



Minutes of the Eastern Shore of Virginia 9-1-1  
August 2025 Commission Meeting  
Thursday, August, 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025 @ 1730 hours  
9-1-1 Communications Center- Accomack

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:** AJ Ferebee, *Vice-Chairman, Captain, Northampton County Sheriff's Office*

Jeff Renas, *Area 31 1<sup>st</sup> Sergeant, Virginia State Police*

Ben Byrd, *Wachapreague Volunteer Fire Company*

Donald Hart, *Accomack County Board of Supervisors*

Ernest Smith, *Northampton County Board of Supervisors*

Greg DeYoung, *Northampton County Department of EMS*

Coty Hodgson, *Sergeant, Accomack County Sheriff's Office*

Adam Zieger, *Eastville Volunteer Fire Company*

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Scott Chandler, *ESVA 9-1-1 Consultant*

Jeff Flournoy, *ESVA 9-1-1 Director*

Lisa Gibbons, *ESVA 9-1-1 Supervisor/ Recording Secretary*

**COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:** Bill McCready, *Chairman, Atlantic Volunteer Fire Company*

Charlie Kolakowski, *Northampton County Administrator*

Mike Mason, *Accomack County Administrator*

Jeff Parks, *Accomack County Board of Supervisors*

**REMOTE PARTICIPATION:** None

**OTHERS ABSENT:** None

**CALL TO ORDER:** Vice-Chairman AJ Ferebee called the meeting to order at 17:39.

**INVOCATION:** Commissioner Donald Hart delivered the opening invocation.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Vice-Chairman AJ Ferebee led the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.



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**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

There was no public participation at this meeting.

**MINUTES:**

*A motion to accept the minutes from the July 2025 Commission Meeting was made by Commissioner Donald Hart with a second from Commissioner Ben Byrd. There was no opposition, and the motion was carried.*

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

None

**BUDGET REPORT:**

Director Flournoy reported that there are no major changes, wrapping up FY25. Still waiting on the Contribution of Communication tax Northampton should be about one more month. Stated that there have been no major changes to expenditures. If not in September, by October, the FY25 budget report should be ready, showing all the money coming in and going out. The current budget year, even though we are almost two full months in, is still early—only one month of state tax money and zero months of communication tax. There is nothing odd to report. On the spending side, the spreadsheet only went through one full month but was carried into August, with no concerns or anomalies.

*A motion to approve the Budget Report was made by Commissioner Donald Hart with a second from 1<sup>st</sup> Sergeant Jeff Renas. There was no opposition, and the motion was carried.*

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

Director Flournoy went on to provide his report. Staffing- Staffing personnel currently, all eleven of our full-time positions are filled and are released functioning communications officers. One of our part-time communications officers, Niasia Scarborough, was full-time for about five years, transitioned to part-time about a year ago will be on extended leave of absence. The 1.5% one-time compensation (bonus) was provided to staff in August. Facility-Accomack County Public Works- Numerous facility needs some are in progress, and some are pending, including finishing up a few minor items with the new generator; all a work in progress. Resolution/Charter Work- The initial work is not done, and the understanding from the last meeting was that the Commission wanted the counties to work on, finalize, and present at a public hearing. Mr. Kolakowski asked for Word documents to review. Nothing has been heard back from Northampton County, but was informed that the Accomack County Board of Supervisors did adopt the resolution changes. Vice-Chairman Ferebee asked if Northampton County had been notified that Accomack had approved. He was advised that Mr. Mason had communicated so. It needs to be recognized that the staff continues to only have the 3% salary increase, with the rest of the salary increase being deferred, and hopefully it will be retroactive. Commissioner Greg DeYoung spoke- Just to reiterate, to reassure, it's to my understanding that the full 9% was included in your recommended budget and was approved by both counties and by this Commission for a full year, so there should be no reason why the pay would not be retroactive. Chincoteague Pony Penning- We were involved in



