

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Date: October 20th, 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, Tommy Paradise – SC Association of Counties, Neil Baxley – PSAP Rep. Beaufort County, Mitch Fulmore – PSAP Rep. Florence 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 September 15th, 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. ESI²net Implementation Update
 - A. David Morrison presented a list to the committee of the following PSAPs representing the first to undergo a readiness assessment in preparation for deployment: Barnwell, Bamberg, Allendale, Newberry, Lexington, Cayce, West Columbia, and Batesburg-Leesville. These PSAPs have completed an assessment survey and are scheduled for site visits next week. David Morrison, Michael Ball, and representatives from Comtech will be conducting these visits.
 - B. Comtech will be sending Letters of Agency to the other service providers who serve the PSAPs. These official communications authorize the telecommunications provider (Comtech) to act on the consumer's (PSAP) behalf. Since these letters need a signature from an authorized individual at each PSAP, RFA staff will bring them to the site visits scheduled for next week. The other PSAPs who have expressed intent to join the state ESI²net will also be contacted by RFA staff in the coming weeks to obtain signatures for their Letters of Agency.
 - C. Chairman Blackwell asked if there was a tentative "go live" date. Mr. Morrison advised that the projected timeline for the first PSAPs to go live would be in the Spring of 2021.
- IV. Fiscal Update
 - A. RFA emailed the September statement of activity report to the committee members prior to the meeting. Paul Athey advised the committee that year-to-date (YTD)

collections and expenditures through September 2020 are on target with projections in the fiscal model with the exception of NG911 costs, which are lower than projected due to the delayed startup date.

- B. Based on the fund's performance this year and fiscal model forecasts, Mr. Athey recommended the committee not propose an increase to the wireless fee or change the reimbursement percentage (currently at 80%) for calendar year 2021. He then asked if there were any questions of the committee.
- C. Chairman Blackwell acknowledged Mr. Athey and thanked him for his work on the NG9-1-1 fiscal model.
- D. Dent Adams made the motion that the committee follow RFA's recommendation and vote not increase the wireless fee as well as leave the reimbursement percentage at 80% for calendar year 2021. Neil Baxley seconded the motion. Chairman Blackwell asked for any discussion on the motion. Hearing none, all members voted aye in favor and the motion was passed.

V. Calculation of Wireless 911 Fee

- A. Mr. Morrison advised the committee that the statutory cap is still \$0.67 as shown in the fiscal model. He added there were a couple of PSAPs who had not yet submitted their data. However, it appears the cap would not change even after that data is included in the calculation.
- B. The committee had already voted not to increase the wireless fee for calendar year 2021 during the fiscal update portion of the agenda, so Chairman Blackwell moved on to the next item on the agenda.

VI. Other Items and Questions

- A. Mitch Fulmore asked Chairman Blackwell to open discussion on the reclassification of telecommunicators. Chairman Blackwell explained that currently telecommunicators are classified as "clerical" under the Federal Government. This is a classification that telecommunicators would like to change/correct to "first responder". Several other states have moved forward with legislation to make such a change at the state level.
- B. Chairman Blackwell and Mitch Fulmore have begun researching any language that may exist in South Carolina law as well as what the definition of a first responder is. He presented to the committee a document with proposed verbiage to change/clarify the current definition of a first responders in South Carolina law to include telecommunicators and asked the committee for their feedback/comments. Mitch Fulmore added that this new proposed language would encompass the four disciplines of law, fire, EMS, and telecommunicators as first responders.
- C. David Morrison mentioned that this was a topic at the National Association of State 911 Administrators conference and that Indiana was able to pass such legislation. Colorado, Washington, and Georgia were also working on passing or had passed

similar legislation as well. He offered to reach back out to those states who were successful and ask for their input.

- D. Neil Baxley asked how such a change in state law would affect the Department of Labor standards since this type of legislation hasn't passed at the federal level. Chairman Blackwell agreed it's a good question and information is still unknown at this time. He added that while he wasn't asking the 911 Advisory Committee to take on this proposed new legislation, he would ask for their endorsement assuming he and Mitch were successful in coming up with language they could all agree with. He added that for purposes of this meeting, he was only asking for the committees' thoughts on the subject. Mr. Baxley asked that Chairman Blackwell send out a copy of the proposed legislation to the rest of the committee and added he was onboard and willing to help.
- E. Chairman Blackwell added that he and Mitch Fulmore had made phone calls to their senators but had not received any responses as of yet. Unless they are able to get a sponsor, it wouldn't be prudent to pursue it further. Tommy Paradise asked for a copy of it as well and added that he would mention it to one of the representatives in his area.

VII. Adjournment

- A. Chairman Blackwell asked if there were any other items or questions from the committee or RFA staff; hearing none, Neil Baxley made the motion to adjourn. Dent Adams seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 10:37am.

Attachments: Agenda, Meeting Materials

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

These minutes were approved on 11/17/20.

Amy Simpson 