

Metacomet Emergency Communications Center (MECC)
Minutes of Meeting
March 26, 2020

A meeting of the MECC Board of Directors was held on Thursday March 26, 2020 by teleconference via Zoom. Board members present: Jamie Hellen, Blythe, Robinson, Kevin Sweet and Jennifer Thompson. MECC employees in attendance: Executive Director Gary Premo, Deputy Director Darrell True and Acting Communications Manager Nicole Connors. Others in attendance: Deputy Chief Jon Carroll, Mendon Police Chief David Kurczy, Mendon Town Administrator Kim Newman, Millville Town Administrator Peter Caruso, State 911 Deputy Director Norman Fournier and State 911 Executive Director Frank Pozniak.

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Hellen called the meeting to order at 11:30 am.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: None.

OPERATIONS: Deputy Director True reports that Alpine is moving ahead with the modules the Chiefs have identified as required to be able to operate their departments as necessary. Alpine has a process to approve those to be installed. Once that process is complete on Alpine's end it will then be approved on our end and that will allow Alpine to move forward with installation and activation of all the modules to finish the project. There will be two open ongoing items after that, one is data conversion and one is moving Franklin Fire to the cloud. Deputy Director True has been working directly with Alpine and Pamet to make sure Norfolk and Plainville have a path forward to get their data converted. There will be a cost for the conversion that Alpine will determine. Wrentham opted out of data conversion and Franklin does not need data conversion as they are an existing Alpine customer. The other item for Alpine will be to move Franklin to the cloud with a time frame of late spring. The mobile module is enabled and licensed. Deputy Director True had a meeting with the Chiefs to get a definitive list of the modules that were required and it was forwarded to Alpine. Deputy Director True has been following up regularly with Alpine. The cloud software has been purchased for all four towns and implemented in Norfolk, Plainville and Wrentham. Franklin has been approved, it just needs to be implemented.

Deputy Director True reports things are moving forward with the transition to Caliber. Bi-weekly conference calls are being conducted with Caliber staff and the police department liaisons. Caliber required completion of six milestones for a fall deployment, all but one have been completed. The last milestone is minor and will not impact the goal line.

ACTION ITEMS: Director Premo reports the towns of Mendon and Millville have expressed interest in joining the MECC. The board of directors need to consider the current IMA to modify it to enable Mendon and Millville to join the MECC. Mendon and Millville have significantly smaller call volume than our current communities. Director Premo does not believe adding the two towns will have a huge impact on our current operations. Some infrastructure changes that need to take place would be done through the FY21 development grant and that would include all of the infrastructure to connect the communities and add three more dispatch consoles. Mendon Town Administrator Kim Newman and Millville Town Administrator Peter

Caruso confirmed both towns are interested in moving forward. All board members agree to move forward with next steps on adding additional communities to the MECC.

Mr. Frank Pozniak, Director of State 911 joined the call and reviewed the request to the MECC to have Mendon and Millville added to our center. If the details can be worked out, the MECC would start dispatching for these two towns on January 1, 2021. He reviewed the proposed grant awards, noting that for the four towns the State would cover our operating costs at 100% for FY 21 & 22, 50% in FY23 and 25% in FY24. For the new communities, their grant period would be longer and the State would cover a portion of their costs beyond the first five years. The training grant would also increase given the increased size of the district. The Board discussed that the proportional share of the MECC budget would change with the addition of the towns. The Board also discussed needing to address issues such as governance, and apportionment of excess and deficiency funds.

A question was raised about the status of our efforts in technology and whether those would be impacted by adding two towns. Deputy Director True noted that he believes the MECC is at a good point to add more communities and the current Chiefs wouldn't see a decline in service.

The Board discussed that Mendon and Millville will need a proposal from the MECC to move forward as well as some details from the Towns. Mr. Pozniak noted that the MECC needs to apply for a transition grant, and that the goal will be to have the grant in place by July 1, 2020. The Board agreed to discuss the topic further at its next meeting.

ROLL CALL VOTE TO ADJOURN: Mr. Sweet – yes. Chair Hellen – yes. Ms. Robinson – yes. Ms. Thompson – yes. Meeting adjourned at 12:31 pm.