



Minutes of the Eastern Shore of Virginia 9-1-1
May Commission Meeting
Thursday, May 29th, 2025 @ 1730 hours
Accomack County EOC – Melfa

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Bill McCready, *Chairman, Atlantic Volunteer Fire Company*

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

Jeff Renas, *Area 31 1st Sergeant, Virginia State Police*

Ben Byrd, *Wachapreague Volunteer Fire Company*

Mike Mason, *Accomack County Administrator*

Jeff Parks, *Accomack County Board of Supervisors*

Adam Zieger, *Eastville Volunteer Fire Company*

OTHERS PRESENT:

Scott Chandler, *ESVA 9-1-1 Consultant*

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

Krista Kilmon, *ESVA 9-1-1 Deputy Director*

Katie Brewster, *ESVA 9-1-1 Supervisor/ Recording Secretary*

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

Charlie Kolakowski, *Northampton County Administrator*

Ernest Smith, *Northampton County Board of Supervisors*

Bobby Taylor, *Lieutenant, Accomack County Sheriff's Office*

REMOTE PARTICIPATION:

Greg DeYoung, *Northampton County Department of EMS*, participated remotely from the Lancaster, PA area for personal reasons.

Donald Hart, *Accomack County Board of Supervisors*, participated remotely from the King William, VA area for personal reasons and joined around 18:39.

OTHERS ABSENT:

None

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Bill McCready called the meeting to order at 17:35.

INVOCATION:

Chairman Bill McCready delivered the opening invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Chairman Bill McCready led the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

There was no public participation at this meeting.

MINUTES: *A motion to accept the minutes from the April 2025 Commission Meeting was made by Commissioner Ben Byrd with a second from Commissioner Adam Zeiger. There were no oppositions and the motion was carried.*



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There was a correction to the minutes from the Special Meeting held on May 8th: The minutes originally stated that the April 9-1-1 Commission Meeting was held on April 28th; this was a typo and the minutes have been amended to show the correct date of April 24th.

A motion to accept the minutes from the May 8th Special Meeting was made by Commissioner Ben Byrd with a second from Vice-Chairman AJ Ferebee. There were no oppositions and the motion was carried.

CONSENT AGENDA: There were four consent agenda items at this meeting.

(1) Approve amendment to master lease agreement for Mappsville Tower Site (between ESVA 9-1-1 Commission and Accomack County).

(2) Approve amendment to master lease agreement for Craddockville Tower Site (between ESVA 9-1-1 Commission and Accomack County).

(3) Grant Application Submission – VDEM Grant – Additional funds to support increased costs from transition to AT&T's ESINet services.

(4) Grant Acceptance – DJCS First Responder Wellness Grant – funds to support/promote the mental health/well-being of ESVA 9-1-1 Commission staff.

A motion to accept the consent agenda items was made by Commissioner Jeff Parks with a second from Commissioner Ben Byrd. There were no oppositions and the motion was carried.

BUDGET REPORT:

FY25- Director Flournoy reported that there were no major anomalies or concerns to the revenue coming in or to the expenditures. 81% of the budget has been spent through April 2025. FY26- The recommended FY26 budget was presented at this meeting with intention to adopt at the next meeting in June. There have been no real changes from things that have been talked about relating to revenue anticipated and our budget is currently balanced. What has changed since last meeting are numerous items to use fund balance towards. The following are expected/potential future budget amendments needed for FY26: ESINet expenses using VDEM reimbursement; changes for awarded grants; changes based on the direction from the 9-1-1 Commission related to following compensation plans for Northampton County. While the expectation is to present the FY26 9-1-1 Commission's Budget for adoption at the June 26th, 2025 meeting; will continue to work on budget modifications that may be needed.

A motion to approve the budget report was made by Commissioner Adam Zeiger with a second from Commissioner Jeff Parks. There were no oppositions and the motion was carried.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Meetings/Other- Supervisor Brewster and CO Thornton went to Occohannock Elementary School to participate in Public Education at their Career Day. Staff- All eleven F/T positions are filled and released and we have four P/T positions that are filled and released. The two P/T employees that were on a leave of absence are now off of their leave of absence. Supervisor Hodgson has been on maternity leave and is scheduled to return the week of June 22nd 2025. Facility Related- Accomack County Public Works has completed the project of adding a kitchen exhaust. Pony Penning- ESVA 9-1-1 Center leadership participating and involved in planning meetings related to the 100th Anniversary of Pony Penning. Other- Work continues with Tall Pines to address issues with 9-1-1 calls (from VOIP). It is now partially corrected however some issues still need to be resolved. At the request of Northampton



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County Finance, effort has gone towards working with various vendors to transition to more on-line/electronic billing. We have been working with Northampton County IT to resolve issues impacting Accomack County DPS from accessing CAD reporting.

