

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Date: November 17th, 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, Adam DeMars – GIS Expert/RFA, Mike Flynn – PSAP Rep. Spartanburg County, Tommy Paradise – SC Association of Counties, Neil Baxley – PSAP Rep. Beaufort County, Misty Wise – RFA Appointee. *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 October 20th, 2020 meeting minutes to the members and asked if any member had edits or questions. Neil Baxley made a motion to approve the minutes. Dent Adams seconded the motion. All members voted aye in favor, and Chairman Blackwell declared the minutes approved as written. (*See attached*)
- III. ESInet Implementation Update
 - A. David Morrison invited NG 9-1-1 Program Manager, Michael Ball, to update the committee on the PSAP site visits that were conducted over the past month since the previous committee meeting. Mr. Ball advised that eight PSAP meetings had been conducted and all went well. The outcome resulted in the state re-evaluating the PSAP on-board workflow as well as modifying the PSAP site visit surveys that are sent out to PSAPs prior to the site visits to gather information. The next grouping of PSAP visits will be determined at a later date.
 - B. Comtech developed an order form for services and optional features that will be distributed along with the PSAP surveys. The intent going forward is for the State to meet with PSAPs individually to collect the information needed prior to the vendor getting involved. This should enable PSAPs to better understand the overall process of obtaining a new ESInet as well as CPE equipment if applicable. This process will also ensure the State communicates the needs of each individual PSAP to Comtech so they get the necessary data from the PSAP survey and order form. Approximately 3-4 weeks after the State's initial PSAP visit, there will be a PSAP verification visit with state representation along with Comtech.
 - C. Chairman Blackwell asked if there were any questions from the committee. Mike Flynn asked if the State intends to meet with all PSAPs; Mr. Ball advised the State will meet

with any PSAP electing to join the ESInet. Chairman Blackwell asked Mr. Ball who was the contact person for Comtech and what was his experience working with that person. Mr. Ball advised that Marty Hamm is the project manager for Comtech and Jeff Jordison assists with gathering facility information regarding equipment. They met during the first site visit. Marty Hamm is new to Comtech and not familiar with 9-1-1; however, he does have an IT background. By the conclusion of the initial eight site visits, he was very familiar with 9-1-1 and how it operates in the state.

- D. David Morrison advised the committee that state GIS representatives met with Comtech recently. In that meeting, state GIS Coordinator Adam DeMars requested that Comtech submit a GIS assessment document that could be shared with the PSAPs prior to deployment to ensure GIS data is up-to-date and accurate. Mr. DeMars added that our state is unique in that the PSAPs do not maintain the same data, which presents a challenge. However, he felt there will be significant rewards with respect to GIS solutions going forward. As the data comes in, state representatives will distribute the information to the PSAP GIS community as needed. If there are additional needs of the PSAP GIS personnel, they can reach out to Mr. DeMars directly.

IV. Fiscal Update/Wireless Fee Set for 2021

- A. RFA emailed the October statement of activity report to the committee members prior to the meeting. Paul Athey provided the fund balance report to the committee prior to today's meeting. He advised he did not have any new information to share at this time and asked if the committee had any questions for him. Hearing none, Mr. Morrison added that because the fund operates on a calendar year basis, it is unlikely there will be any changes made to the fiscal model until at least the end of the calendar year, and these changes would be reflected in January 2021.
- B. The RFA Board set the wireless fee at \$0.62 for calendar year 2021.

V. First Responder Legislation

- A. Mr. Morrison opened the discussion stating that since there was no movement at the federal level to re-classify telecommunicators from administrative assistants to first responders, several states have taken the initiative on their own. It was asked at the last meeting that the community reach out to their respective constituents to gauge support for the bill. Mr. Morrison has since received numerous emails from the PSAP community voicing their support and asking for more information to take to their state representatives. Nikki Rodgers of Lexington County contacted her representative, Paula Calhoun, who agreed to sponsor the bill.
- B. Legislative Council has begun drafting the legislation. They are going to insert some of the language into the Public Safety Code of Laws definitions section 23-47-10 that was shared at the last committee meeting. This would result in reclassification, giving telecommunicators the proper title as first responders. Mr. Morrison offered to share

with the committee the draft of the legislation as well as any communication regarding the bill to help facilitate the conversation. They plan to pre-file the bill in December.

- C. Chairman Blackwell asked if there were any questions of the committee. Neil Baxley referenced section IV, subparagraph 15 of the draft which states “Public Safety Telecommunicators for both Legacy and NG911 trained and/or certified “and asked if that will encompass the changes regarding the APCO training and letter of certification. Mr. Morrison answered that it would fall under the same category, and there was no need to change that language. Tommy Paradise asked if the SCCJA training council would accept the APCO training and officially certify telecommunicators after completion, or if they would simply receive a letter of equivalency. Mr. Morrison answered that the letter of equivalency would be considered to meet the same standard as the Academy certification.

VI. Other Items and Questions

- A. Neil Baxley expanded on the topic of training referencing a query sent out by Mr. Morrison regarding reimbursement of the APCO training as opposed to the reimbursement by the Academy and asked where RFA stood on that issue. Mr. Morrison answered that he compared the difference in cost between the SCCJA training, which is \$350.00, and APCO, which charges \$379.00 (or \$359.00 for APCO members). He will discuss the difference in price and seek approval from the RFA Division Director and Executive Director before presenting it to the committee for a vote at the next meeting. The same requirements for reimbursement, and invoice and proof of payment, would apply to the APCO training that are required for the SCCJA training. Tommy Paradise added that it might be worth considering an additional letter from SCCJA acknowledging they’ve accepted the letter of equivalency, certifying the telecommunicator.
- B. Tommy Paradise mentioned the requirement that telecommunicators be certified within one year of their hire date and added that a local news media outlet is reporting that a certain county in the area is behind in certifying telecommunicators within that time frame. Mike Flynn added that it would be very easy for the media to use negative publicity against a communication center should a telecommunicator be found at fault for something. Mr. Paradise agreed and urged the PSAP community take the training seriously and spread the word.
- C. Chairman Blackwell announced that the next committee meeting was scheduled for December 15th, 2020 and asked if the other committee members had any conflict with that date due to the upcoming holidays. Committee members in attendance all answered they had no conflict.

VII. Adjournment

- A. Chairman Blackwell asked if there were any other items or questions from the committee or RFA staff; hearing none, Mike Flynn made the motion to adjourn. Neil Baxley seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 10:29am.

Attachments: Agenda, Meeting Materials

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

These minutes were approved on 1/26/21.

Amy Simpson  _____