



NORTHEAST HOMELAND SECURITY REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Full Council Meeting

Minutes

March 10, 2022

1:00pm

Burlington Town Hall

29 Center Street, Burlington, MA 01803

Remote Participation Option

[Zoom Link](#)

Meeting ID: 947 5866 0306

Passcode: 949681

Dial In: 646 876 9923

Call to Order

- Chair Chief J. Gilliland called the meeting to order at 1:10pm.

Approval of Minutes from the February 10, 2022 Meeting.

MOTION put forth by Chief B. Moriarty.

- Approve the February 10, 2022 meeting minutes.
- Seconded by Chief T. Judge.
 - In Favor: P. Cohen, Chief J. Fisher, M. Foster, Chief T. Judge, D. Spinosa, Chief B. Moriarty, D. Ouellette, C. Ryan, N. Berger, C. Cousens, E. Chao.
 - Opposed: None.
 - Abstain: J. Sanchez.
- The motion passed.

NERAC Ambubus and Evacuation Vehicles- (This update was given out of order from the agenda)

- During the last meeting, the Council voted to dispose of NERAC's 3 Evacuation Vehicles. MAPC has been in contact with N. Berger to obtain appraisals for the non-operational 3 Evacuation vehicles so we can follow the EOPSS disposal process.
- The Council also discussed fixing the Ambubus's power steering and reaching out to contacts to find a new location that can house and maintain it.
- The Beverly Cache Site can be a temporary option to host the Ambubus, but not a permanent one. The Ambubus needs to be stored inside, and the hosting agency should be utilizing and maintaining it.

Committee/Working Group Updates- (This update was given out of order from the agenda)

- Evacuation/Sheltering – N. Berger
 - The Committee has been drafting an FY22 Project Request for a feasibility study regarding regional shelters.

EOPSS/MAPC Updates

- EOPSS Update – V. Mboka-Boyer provided an update on behalf of EOPSS. Congress has passed the budget, and the NOFO should be released in April. EOPSS is expecting to receive

level funding. EOPSS will be meeting with FEMA next week, and they also hope to hear further guidance on the frozen cache funding.

- MAPC Update – A. Reilly provided an update on behalf of MAPC. MAPC has an open position and recently made an offer to a candidate. This position would help with activities related to NERAC.

Discussion of Council Meeting Location

- Burlington Town Hall informed us that due to increased meeting room needs of their own town departments, we will only be able to reserve the Main Hearing Room through June.
- We will need to find an alternate meeting location for the July meeting onward, ideally centrally located in the NERAC region. We are looking into options, but would also appreciate any suggestions, so please reach out if you know of a potential venue.

Council Membership

- Open Public-School Seat
 - Chris Malone has retired which leaves the NERAC Public School representative seat vacant.
 - Please let us know if you have any recommendations to fill the position, and MAPC is also reaching out to our Superintendent contacts in the region.

FFY19/FFY20/FFY21 Budget Updates

- Council members were provided with copies of the FFY19, FFY20, FFY21 budgets.
- FFY19 funding has been extended to June 30, 2022.
- FFY20 Grant End Date: July 31, 2022.
- FFY21 Grant End Date: July 31, 2023.

Project Updates

- PPE and Medical Supply Cache Resource Request Policy
 - The PPE and Medical Supply Cache Resource Request Policy is currently in place, and MAPC is sending out a joint email announcement with HMCC and NEEMS which provides further details on how this system will work.
 - Information about this is now also posted on the NERAC website.
- Statewide CISO Project
 - We have been having bi-weekly check in meetings with the consultant.
 - The consultant, B. Riley Services are wrapping up the interview/discovery process of this study.
 - Our cyber reps Colby and Ed have also been attending meetings and have been providing valuable input on behalf of our region.
 - The next meeting is scheduled for tomorrow March 11, 2022.
- NEMLEC SWAT Radios
 - This project is the purchase of 41 Portable UHF radios and related accessories for the NEMLEC SWAT team.
 - There has been a delay in issuing the PO because Motorola is still in talks with the MA Operational Services Division to finalize the terms of their new State Contract PSE 01. This is in the final stages according to our Motorola representative and Statewide Interoperability Coordinator Rich Fiske.
 - MAPC will issue the PO as soon as that State Contract is finalized.
- Merrimack Valley Camera System Expansion
 - This is a project from the FFY21 plan to purchase and install 24 cameras at various sites in Andover, North Andover, and Methuen to expand the existing surveillance camera system operated by the City of Lawrence.
 - A PJ has been drafted, and we are beginning to work on the EHP, which will be extensive since it involves 24 installations at multiple sites. I have been in contact with Chief Vasque of the Lawrence Police Department to discuss the details needed for the

EHP.

ARINC Equipment Transfer

- As discussed at the last meeting, the Town of Ashland Fire Department has NERAC funded interoperability equipment from a previous project which they no longer have use for and are seeking to dispose of.
- The list of equipment is included on p. 24 (last page) of the meeting packet.
- This equipment is first being offered to the NERAC Council for 30 days in case anyone has ideas to transfer and repurpose it, so please contact me by March 12, 2022 if you have knowledge of a use for it.
- After March 12, the equipment will be offered to NERAC regional stakeholders for 30 days.
- Depending on whether there is interest, the Council can vote to either transfer or request EOPSS approval to dispose of it at the next meeting.

FFY22 Plan Development Process

- We have begun discussing ideas for FFY22 projects with the committees.
- We believe we may possibly receive funding priority guidance from EOPSS next month and will formally reach out to municipalities and finalize funding requests from Committees for the Council to review.