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meetings mainly for radio communications. On the 30<sup>th</sup> we had two of our more veteran communications officers, including the Deputy Director, who were at the VSP command bus from about 3:30 that morning to about 2:00 PM, and things went well. Station 7- Activating sirens for tornado warnings. Based on the direction from the Commission, I reached out to Accomack Emergency Management (Miss Dickey), as well as sent correspondence emails that they would need to lead the charge, and this has also been communicated to Station 7 leadership. Other Items- The ESVA 9-1-1 Commission sign has been fixed (now illuminating). There have been more meetings/discussions with Eastern Shore Rail Trails related to planning for trail opening, and having the Center involved, to obtain the mapping into our CAD layers. Radio System – Channel 1 backup transmitter, Accomack Sheriff's Office failed with Motorola supplying a power supply. Greg Lewis was able to install. This is part of the old system, used as backup, that still needs to be working. Have had issues with Channel 5, unrelated to the recent issue. The Accomack Sheriff's Office shelter beside the tower on August 19<sup>th</sup> during the severe flooding, stopped working during an emergency incident. The shelter was flooded with several inches of water. Public Works is working on solutions for the future. Eastville U.S. Navy Site- There have been communications related to future use of the Eastville Navy site for communication needs, with the possibility of charging rent to use the site. While not planning on using the site for the new system, we are using it now and think that it should be kept available for any use in the future. WHRO, which also uses the tower, sent formal communications to the US Navy (which is attached). Awareness – ACSO Radio System – The Belle Haven receiver for the ACSO radio system remains non-functional. In July, ACSO leadership had advised of system issues on their dispatch channel intermittently impacting users ability to communicate, which is not believed to be related to new L3 Harris radios. ACSO leadership has been advised that they may need to contact their radio shop/radio technician to troubleshoot aspects of their system. On the ACSO repeater channel, an intermittent double-beep occurs when used (often indicating a radio system issue); ACSO leadership advised in late August 2025.

**OTHER DOCUMENTS INCLUDED:**

- A. Radio Log (issues) Spreadsheet
- B. July 2025 – Report of ESVA 9-1-1 Operational Data
- C. Order Form – Fall 2025 – ESVA 9-1-1 Attire
- D. Communication – WHRO to U.S. Navy – Eastville Navy Site
- E. Selected Items – Deputy 9-1-1 Director Report
- F. Regional Radio System - ESVARRS – 1. Status and any Change Orders, 2. Budget Overview, and, 3. Most Recent L3 Harris Monthly Project Report



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**DEPUTY DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

Director Flournoy gave the Deputy Director's report.

ECW Issues- This ticket remains open without any movement. This has been an ongoing issue for more than a year without a resolution. There has been troubleshooting, but nothing has resolved it. ECW advised that the issue has been sent to development. Dispatch Failsafe- Working on with Supervisor Brewster. We met with the Deccan representative, and during their demonstration of the product, it was discovered that the dispatch sequences were not correct. Premises- Supervisor Brewster has begun the August premise verifications, which involve working with the station's leadership to verify that all data is correct. 9-1-1 Back-Up Center Relocation Project- Relocation from Station 9, which is our back-up center as of now, to the Northampton County Sheriff's Office. A Verizon technician installed lines at the NCSO dispatch center. Northampton IT ordered equipment for their IT rack to have the lines added, after which they will schedule someone to run the lines to the dispatch floor and install the needed phone jacks. Once this process is complete, we can complete testing. NOMAD- A NOMAD is a remote call processing device in case (we have two), which will allow someone to remotely dispatch from other locations.

