

**STATE OF VERMONT
ENHANCED 911 BOARD**

Special Meeting #2

13 March 2023

Meeting held via Microsoft Teams

9:02 AM – Call to Order

Chair Marcoux brought the meeting to order. The following were in attendance:

Board Members Present

Sheriff Roger Marcoux, Chair
Chief Steven Locke, Vice-Chair
Captain Lance Burnham
Angela Eastman
Kelly Kennedy
Heather Dale Porter
Brian Keefe

Staff Members Present

Barbara Neal, Executive Director
Soni Johnson, Board Clerk

Others Present

Stephen Whitaker
Phillip Sisk

Discussion of Constituent Group Input on Draft Legislation Regarding Dispatch Governance

Chair Marcoux asked Board members for their comments on the draft legislation and for comments/questions/concerns received from constituents. Executive Director Neal's summary of this portion of the meeting is attached to these minutes for the record.

Public Comment

- Phillip Sisk provided a brief overview of the business he represents (Mission Critical Partners) and detailed various ways Mission Critical could help the Board gather information concerning dispatch systems/protocols/governance models.
- Stephen Whitaker commented on:
 - Cell Coverage – He has spoken to the Board multiple times over the years on the need to address this issue.
 - Resiliency – He has spoken to the Board repeatedly about this issue and, in the past, filed a petition with the Public Service Board asking them to investigate the resiliency of the 911 system.
 - The Board is not capable of managing the duties detailed in the dispatch governance legislation.

New Business – none

Adjournment

- *Motion: There being no further business, Angela Eastman made a motion to adjourn; 2nd by Chief Locke. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously by voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 10:07 AM.*

Respectfully submitted:

Soni Johnson

Soni Johnson, Board Clerk

4/6/23

Date

Summary of March 13, 2023 Enhanced 911 Board Meeting

Board Position as of March 13, 2023: The Enhanced 911 Board recommends that before making a final determination of where in state government the “dispatch function” should be housed, the Board should be given the funding and authority to contract with a consultant to answer the questions outlined in the legislation as well as questions related to (but likely not limited to):

- optimal regional dispatch center locations and staffing
- funding model impacts on existing centers and municipalities
- labor union impacts
- regional staffing availability
- governance recommendations
- recommendations for technical and operational standards
- current statewide inventory of dispatch related assets and infrastructure

Constituent Feedback:

- Concern about acting too quickly to push out governance without understanding impacts
- Concerns about loss of local control - Regional centers that are working well have concerns about state governance
- Do No Harm
 - Multiple comments about negative impacts of potential funding models on existing centers.
 - Concern that legislation negatively impacts what is working existing fully functional centers.
- Many questions/concerns across all constituent groups related to funding model:
 - What will it be?
 - What are the impacts on existing dispatch centers and municipalities
 - The funding formula and impacts needs to be fully understood before proceeding.
- DPS makes up 60% of advisory committee. DPS advised they may need to hire people to put in these roles.
- DPS notes this is an executive branch function that needs executive branch structure.
- Is the Board currently composed of the right people for this task? Some think the existing representative Board is why the 911 Board has been successful, but additional members may be beneficial.
- Statewide direction and guidance related to technical and operational best practices would be beneficial; standardization at state level is good.
- Statewide CAD would be beneficial, especially for fire/ems.
- Labor union impacts/feedback have not been considered and need to be.
- There should be language in the bill that authorizes the Board to use the \$20M in grant funds as source of funding for needed consultants:
- As yet unresolved:
 - Funding formula
 - Specific makeup of new emergency communications staff for dispatch functions that would need to be transferred to the proposed new Board.
 - Would the Board need contracted legal vs services from Attorney General