



Minutes of the Eastern Shore of Virginia 9-1-1
September 2024 Commission Meeting
Thursday, September 26th, 2024 @ 1730 hours
Northampton County Board Chambers – Eastville

- COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:** Jeff Parks, *Accomack County Board of Supervisors*
Donald Hart, *Accomack County Board of Supervisors*
Greg DeYoung, *Northampton County Department of EMS*
Charles Kolakowski, *Northampton County Administrator*
Mike Mason, *Accomack County Administrator*
Bill McCready, *Vice-Chairman, Atlantic Volunteer Fire Company*
Dane Lawson, *Sergeant, Virginia State Police*
AJ Ferebee, *Captain, Northampton County Sheriff's Office*
Ernest Smith, *Northampton County Board of Supervisors*
Kenny Reese, *Sergeant, Accomack County Sheriff's Office*
- OTHERS PRESENT:** Jeff Flournoy, *9-1-1 Director*
Krista Kilmon, *9-1-1 Deputy Director*
Katie Brewster, *9-1-1 Supervisor/ Recording Secretary*
- COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:** None
- REMOTE PARTICIPATION:** Donnie Kellam, *Chairman, Community Fire Company*, participated remotely from the Exmore, VA area due to medical reasons.
Ben Byrd, *Wachapreague Volunteer Fire Company*, participated remotely from the Wachapreague, VA area due to medical reasons.
- OTHERS ABSENT:** Scott Chandler, *9-1-1 Consultant*
- CALL TO ORDER:** Vice-Chairman Bill McCready called the meeting to order at 17:33.
- INVOCATION:** Commissioner Donald Hart delivered the opening invocation.
- PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Vice-Chairman Bill McCready led the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.



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PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

The Chair recognized the following individuals who addressed the ESVA 9-1-1 Commission:

Niasia Scarborough of Parksley, VA

Leah Hall of Harborton, VA

Caroline Hodgson of Painter, VA

Katie Brewster of Parksley, VA

Krista Kilmon of Parksley, VA

In addition, two individuals, Christine Phillips of Bloxom, VA and John Hudson of Chincoteague, VA submitted letters that were read by 9-1-1 Director Flournoy.

MINUTES:

A motion to accept the minutes from the August 2024 meeting was made by Commissioner Donald Hart with a second from Commissioner Jeff Parks. There were no oppositions and the motion was carried.

CONSENT AGENDA:

There were no consent agenda items at this meeting.

BUDGET REPORT:

Director Flournoy reported that he intends to have a completed FY24 budget report at the next meeting. For the FY25 budget, on the revenue side, there were no anomalies or concerns. Accomack County has provided their first quarter contributions and we are awaiting Northampton County's. There were also no anomalies or concerns on the expenditures side. From the budget and actual expenditures, 23% of the Capital Budget, 13% of the Operations Budget, and 37% of the Other Budget has been used, totaling 20% usage of the FY25 budget.

A motion to approve the budget report was made by Commissioner Greg DeYoung with a second from Commissioner AJ Ferebee. There were no oppositions and the motion was carried.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Director Flournoy went on to provide his report. **Staffing-** We currently have 10 F/T positions filled with 1 in training, and 5 P/T positions filled with 2 in training. Tonya Blake, who returned a part-time, has been promoted to full-time effective October 13th, 2024. **Facility-** Accomack County Public Works has continued to assist in several facility items, including parking lot maintenance. The new generator for our center has been installed and will power the entire building rather than half of the building. It is hoped to keep the old generator as long as possible as a back-up. **FY26-** Although nothing has been



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received yet, would expect to have budget requests for FY26 to begin by the end of October.

Chincoteague- Recently received a request from the Chincoteague Town Manager for the history of the towns funding that's provided monthly to the 9-1-1 Commission. He was provided copies of the MOU that was executed in 2014 when Chincoteague stopped being a primary PSAP and we assumed those duties as well as the history of that.

RADIO INFRASTRUCTURE:

There was nothing new to report on the radio infrastructure with the current radio system.

OTHER:

Deputy Director Krista Kilmon provided her report. **ECW-** We are still awaiting a resolution on two open ECW tickets. The stuck transfer issue did not resolve following the ESINet transition as we had hoped. The Citizen Input issue that resulted after the ESINet transition is being worked on and has been moved to the development team. We have been informed that there will be a correction to this in the next version. **VDEM Grant-** Continued attempts to engage our Customer Service Solution Advisor to try and get the project moving forward. Deputy Director Kilmon advised she had to engage another member of Motorola to help with the engagement of the Customer Service Solution Advisor and hopes to have the NOMAD product ordered by mid-October. **Console Project-** The new console for position 4 was installed at the beginning of September and the project is now complete. **New Hires-** The new hires are continuing their on-the-job training with CTO's. We are hoping to a mid-to-late-October release. Tonya Blake has accepted a full-time position beginning in October and her training is still continuing. **Servers-** Work has begun on replacing our Freedom and Message Switch servers. Central Square and Northampton County I.T. have been engaged. Once those replacements are completed, RAVE customer service will be engaged to replace our RAVE (Smart911) server.

Director Flournoy then went on to provide an update on the ESVARRS project. **Funding-** We have now done seven drawdown requests from the federal funding from the DOJ COPS funds: 4 from L3Harris with the most recent being just over 1 million dollars and 3 from Williams Communications for a total withdraw of about 2.6 million dollars. There remain about 5.6 million dollars in funds available to spend. The NCPS system is going to be a part of the ESVARRS system and are responsible for purchasing their radios. We provided them with an invoice of those costs of their subscriber radios about a week ago.

