

**COLUMBIANA COUNTY 911
EMERGENCY SERVICE COMMITTEE MEETING**

August 12, 2021

1:00 – 2:00 P.M.

Those in attendance: Brian Rutledge, Tim Weigle, Jeremiah Cole, Joe Cappuzello, Scott Mason, John Lane, Jt Panezott, Peggy Clark, Lily Nickel, Brett Todd, Jenn Swords, Rudy Sacchet, Lt. Les Brode, Wayne Chamberlain, Bill Myers, Jim Brown, Brian Moore

Meeting opened by Chairman Commissioner Tim Weigle

Followed by Pledge of Allegiance.

Meeting turned over to 911 Coordinator Rutledge

Minutes distributed from previous meeting with no additions or corrections

Motion to accept minutes by J Cole- 2nd Mason- all in favor

Financials reviewed by Brian-

Motion to accept by J Cole 2nd by Scott Mason all in favor

ESINet will be meeting in about two weeks and nothing new to report from them. As mentioned in previous meeting the 128 legislation was sent to the Statehouse with the .25 Universal fee attached to it. The County 911 Coordinator group is preparing a talking points paper to share facts and have discussion points if talking to legislatures.

911 Federal Grants- Text-2-911 has been delayed yet again because of supply chain issues. The hope is that it'll be in the lab testing by late August and be ready to roll out in October. The Backup PSAP Grant- Brian has submitted the paperwork for reimbursement and just waiting on approval from the State.

The annual support and compliance report was due in July. Brian stated he appreciated all the PSAP Chiefs for returning the information that was requested. There isn't expected to be any issues with what was submitted. The process of getting a thumbs up from the state usually takes about 2 months.

There is currently a Dispatcher training class going on with 5 people attending. Brian mentioned that he's aware that it's getting tougher and tougher to find employees in all job fields let alone do the work that 911 dispatchers must do.

PSAP Consolidation was discussed at the last meeting and the committee made motion to investigate a feasibility study on combining the five 911 centers. Peggy and Brian spoke with multiple vendors that do feasibility studies on an everyday basis. Brian stated that of the ones they reached out to there was three that provided the following recommendations- one stated that their pricing wouldn't be for everything, and it would be in multiple stages. There were two others (Rey Freeman and Mission Critical Partners-MCP) that provided quotes and the scope of the study that they would perform. Brian provided Committee members a copy of each via email earlier in the week to compare and be prepared to discuss. The Committee members spent some time discussing what each study would cover and the cost associated with the study. Commissioner Weigle asked the question of the PSAP Chiefs- if the county does go with a consolidated 911 center are they expecting the center to answer just 911 calls or the 10 digit lines as well. All the PSAP Chiefs that attended the meeting stated that it would most likely have

to be all or nothing. They also said that most likely they would hire someone to work as an administrative assistant to assist with people that walk up to the PD for assistance with reports, parking tickets or overall assistance. Chief Brown from East Palestine PD stated that he couldn't see them (EP) being in favor of consolidation if it was going to negatively affect the overall budget of his police dept. or cost the taxpayers more money. Wayne Chamberlain brought up the idea of possibly having just a central answer point that received the 911 calls and then transfer it to the respective agency. Several committee members believe that would cause more issues when the call gets transferred. The other talking point was the complexity of the multiple radio systems within the county, Brian stated that he believes at least with the MCP study, that will be looked at as part of the study and they will make recommendations. The Committee agreed that the MCP study does appear to cover everything that we should need to know in making a sound decision on consolidation. A motion was made by Rudy that Commissioner Weigle take back to the Board of Commissioners the recommendation that we move forward with a feasibility study done by MCP. The motion was second by Jeremiah with all in favor. Commissioner Weigle felt that he should be able to present the recommendation to the BOC at their next meeting and have a response back to the committee.

Chief Wayne Chamberlain brought up that one of the PSAP's in the county has a couple dispatchers that don't always call the proper EMS agency for calls. That he believes they are influenced by a private EMS provider. Commissioner Weigle advised him that if he has an issue with a specific PSAP he should address it directly with the PSAP Chief.

Next meeting scheduled for November 4 at 1pm here at the EMA building.

Motion to adjourn Jeremiah 2nd by Mason all in favor

If there's any additions or corrections, please reach out to Brian