Committee/Working Group Updates

- Training & Exercise – Chief J. Gilliland
 - The Topsfield School Evacuation Exercise is coming to fruition.
 - BDLS and ADLS are upcoming and are being advertised.
 - The Active Shooter Training Kit MOU and Borrowing Policy is being finalized.
 - ATIRC and LASER offerings will be in June and July at the Coffin School in Marblehead.
- Interoperability/Info Sharing – C. Ryan
 - Essex County Fire Chiefs UHF Receiver Project- working with L. Sacks on the scope of work. They also identified the locations for the UHF receivers.
 - Fire District 5 and 15 Portable Radio Cache- They did an inventory and found they were missing one charger and one microphone. They are currently working with Motorola on this issue. The radios have been granted authorization to be on the state radio system.
 - Fire District 6 Communications Upgrades– The EHP has been approved, and MAPC is working on the procurement.
 - COML/COMT Radio Programming- PJs are being drafted and sign off procedures are being finalized.
 - Pow Wow Hill Tower- Facing issues with the plot of land that would be used for this project and looking for a different location on the hill for the tower.
 - Essex County Chiefs of Police Radio Cache – PJ and ICIP approval were received, just waiting on the Motorola state contract to be finalized.
 - Littleton All-Band Console – PJ and ICIP approval were received, just waiting on the Motorola state contract to be finalized
 - Motorola 7500 Consoles – MAPC is working on the documents to transfer those to NSR911 and Westford Fire Department.
 - The Committee discussed standardizing engraving format for NERAC purchased radios and naming conventions.
 - The Committee is working on updates to the Tactical Interoperable Communications plan.
 - The Committee approved a request from T. Duchene on behalf of GBPC for \$48,000 for routers that would be added into NERAC's microwave network.
- Regional Equipment Cache – J. Sanchez
 - The Lexington Cache no longer wants to be a host site, so we will need to find a new

- cache site location. The equipment could possibly be housed in Beverly.
- The Lexington Cache will continue to host until a resolution is finalized.

Discipline & State Agency Liaison Updates

- Discipline Updates:
 - Cybersecurity- E. Chao and C. Cousens met with the Massachusetts Cyber Center and other agencies/organizations to further open communication channels and to align with state efforts. They went over NERAC's planned cyber projects and received positive feedback. The Council was also made aware that ransomware is becoming increasingly more sophisticated which can impact critical infrastructure and local governments. The situation with Ukraine has created a testing ground for cyber-attacks.
 - Hospitals- Hospitals are improving. Covid numbers are low, but hospitals are still full of populations more than the usual acuity.
 - Public Safety Communications- Next week there is a meeting with the SWIC and Undersecretary Collins regarding the TRT Team. A letter has been drafted and sent regarding PSAP issues.
- State Agency Liaison Updates
 - Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency- H. Tecce
 - MEMA has a surplus of PPE that is available. MEMA is going to be supporting and participating in the upcoming Burlington Mall FSE in April.

New Business Unforeseen by the Chair

- None.

MOTION put forth by Chief B. Moriarty.

- To adjourn.
- Seconded by E. Chao.
 - In Favor: P. Cohen, Chief J. Fisher, Chief T. Judge, D. Spinosa, Chief B. Moriarty, D. Ouellette, C. Ryan, C. Cousens, E. Chao, J. Sanchez, B. Klag.
 - Opposed: None.
 - Abstain: None.
- The motion passed.

**** Next Meeting: April 14, 2022****

ATTENDEES - COUNCIL MEMBERS

Chief Jason Gilliland, Chair: Marblehead Fire Department
 Chief John Fisher: Carlisle Police Department
 Mark Foster: Director, Beverly Emergency Management
 Bill Klag: Emergency Preparedness Director, North Shore Medical Center
 Christopher Ryan: Deputy Director, North Shore Regional 911 Center
 Chief Tom Judge: Concord Fire Department
 Allan Alpert: Director of Emergency Management for the City of Melrose.
 Chief Brian Moriarty: Lawrence Fire Department
 Chief John LeLacheur: Beverly Police Department
 Noah Berger: Merrimack Valley Regional Transit Authority
 John Sanchez: Director, Burlington Public Works Department
 Paul Cohen: Town Manager, Town of Chelmsford
 Colby Cousens: Danvers Director of Information Technology
 Edward Chao: Analyst, Harvard Kennedy School
 Dave Spinosa: Communications Director, Essex County Sheriff's Department
 Dave Ouellette: Dracut Public Health

ABSENT- COUNCIL MEMBERS

John Brickett: Executive Director, Northeast EMS
Sheriff Kevin Coppinger: Essex County Sheriff
Christopher Malone: Superintendent, Tewksbury Public Schools
Chief Neal Hovey: Topsfield Police Department

ATTENDEES – OTHER

Theophilos Kuliopulos: North Reading Emergency Management
Lauren Sardella: MEMA Region 1
Heather Tecce: MEMA Region 1
Jim McLaughlin: MEMA
Lenny Imbraccio: FBI
Anita Arnum: Acton Fire Department
David Frizzell: Metrofire Inc.
Derek Sencabaugh: Lexington Fire Department
Ben Podsiadlo: EOPSS
Vicky Mboka-Moyer: EOPSS
Richard Fiske: EOPSS
Amy Reilly: MAPC
Lauren Sacks: MAPC
Rosemary Volinski: MAPC
Mark Fine: MAPC

The following documents were used/referenced during the meeting:

- March 10, 2022 Meeting Agenda
- February 10, 2022 Meeting Minutes
- FFY19 FFY20, and FFY21 Budget Updates
- March 2022 Project Status Updates
- ARINC Equipment Available for Transfer