**EASTERN SHORE OF VIRGINIA REGIONAL RADIO SYSTEM:**

Funding- Department of Justice - Office of Community-Oriented Policing (COPS) Funds. To date, fourteen drawdown requests have occurred using the ASAP reimbursement system (eight from L3 Harris and six from Williams Communications) for a total withdrawal of \$7,226,770.01 - There remain \$1,018,229.99 COPS federal funds available for use towards the ESVARRS Project. Continuing to complete and submit all required reporting to DOJ/COPS, next due by August 30th, 2025 (was submitted on August 25th, 2025). USDA GRANT- Accomack County (\$75,000) - Radio Dispatch Console Expenses -- There will be a future (expected in the next month) L3 Harris invoice with additional radio dispatch console expenses. Once received, this will be used for the \$75,000 USDA reimbursement request (will need to work with Accomack County Finance). Interoperability Solutions/Needs/Gateways- Greg Lewis will be, in the near future, reengaging with WFF Fire-EMS/Protective Services. It had been understood (from previous meetings with NASA/WFF staff), that NASA/WFF would be responsible for covering any costs associated with subscriber radios (to allow their public safety personnel/units on the ESVARRS system as needed), based on communications from them, this may not be the case - No recent information, other than last conversation with Wallops Fire Chief. Continued focus on ISSI planning with Worcester County and the City of Chesapeake. - ESVA configured a new 5mbps connection for initial ISSI deployment earlier this summer. Primary focus is on the implementation of the Worcester County ISSI, with the Chesapeake ISSI likely deferred. Installations of Subscriber Radios- Installation of mobile radios, outside of NCPS radios, on units/apparatus and control stations at buildings is overall completed (very few remaining). In the last few weeks, a small number have been completed (such as the ACSO boat and command/crime vehicle), and the recoding of radios to different units. L3 Harris Effort- Design Changes- Amendment 1 (to services agreement) and Amendment 5 (to radio system agreement), following the action from the Special Meeting, were executed by L3 Harris and ESVA 9-1-1 on May 15th, 2025.



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Eastville-VSP-Work is overall complete. The security camera for this site remains to be installed.

Belle Haven- Work/efforts from Amendment 5 is overall complete (except the microwave dish/radio for the connectivity to the Craddockville site and the generator) --- The tower remediation is complete, the hanging of the antennas for the ESVARRS system is complete, and the RF/other equipment needed at the shelter is installed. The site currently only has ESVBA fiber connectivity; the addition of the microwave connectivity (for diversity) is anticipated before system cutover. The generator pad is ready, with a new generator expected to be delivered and installed within the next month. The issues with the HVAC unit is ultimately the responsibility of Symphony Towers. Vice-Chairman Ferebee asked when testing, would both be tested, the fiber as well as the microwave? Scott Chandler elaborated that it's just a backup that connects the system so if one were to fail, it switches over and should be simultaneous behind the scenes and not impact coverage.

Craddockville- Work/efforts from Amendment 5 are overall complete; microwave dish/radio (added) will likely occur later in the project, before cutover (for the connectivity to Belle Haven), In early August, L3 Harris observed significant interference at the Craddockville site impacting the sites functionality, believing was not coming from the tower site, but from outside the tower site. Much effort was devoted (several weeks) towards resolution. These efforts included engagement with others using the tower site, with AT&T/FirstNet, and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). A formal complaint/request for assistance was issued to the FCC from the ESVA 9-1-1 Commission, with an agent from the FCC quickly engaging and responding to the ESVA to assist. After much troubleshooting and the FCC advising felt the issue was likely originating from the tower site, L3 Harris determined the issue (interference) was originating from the tower site (and was resolved by inverting the antenna on the tower). While the interference issue is resolved, ESVA 9-1-1 (and CTA Consultants) expects a formal overview of the interference issues and its resolution from L3 Harris.

Accomac, Mappsville, Chincoteague are overall complete. L3 Harris continues to work with FCC and others on the needed license changes for the new antenna systems at the initial five sites and the new Belle Haven site.

Current Timelines- Overall project completion. The current timeline for cutover to the ESVARRS system is late fall; it continues to appear reasonable based on recent information and progress. Immediate Project Timelines- Continued radio installations (a few remaining outside of NCPS) and punch-list work from installations. L3 Harris is completing necessary system optimization (at all six sites), followed by formal testing of equipment/operations at sites. Programming of law enforcement portable radios, of Fire/EMS portable radios (later in September/early October). Systemwide coverage testing (scheduled to begin on September 8th, 2025), taking 2-3 weeks. Finalizing the programming of pagers for Fire/EMS (September/October). Continue efforts on other critical aspects of ESVARRS (such as interoperability solutions, governance, and training planning). The coverage testing is a notable and involved process. Includes great commitment (time and manpower) from L3 Harris, CTA Consultants, and ESVA 9-1-1. For ESVA 9-1-1, includes staff working different shifts (likely overtime), the borrowing of a vehicle from Northampton County (along with the use of the 9-1-1 Commission vehicle), coordinating the use of boats for several days (potentially ACSO, VGIF, VMRC, others), and other efforts/coordination.



