement percentages from 80% to 70% in 2023 and a second reduction to 65% in 2026. Mr. Athey informed the committee that the updated fiscal model would be distributed to the committee for them to review prior to the October meeting. He then asked if the committee had any questions or comments.
- C. Chairman Blackwell asked Mr. Athey to verify that there is currently no plan to reduce the cost reimbursement percentage until 2023. Mr. Athey confirmed. Chairman Blackwell then asked if there were any comments or questions of the committee.

VI. Other Items and Questions

- A. Amy Simpson thanked the PSAPs who previously submitted their July wireline surcharge information. This information is required in order to calculate the wireless fee statutory cap for 2021. There are still several remaining PSAPs who have not yet submitted their data. Mrs. Simpson stated she would be reaching out to those PSAPs that afternoon.
- B. Allyson Burrell of Charleston County Consolidated Dispatch Center mentioned that she was not aware of any action by Governor McMaster to rescind his Executive Order regarding the COVID caller questioning requirements. She stated that it has had an impact on call processing times with her PSAP. She further asked the committee for their thoughts regarding a possible petition to the Governor's Office requesting that this portion of his Executive Order be rescinded. Chairman Blackwell asked for feedback from the committee.
- C. Neil Baxley expressed opposition to the idea. He stated that it was too soon and added that they had fought hard to get that portion of the Executive Order in place. Tommy Paradise concurred with Mr. Baxley in opposition. He added that the information is essential in helping to protect first responders and keep them safe. Adam DeMars asked how much additional time was required to obtain such information. Neil Baxley answered that the COVID questioning hasn't affected operations in Beaufort County and stated they were still meeting the standard for answering 911 calls. Mr. Paradise echoed what Mr. Baxley stated adding that he was unaware of any issues in his county

or with any of his fellow county administrators. Allyson thanked the committee for their comments and advised she would inform her PSAP Director of Operations.

VII. Adjournment

- A. Jack Maguire made the motion to adjourn. Neil Baxley seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 10:26am.

Attachments: Agenda, Meeting Materials

Public Notice of this meeting was posted at: <http://rfa.sc.gov/e911>

These minutes were approved on October 20th, 2020.

Amy Simpson


