

Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council
Western Massachusetts Regional Interoperability Committee
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, October 16, 2018 12:30pm
Hatfield Fire Department
3 School Street, Hatfield, MA 01330

In attendance: Raine Brown (FRCOG), Bob Hassett (Spfld. CMED), Nick DaDalt (EOPSS), Robert Garriepy (Huntington PD), Tom Grady (BCSO), Jason Breault (BCSO), Lindsay Stromgren (Amherst FD), Peter Cowles (WEMA), Anthony Gentile (Wilbraham Dispatch), Steve Kozloski (WMLEC), William Stubba (Air Ambulance), Bernie Forgea (CFD/CPD), Ann Dunne (FRCOG).

This meeting was audio recorded.

Bob Hassett called the meeting to order at 12:30pm.

Raine Brown confirmed the spelling of Vincent Balboni's name (Spfld. PD) for the September 18 minutes.

The committee reviewed the minutes from the September 18, 2018 meeting.

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| <p>Motion: Tom Grady moved to approve the minutes of the September 18, 2018 meeting as amended. Peter Cowles seconded. Voted unanimously in favor.</p> |
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A round of introductions followed.

Updates from the Chair

SIEC Update – Bob Hassett attended the SIEC meeting and noted the universal issues within the Commonwealth with Verizon's service of their copper lines. All in attendance have also experienced similar issues with DCR as have been encountered in the West. The SIEC approved the amendment to the Hovey Hill project.

SWIC Update – None.

Project Updates

WMLEC Gap Solutions – The rapid comm trailer equipment has been received. Installation is pending. The trailer was deployed for the opening of the MGM casino in August. The trailer was also used during the Wilbraham Dispatch cut over and it performed well. Raine is waiting on a inventory number from Jason Breault.

CMED Hovey Hill – Raine reported that the amendment to the project was approved. She sent the scope of work for the additional EHP to MAPC to seek a quote for its completion. Once the EHPs are approved Raine will need an updated scope of work to run procurement for the project.

Holcomb Road Project – The EHP materials are prepared. Raine has sent them to MAPC to seek a quote for EHP completion.

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COMU Go Kits – Steve Kozloski presented the proposal and outlined the estimated costs for each item listed. There will be a total of (4) kits assembled and assigned to a COMU resource in each of the four counties. The total for this project is estimated at \$62,000.00, which is approximately \$13,000.00 less than the original budgeted amount of \$75,000.00. The proposal will need to be approved by SIEC. Raine will prepare the project justification.

Western Mass Interoperable Systems Update

Berkshire County – Tom Grady reported they are working on the phase two build out, and are planning to meet with the state police group and Mike Salzmann to propose co-locating some equipment to the MSP shelter. Berkshire County will provide additional DC power supply to provide the capability to share resources. Tom noted the completion date will likely be in spring 2019.

Franklin County – None.

Hampshire County – None.

WMLEC – Steve Kozloski continues to work on setting up a meeting between the police and fire disciplines to discuss membership dues and to add a fire representative to WMLEC. Maintenance expenses are a huge concern, as the dues cover the rental obligations only.

CMED: Bob Hassett noted that Chestnut Tower had a lightning strike which knocked out power to CMED and the Springfield Fire equipment. The technicians did a great job in getting everything up and running. The billing will be moved to mid-January instead of the end of the fiscal year, which will help the fire departments in their budget process. All charges will remain at \$4.00 a call. This cost will also be charged to the Connecticut departments for the first time.

MSP –None

Other – None

Budget Review –The remaining funds left over from the WMLEC Gap Solutions project is \$3,412.84.

For FFY17 Raine recommends continuing to hold any additional funds until the CMED project cost is known. MAPC has noted the FFY18 contract will be in place in November 2018.

Requests – None

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Old Business - Helicopter Communication –Air Ambulance

Bill Stabba from Air Ambulance gave an overview of operations, and noted the opening of a new alternative delivery model (ADM) base at Westfield in 2017. Bill apologized for not meeting with the committee sooner. His goal is to establish all the frequencies used by the different municipalities, and to program the correct frequencies in the aircraft. He discussed using V-TAC 14 to streamline the frequency used by the whole region but will also add all the U-TAC frequencies given the capacity to do so. Bob thanked Bill for attending the meeting. Bill agreed to attend future meetings to establish relationships with the fire departments.

New Business – Bob Hassett is waiting on the communications review from the AAR following the North Andover/Lawrence event to ensure western Massachusetts is ready to assist other communities.

Business Unforeseen by the Chair – Steve Kozloski presented a proposal to purchase Motorola GTR radio equipment that were not included in the budgeted amount of \$75,000.00 for the WMLEC Gap Solutions project. The additional equipment would be used in the region, and added to the rapid comm trailer. He suggested perhaps the unspent \$13,000.00 for the COMU Go Kits could help with this. The committee will wait to see what the CMED project comes in at before considering allocating the funds.

Next Steps/Future Meetings

The next meeting is scheduled for November 20, 2018, 12:30 pm at the Hatfield Fire Department, 3 School Street, Hatfield, MA.

There being no further business, Tom Grady moved to adjourn. Peter Cowles seconded.

Voted unanimously in favor. The meeting adjourned at 1:30 pm

List of Documents Reviewed at the Meeting

- Minutes from September 18, 2018 meeting
- WRHSAC FFY16 State Homeland Security Budget – 10/12/2018
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- COMU Go Kits Proposal.
- Motorola Solutions – draft of estimated costs.

Respectfully Submitted by Ann Dunne
Franklin Regional Council of Governments