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Trainings Planned/Schedules- Dispatch Console Configuration - Occurred on August 12<sup>th</sup> with ESVA 9-1-1, Chincoteague PD, Northampton County SO participating (Accomack County SO did not participate). Mobile/Portable Radio Programming - Planned for September 23rd- 25th (with ESVA 9-1-1 staff participating). Dispatch Console User Training - Planned (numerous sessions) scheduled for the Week of September 29<sup>th</sup> (hoping all dispatch staff from ESVA 9-1-1, CPD, NCSO, and ACSO will participate). Radio User Train-The Trainer Sessions - Planned for September 26<sup>th</sup> - September 29<sup>th</sup>. Radio User Trainings - Training (numerous sessions) for all Fire/EMS and Law Enforcement users. Planned for the week of October 27<sup>th</sup> and the week of November 3<sup>rd</sup>. Potential Cutover Schedule- Week of December 1<sup>st</sup> for NCPS, Fire/EMS, and Law Enforcement Agencies. Northampton County Public Schools- Northampton schools will probably be the first to cut over because they have to operate on a different path. Their radios are not able to operate on the current system and the new system. The installation of control station radios (5) in October, and likely programming of radios in November. Training of NCPS staff/radio users (early November). Likely installation of radios into buses/vehicles in late November (just before Thanksgiving). Governance- Additional effort in the last month devoted to initial governance for ESVARRS; expect recommended action in upcoming meeting(s). The staff of the 9-1-1 Center is starting to experience managing items that traditionally had not been responsible for in the past (pagers for Fire/EMS, subscriber radios for Fire/EMS, and subscriber radios for Law Enforcement agencies not dispatched by ESVA 9-1-1). This will require the development of procedures and processes to manage troubleshooting/issues, spare radio assignment, and other items. Other Items- Dispatch Center - Back-Up Control Stations - All control stations (13) and antennas (13) at the four dispatch centers have been installed. Station 8 (Tasley) was used extensively during the last eight months of the ESVARRS project for installations and storage. All items stored at Station 8 have been removed (in mid-August). At some point, I will likely generate a thank-you letter to Station 8. Northampton County IT set up a temporary Wi-Fi location at the old Northampton County Middle School to support the upcoming programming of portable radios. Additional Items Provided- L3 Harris - Most Recent Project Status Reports (from August), with an overview - ESVARRS Budget, Obligations, and Expenditures (to date). 1<sup>st</sup> Sergeant Jeff Renas spoke- We don't talk about VSP and interoperability, but what we did at pony penning, is that the direction that we are going to go in with this system? Director Flournoy- We are still working pretty closely with them and think we need to keep pushing if ACSO is ok putting their talk groups in VSP radios. I think our system will have to go live the way we see it. Continued talk about other Law Enforcement entities joining talk groups.

*A motion to approve the 9-1-1 Director's Report was made by Commissioner Donald Hart with a second from Commissioner Ben Byrd. There was no opposition, and the motion was carried.*

**ACTION ITEMS:**

**None**



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**CONSULTANT'S REPORT:**

Consultant Chandler advised that aside from his routine items of updating the website and reviewing documents, he also developed spreadsheets for verification of portables and pagers. A couple of days spent in the field on installation and interface monitoring, along with attending several project reviews, personalities PowerPoint training, and other meetings.

*A motion to accept the 9-1-1 Consultant's Report was made by Commissioner Ben Byrd with a second from 1<sup>st</sup> Sergeant Jeff Renas. There was no opposition, and the motion was carried.*

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

Director Flournoy informed the commission about a misrouted 9-1-1 cell phone call, noting he is spending significant time trying to understand how it happened so any necessary corrections can be made.

**PAYABLES:**

*A motion to pay the bills was made by Commissioner Donald Hart with a second from Commissioner Adam Zeiger. There was no opposition, and the motion was carried.*

**ADJOURNMENT:**

*Commissioner Adam Zeiger made a motion to adjourn the meeting with a second from 1<sup>st</sup> Sergeant Jeff Renas. There was no opposition and the meeting was adjourned at 18:36.*

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Gibbons, *ESVA 9-1-1 Supervisor / Recording Secretary*