

**COLUMBIANA COUNTY 911
EMERGENCY SERVICE COMMITTEE MEETING**

**May 6, 2022
1:00 – 2:00 P.M.**

Those in attendance: Brian Rutledge, Rudy Sacchet, Tim Weigle, Jeremiah Cole, Brian McLaughlin, Scott Mason, Joe Capuzzelo, Jenn Swords, Jt Panezott, Cyndi Dickey, Brett Todd

The meeting called to order by Commissioner Weigle followed by the Pledge of Allegiance

Following the Pledge of Allegiance Commissioner Weigle reviewed the 911 Wireline and Wireless funds for the county.

Motion to except 911 finances by Jeremiah 2nd by Mason- all in favor

Meeting turned over to 911 Director Brian Rutledge

Minutes distributed from previous meeting via email and available for review. with no additions or corrections- Motion to except minutes by Jeremiah 2nd Mason- all in favor

As stated at the last 911 meeting, Text to 911 was ready to launch and was just waiting for dispatchers to train with it. The 2nd week of June Columbiana County went public with the fact that if you're in Columbiana County you can utilize Text to 911. Brian stated that there was one call received just prior to the public kickoff using text to 911 but none since then. We don't expect it to get used much but it's another option available when someone is in a situation that calling 911 would make the situation worse for them.

Brian had a meeting with Vince Brancassio who is the director of 211 and the new regional 988 call center. Brian just wanted to make sure that if a 988-call taker was going to transfer a call to a 911 dispatcher they received enough of the important information needed to get help to those that are in need. The hope is that people who just need someone to talk to and don't truly have a life threatening situation call 988 and not 911.

Brian thanked all the PSAP Chiefs for working with him to complete the annual Support and Compliance due to the State by July 16th. As of now we haven't heard anything back from the State regarding anything missing. This is repeated every year and every 3rd year is a in-person visit to the county.

HB445- The HB was brought back to the House Committee with the ESInet recommendation. The HB language was changed to represent seventy cents (.70) on a Universal Devices that can connect to 911. The House Committee held one meeting prior to Summer recess and no action was taken. There was some discussion within the ESC that most likely we won't see any movement on the HB until after the November elections. The question was asked if there was a good feeling on what might happen to the HB and all though we are hearing good things surrounding it we can't get expectations up until it moves through both houses.

911 PSAP Consolidation- At the last meeting the ESC made a motion that the county act on the following three items-

1. Purchasing of property adjacent to the EMA building for a call center and not exceed \$150,000.

2. Ask the Village of Lisbon if they would approve vacating the alley located behind the EMA on the West side of the building- Commissioners Weigle spoke to a member of the village and yes they would
3. Having a conceptual drawing done for communications center addition onto the EMA building

Commissioner Weigle advised that with the current hold up of HB445 it would not be prudent to move forward with the Commissioners purchasing the property located behind the EMA offices. He then stated that it might be possible that the County wouldn't need that property to move forward and with vacating the alley they could just add onto the back of the building. This idea was received well by the 911 Committee. It is believed that an addition onto the building is all that is needed with all the other necessities such as restrooms, kitchen space etc. along with the infrastructure is already in place. The Commissioner also stated that if the 911 center was located at the EMA building maybe the Sheriff's Office would still hold someone 24 X7 as a warrant's person along with a back up dispatcher if needed. There was some additional discussion regarding the time it takes to enter and process warrants. There is also a new program pushed by the State called eWarrant and it would make the process more digital. There's still not a lot of information out on eWarrant system but it's believed that it won't provide much of a time savings for anything involved with warrants.

The Committee also discussed the difficulty of having a countywide radio system with everyone doing their own radio thing at this time. There was a discussion regarding the idea of MARCS radio system and that Trustee John Zehentbauer of Hanover Twp is trying to gather interest to go in on a possible MARCS grant. The discussion followed that MARCS doesn't work in all parts of the county and on the inside of many buildings. The City of Salem recently invested over \$80k into the current radio system and would hate to see that go to waste. Another problem voiced by members of the committee is that some fire departments have gone out and signed up with MARCS and now they can't talk to each other. There is a meeting scheduled for Sept 7th here at the EMA with Trustee Zehentbauer and other township Trustees in a steering committee form to judge the interest in MARCS radio.

EMD/PST class starting and will conclude hopefully by end of September, there is currently 7 people registered.

The next meeting is scheduled for November 3, 2022 @ 1pm at the EMA office.

Motion to adjourn by Jerimiah Second by Mason