Microwave/Connectivity- We are still continuing to look at additional connectivity being added between the ESVA 9-1-1 Center and the ACSO dispatch site that we believe will give us more resiliency and redundancy. Greg Lewis has been tasked with some of the work and gathering quotes for this and a formal request would be expected at a future meeting. **Site Work-** While there is still some system and infrastructure work ongoing, the new radio system has been live during coverage testing. At the Craddockville site, the installation of the diversity microwave antenna remains and two antennas will be



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relocated this weekend. At the Eastville VSP site, two antennas were relocated in early September and there is one more microwave dish to be installed for connectivity back to NCSO. Much of the main work at the Accomac VSP site has been done. At the Chincoteague Public Works site and Mappsville site, installation of a diversity microwave antenna and dish remains for connectivity back to the respected police stations. A lot of work is going on at the Northampton County Water Tower and efforts remain for the installation of the outside cabinet, generator, and ANEC service. At the ACSO tower, the installation of the outside cabinet and connectivity microwave dish remain. The final step for the for CPD, ESVA 9-1-1, ACSO, and NCSO dispatch centers is the final configuration of the dispatch consoles. **Subscriber Radios-** The Subscriber Change Order was submitted in early September and resulted in a credit of about 121 thousand dollars to the ESVA 9-1-1, once the NCPS reimbursement is received. **Interoperability-** The biggest MOU agreement we are waiting on is the authorization to include the installation of Virginia Beach Hospital and ORION talk groups during initial programming. **Pagers and Radios-** It has been very beneficial that some counties have assisted us, like Dinwiddie County who gave us a bunch of pagers that we could give to the fire/EMS agencies. There are few left, with no more pager chargers remaining; we have used a lot of what was given to hold us over until we get on the new system. **Personalities-** The ESVA 9-1-1 now has the programming software that allows us to learn how to program our radios so that we can program them and demonstrate features on our radios. **Meetings-** There is focus coming up in the next few weeks to the programming of the G5 pagers and Greg Lewis will be working on that. Installation of mobile and portable radios are likely starting in November and continuing into the winter. **System Coverage Testing-** The focus has been to complete testing before foliage impacts. This is a critical part of the project and to conduct, all 5 L3 Harris RF sites and one dispatch position need to be functional. Testing on land began September 16th however, it has been temporarily paused after the first week but we are working on efforts to try and resume. That week showed how much of a time commitment and how comprehensive it is. Ultimately, L3 Harris has to make some changes to their system to get it to perform like it needs to. Once the changes are made and we are in a good place the testing will start all over, hopefully the middle of next week. **Timelines-** The current project timeline is system use by February 2025 however, successful completion of system coverage testing in the near future will likely drive if any future changes to the project timeline. It was asked if a delay in deployment would also delay equipment installations, and there was not a definitive answer to be given but it was assumed it would not impact public safety installations but would impact NCPS installations as their new equipment will only work on the new system. Our immediate project timelines would be to resume coverage testing when appropriate and to initiate vehicle and agency subscriber installations in November, leading to user training for the field and dispatch personnel. **Other-** Director Flournoy advised that he reached out to Northampton County Administration to request a temporary storage location for an abundance of removed radio equipment and is awaiting a response while they look for a secure location. **Change Order Info-** There is a change order for ESVA Fiber Service Construction Costs to install a new hand-off at the Chincoteague PW site for \$1,700.



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A motion to approve the Director's report was made by Commissioner Donald Hart with a second from Commissioner Greg DeYoung. There were no oppositions and the motion was carried.

ACTION ITEMS:

There were no action items at this meeting.

CONSULTANT'S REPORT:

Director Flournoy reported that 9-1-1 Consultant Scott Chandler has continued with his normal duties as well as ESVARRS involvement.

A motion to accept the 9-1-1 Consultant's report was made by Commissioner Donald Hart with a second from Commissioner Greg DeYoung. There were no oppositions and the motion was carried.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

Vice-Chairman Bill McCready had nothing to report.

OTHER BUSINESS: A – Salary Requests From the June 2024 Commission Meeting

Commissioner Donald Hart, after hearing from the public participants, brought up conversation of the following requests from the June and July 2024 Commission meeting: (1) implement the recommended JER HR Group to increase the starting salary (2) implement salary compression management (3) future request to complete a compensation/salary study. It is noted that funds for these requests were already in the budget, meaning this was not a request for money from either county. After some discussion, it was ultimately requested for Director Flournoy to re-provide the information that was included in the June and July meetings as well as any additional necessary for the Commission to discuss all three items together at the October 2024 Commission Meeting.

A motion to accept (1) and then bring (2) and (3) back to the next meeting was made by Commissioner Jeff Parks with a second from Commissioner Donald Hart. There were oppositions and the motion was modified.

A motion to accept the modification of discussing all three requests together at the October 2024 meeting was made by Commissioner Donald Hart with a second from Commissioner AJ Ferebee. There were no oppositions and the motion was carried.



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B – October, November, and December Commission Meeting Date Changes

Director Flournoy reported that the DoodlePoll results for the October 2024 Commission Meeting Date fell at a tie for October 24th and October 28th. It was agreed to move the October 2024 Commission Meeting from Thursday, October 31st, 2024 to Monday, October 28th, 2024, and it will be at 1730 hours at the Accomack EOC, as long as the EOC is available.

It was then decided for Director Flournoy to send out another DoodlePoll for the November 2024 and December 2024 meeting date options to review and approve at the next meeting.

A motion to approve this item was made by Commissioner Donald Hart with a second from Commissioner AJ Ferebee. There were no oppositions and the motion was carried.

PAYABLES:

A motion to pay the bills was made by Commissioner Donald Hart with a second from Commissioner AJ Ferebee. There were no oppositions and the motion was carried.

ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner 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 Vice-Chairman Bill McCready at 18:49.

Respectfully Submitted,

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