RADIO INFRASTRUCTURE:

Radio System Issues- The bleed over to Channel 3 and Channel 7 at the dispatch console when transmitting on Channel 5 has diminished. In mid-May another issue where a new L3Harris mobile radio with an older external microphone created issues like those experienced with Engine8-5. Once the external microphone was removed, the issue resolved. Other- Quotes were requested and received from ACI and MCA to continue support for the current Fire/EMS radio system and Motorola consoles at ESVA 9-1-1 for an additional six months (through 2025). There have been recent communications related to the future use of the Eastville Navy Site for communications needs. While overall a NCPS agreement to manage, and even though use of this site is not planned in ESVARRS, feel maintaining use of this site for communications is appropriate. Dispatch Changes- A Rescue Truck response will be needed on all entrapment accidents in Accomack County. The CAD has been configured to recommend Rescue4 in Northern Accomack and Rescue9 in Southern Accomack. Technical Rescue Team- There has been a development of a Technical Rescue Team on the Eastern Shore to respond to specialized incidents. A new tone has been created to program into pagers; CAD text has been set up to send the notification to their cell phones; a new nature code was created to be utilized. iPhone Crash Detections began within the last two years and have been processed as an MVA/C. There was a question on if a modification to what/who is sent to these should occur and the consensus was to keep the response as it is.

Director Flournoy then turned the meeting over to Deputy Director Kilmon to provide her report. ECW- After clearing the ticket for stuck calls, we have had another occurrence resulting in re-opening the ticket. They advised that the issue has been sent to their development team with the determination that is beyond them figuring out. Position 2 had intermittent issues with callers not being able to hear our call-takers from that position. A ticket was created; a technician came and replaced the AIU box and it is being monitored for the remainder of the week. Dispatch Failsafe- We were provided a first draft version of the software to review. We submitted changes/improvements and they have taken it back to develop. 2025 NENA/APCO Conference- Director Flournoy, Deputy Director Kilmon, and CO Thornton attended the Spring Conference. During the awards ceremony, Director Flournoy was announced as the 2024 Virginia APCO Director of the Year. He was presented with a plaque by the Virginia APCO Board, with his wife Amy in attendance. He was nominated for this award by CTA Consultants, with some assistance from Deputy Director Kilmon. All three ESVA 9-1-1 Staff members spent time in the vendor hall learning about new technology available for the PSAP and attended numerous sessions.

OTHER:

Deputy Director Kilmon then turned the meeting back over to Director Flournoy to provide an update on the ESVARRS Project. Funding- There has been no change from last month. It will likely change soon due to expected invoices to come in from L3Harris meeting milestones. Subscriber Radios- ESVA 9-1-1 continues to work with agencies that may have programming/use questions, including programming changes. L3Harris Effort (Design Changes)- Following the action from the Special Meeting on May 8th 2025, Amendment 1 and Amendment 5 were executed by L3Harris and ESVA 9-1-1 on May 15th, 2025. As part of the revised system design, L3Harris is: modifying the antenna designs/patterns used at each site, replacing the combiner at each of the existing RF sites, and adding the sixth site as an additional RF site for ESVARRS. RF Site/Activity- Eastville VSP: Tower remediation and the replacement of the antenna systems are complete. Belle Haven: Finalizing contract related documents to lead to a Notice to Proceed being issued. Craddockville and Mappsville: Accomack County approved the lease



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agreement modifications last week. Once the Notice to Proceed is provided, plan to complete the needed work. Accomack VSP: The replacement of the antenna systems is complete and we are awaiting the replacement of the combiner unit. Chincoteague: Finalizing contract related documents to lead to a Notice to Proceed being issued. American Towers completed a final tower analysis. Once Notice to Proceed is provided, plan to complete the needed work. Current Timelines- The updated timeline for cutover to the ESVARRS system is late-fall 2025. The immediate timelines include continuing with subscriber installations, completing needed tower remediations, getting the Belle Haven site online, finalizing programming of subscriber radios and pagers, and continuing efforts on other critical aspects. Commissioner Mike Mason advised that the two awaiting Notice to Proceed were submitted and we can move forward at those sites.

