

Metacomet Board of Directors Meeting (MECC)

Minutes of Meeting

September 9th, 2020

A meeting of the MECC Board of Directors was held on Wednesday 09/09/2020 via Zoom. Board members present were Chair Jamie Hellen, Vice Chair Kevin Sweet, Clerk Blythe Robinson and Jennifer Thompson. Others in attendance were: Metacomet Executive Director Gary Premo, Metacomet Deputy Director Darrell True, Millville Town Administrator Peter Caruso, Franklin Police Chief Thomas Lynch, Norfolk Fire Chief Erron Kinney, Mendon Fire Chief William Kessler, MA State 911 Frank Pozniak, MA State 911 Norm Fournier, Metacomet Communications Manager Nicole Connors and Administrative Supervisor Padraic Pomeroy

The meeting was called to order at 8:02 a.m. by Chair Hellen.

The COVID-19 advisory from Governor Baker regarding public meetings was read by Vice Chair Sweet. A roll call was completed. All Board members were present.

OPERATIONS:

Agenda Item One: Operations update on Alpine Fire RMS and Caliber Police RMS. Director Premo reported status quo. Funding has been awarded for the final piece of the Alpine project to put a command module in Dispatch. As far as the Caliber Police RMS project, we are actively training and are scheduled for it to go live in October. Clerk Robinson requested an update on staffing and any other operations updates. Director Premo reported we have lost two employees to police careers and we will be advertising to fill those spots, but otherwise we are up and running smoothly. No other questions.

Agenda Item Two: FY 2021 State 911 grant update. Director Premo reported as previously discussed, some of the items were not awarded in the transition grant we received. The development grant did award us \$2.5 million dollars that will pay one hundred percent of our transition. For the two towns that did pay the first assessment, state reimbursement is in process to have those funds returned. A little over \$500,000 of that grant was for equipment. The equipment that was missing was a concern and we have been working with Mr. Pozniak and his staff to see how we can fund what is needed to go live. As of last Thursday, we received a letter for a one time increase to our support and incentive grant to go live with Mendon and Millville. Chair Hellen asked for a breakdown of the grant. Director Premo reports the five hundred thousand was awarded in the development grant. That will pay for some equipment. The equipment we did not receive we will get through the one-time support increase of \$973,271. Chair Hellen inquired if the contracts for the large grant have been finalized. Director Premo advises that the vendor contracts such as Caliber and Alpine are close. The large contracts like Comtrac and Motorola still need to be finalized by the committee. Chair Hellen inquired about the wire transfer of the money for the assessments. Director Premo reports all the paperwork has been submitted and it is a reimbursement process for Franklin and Norfolk and a disbursement process for Wrentham and Plainville. As soon as the money is in, a check will be cut for Franklin and Norfolk. Clerk Robinson inquired what the \$973,271 is for. Director Premo states that there are many things needed to go live that were not included in the development grant such as the fiber needed to connect Mendon and

Millville to connect back to us for CAD, RMS, monitoring equipment, phone systems, RMS and radios. Millville Town Administrator Caruso commented about the good news on the grant. Mr. Pozniak reports that Director Premo covered everything well. He did advise that the reimbursement grants usually have a thirty day turn around, but due to COVID, things are a little delayed. Director Premo reports that paperwork that was sent to the MECC has been returned to the state to start the process of receiving the grant.

Agenda Item Three: FY 2021 budget discussion. Chair Hellen opened the discussion of the budget stating that he knows there is still some uncertainty about budgets, even with his own town. We are all still waiting for Congress and Beacon Hill for guidance, and that our local aide budgets are filled with FY2020 numbers only through October. Clerk Robinson states that she was under the impression that the state was level funding Chapter 70 and unrestricted government aid (UGGA) funding for the entire fiscal year. Chair Hellen was under the impression that those numbers were only good through October. Vice Chair Sweet agreed that he was under the impression it was level funded for all of FY2021. Clerk Robinson added that FY2022 will be a concern. Vice Chair agreed with that comment. Vice Chair asked Director Premo if there are any funds that the MECC can receive related to COVID being a standalone district. Director Premo said he will look into it. Chair Hellen offered staff from his office to assist Director Premo with finding any assistance. Member Thompson adds that she was also under the impression that funding was for a full year and that they have budgeted that way. Mr. Caruso concurred he has the same impression. He echoes that FY 2022 is their concern. Chair Hellen concludes that he is also concerned with future years but adds that we will address them as they come up.

Agenda Item Four: Approving the minutes for May 13, 2020 and June 15, 2020. A motion was made by Clerk Robinson to accept the meeting minutes. Member Thompson seconds the motion. Roll Call vote taken. Thompson-Yes, Robinson-Yes, Sweet-Yes, Hellen-Yes. 4 Yes/0 No.

ADJOURN: A motion was made by Clerk Robinson to adjourn. Vice Chair Sweet seconds the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Sweet- Yes, Robinson-Yes, Thompson-Yes, Hellen- Yes. 4 Yes/0 No.

Meeting of the Metacomet Board of Directors adjourned at 8:33 a.m.