A motion to approve the 9-1-1 Director's report was made by Vice-Chairman AJ Ferebee with a second from Commissioner Jeff Parks. There were no oppositions and the motion was carried.

ACTION ITEMS:

A. Continuation - CTA Consultants Services - ESVARRS Project

Approval was requested to continue using CTA Consultants for an additional six-months during implementation of ESVARRS. These funds would originate from the non-appropriated fund balance of the ESVA 9-1-1 Commission.

A motion to approve this action item was made by Commissioner Ben Byrd with a second from Commissioner Adam Zeiger. There were no oppositions and the motion was carried.

B. Accomack County – FY26 – Compensation Funding Conditions

It is understood that the following language was included in the approval from the Accomack County Board of Supervisors (related to the 9% salary increase for 9-1-1 Commission staff): “This funding however, is contingent upon the following actions: Northampton County providing local matching funds for this action at the customary match rate of 33%, and approval of amendment to the joint resolution creating the 9-1-1 Commission by both counties containing the following language or language substantially equivalent thereto: Dispatchers and administrative employees to the 9-1-1 Commission shall not receive compensation, including cost-of-living increases, merit increases and bonuses, or benefits, including fringe benefits, in excess of the compensation and benefits that Northampton County provides to its employees having comparable duties and responsibilities. If the aforementioned amendment to the joint resolution is not approved, local funding for the 9-1-1 Commission will be reduced so that the Commission receives only enough funding to provide a 3% compensation increase to its employees, which is the same percentage increase as County employees are set to receive effective July 1, 2025.” With conditions placed before specific funding will be provided, feel direction from the 9-1-1- Commission is needed on how to proceed.

Commissioner Mike Mason put the following motion on the floor: For the 9-1-1 Director to draft an amendment to the joint resolution that created the 9-1-1 Commission that's focused on employee compensation and benefits to provide that amendment that is substantially equivalent to the following language: “Compensation and fringe benefits provided to employees of the 9-1-1 Commission shall be commensurate with those provided by Northampton County to its employees having comparable duties and responsibilities. In no case will compensation increases including cost of living increases, merit increases, bonuses, or fringe benefits be provided to employees of the 9-1-1 Commission in excess of that provided by Northampton to its employees.” Director Flournoy did express his concern about unattended consequences of limiting the Commission's ability to make decisions but he is working hard at getting his staff an appropriate salary increase. He also discussed the numerous things that the 9-1-1 Center currently does for its staff (Public Education, extra pay for being On-Call, the Childcare Room, Career Development, etc.) and does not want to lose that with this amendment. Chairman McCready stated that the



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Personnel Committee agreed that aligning with one County provides an opportunity for better benefits and Vice-Chairman AJ Ferebee explained the agreement more in depth. There was more discussion on this topic amongst the Commissioners and other 9-1-1 Center Staff.

A motion to approve this action item was made by Commissioner Mike Mason with a second from Vice-Chairman AJ Ferebee. There were no oppositions and the motion was carried.

CONSULTANT'S REPORT:

Consultant Chandler reported that aside from his routine duties of updating the ESVA 9-1-1 website and reading various documents, he has also been involved in many meetings, discussions, monitoring, etc. for the ESVARRS project.

A motion to accept the 9-1-1 Consultant's report was made by Vice-Chairman AJ Ferebee with a second from Commissioner Jeff Parks. There were no oppositions and the motion was carried.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: Chairman McCready had nothing to report.

OTHER BUSINESS: There were no other business items at this meeting.

PAYABLES: *A motion to pay the bills was made by Vice-Chairman AJ Ferebee with a second from Commissioner Ben Byrd. There were no oppositions and the motion was carried.*

ADJOURNMENT: *Vice-Chairman AJ Ferebee made a motion to adjourn the meeting with a second from Commissioner Jeff Parks. There were no oppositions and the meeting was adjourned by at 18:45.*

Respectfully Submitted,

Katie Brewster, ESVA 9-1-1 Supervisor / Recording Secretary