



NORTHEAST HOMELAND SECURITY REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Full Council Meeting

Minutes

April 14, 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 1:18pm.

Approval of Minutes from the March 10, 2022 Meeting.

MOTION put forth by Chief B. Moriarty.

- Approve the March 10, 2022 meeting minutes.
- Seconded by J. Brickett.
 - In Favor: J. Brickett, P. Cohen, Chief J. Fisher, Chief T. Judge, Chief J. LeLacheur, D. Spinosa, J. Sanchez, Chief B. Moriarty, C. Ryan, A. Alpert, C. Cousens, E. Chao.
 - Opposed: None.
 - Abstain: Chief N. Hovey.
- The motion passed.

EOPSS/MAPC Updates

- EOPSS Update – B. Podsiadlo provided an update on behalf of EOPSS. EOPSS is expecting the NOFO closer to May 13th. This would mean the application will require a quick turnaround. EOPSS has not received further information from FEMA regarding the frozen cache funds.
- MAPC Update – A. Reilly provided an update on behalf of MAPC. MAPC hired someone and has filled their open position.

Council Meeting Location

- As discussed last month, Burlington Town Hall informed us that due to increased meeting room needs for 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.
- Please let us know if you have any suggestions or connections.

Council Membership

- Open Public Schools Seat
 - We received letters of interest and resumes from 3 candidates for the open Public

- Schools representative seat, which are included in the meeting packet.
- The Council will invite the candidates to the June Council meeting to perform informal interviews.

Budget Updates

- Council members were provided with copies of the FFY19, FFY20, FFY21 budgets in the meeting packet.
- FFY19 funding has been extended to June 30, 2022.
- FFY20 Grant End Date: July 31, 2022. MAPC will be requesting an extension from EOPSS until June 2023.
- FFY21 Grant End Date: July 31, 2023.

Project Updates

- Statewide CISO Project
 - We have been having bi-weekly check in meetings with the consultant.
 - The consultant, B. Riley Services is starting to draft the final report and recommendations.
 - The next meeting is scheduled for April 22, 2022.
- NEMLEC SWAT Radios
 - This project is still waiting on State Contract PSE01 to be finalized between Motorola and the MA Operational Services Division.
 - There are several projects waiting on this contract, so we are checking in regularly for updates and have been told they expect it to be finalized shortly, terms have been sorted out and just waiting on signatures.
- Merrimack Valley Camera System Expansion
 - This project is an expansion of an existing surveillance camera system operated by the City of Lawrence and the Lawrence Police Department into several of the surrounding municipalities. Cameras would be added to key access ways in Methuen, Andover, and North Andover.
 - The PJ has been submitted to EOPSS and a meeting is scheduled with Chief Vasque of the Lawrence PD next week to discuss the EHP.

ARINC Equipment Transfer

- This is the interoperability equipment that Ashland Fire Department has from a previous project which they no longer have use for.
- No Council members notified me of interest in re-purposing the equipment by the deadline last month of March 12.
- The equipment has now been offered to regional stakeholders, and their deadline to express interest is April 18.
- If there is no interest from stakeholders, then the Council can request EOPSS approval to dispose of the equipment.

NERAC Ambubus and Evacuation Vehicles

- Ambubus Repairs
 - The Council discussed how they would be reaching out to contacts to find a new location that can house and maintain the Ambubus before moving forward with trying to fix the power steering.
 - There is a company located in Cambridge that has shown interest in hosting the Ambubus. A meeting will be scheduled with company representatives to outline responsibilities.
 - MVRTA can work with their mechanic to fix the power steering if the bus will be transferred to the interested company.
- Evacuation Vehicles Disposition
 - During the February meeting, the Council voted to dispose of the 3 Evacuation

Vehicles housed at MVRTA. MAPC drafted the disposal letter and will be sending it to EOPSS for approval.

- MVRTA will remove the NERAC logos on the vehicles.

FFY22 Plan Development Process

- The preliminary guidance was to expect level funding for FY22 (State Homeland Security Program: received \$415,000,000 in FFY21 and NERAC received around 1.4 million)
- The six national priority areas, along with the relevant minimum spend requirement, are:
 - Enhancing the protection of soft targets/crowded places – 3% minimum spend;
 - Enhancing information and intelligence sharing and cooperation with federal agencies, including the Department of Homeland Security – 3% minimum spend;
 - Combating domestic violent extremism – 3% minimum spend;
 - NEW: Enhancing community preparedness and resilience – 3% minimum spend;
 - Enhancing cybersecurity – no minimum spend requirement; and
 - NEW: Enhancing election security – no minimum spend requirement.
- The FFY22 project request forms were sent out to committees and stakeholders. The Committees should start developing a list of related projects based on this preliminary guidance for the Full Council to review. The Council will receive project ideas from both NERAC Committees and stakeholders from within the region and will most likely be reviewing these requests during the next Full Council meeting in May to create a preliminary list/plan.

Interoperable Communications at NERAC Trainings and Exercises

- Recently there have been discussions regarding incorporating interoperable communications as a larger component of all trainings and exercises, and including the SWIC and subject matter experts in the planning and evaluation of these events.
- This was discussed at the Interop and T&E Committee meetings, so we wanted to make the Full Council aware of the conversations as well.
- We will be adding Rich Fiske (SWIC) to the contact list for all T&E planning teams so he can oversee the communications and interoperability elements.
- We are reviewing other requirements that may need to be put in place regarding procedures and approvals, and will report back when we have a more clear picture of how that will look going forward.

Committee/Working Group Updates

- Training & Exercise – Chief J. Gilliland
 - The committee voted to shifted funding to assist in the spend down of FFY19 funding.
 - Burlington FSE occurred April 3rd and it went very well.
 - The CLSW RTF Training will be taking place April 26th & 27th and May 4th & 5th.
 - The Topsfield School Evacuation Exercise is moving forward and is scheduled for May 20th.
 - The virtual offering of BDLS received overwhelming interest. We had 30 people on the waiting list, so MAPC will look into the possibility of providing another offering.
 - ADLS will take place June 28th and 29th.
 - The Active Shooter Training MOU and borrowing policy is in place.
 - ATIRC and LASER will be on June 14th-16th and July 26th-28th 2022.
 - The Regional Stop the Bleed training was discussed due to the BF/OT not being capped at \$35/hr for instructors.

MOTION put forth by Chief N. Hovey.

- Motion to remove the \$35/hr cap on BF/OT reimbursement for instructors only, as long as the project stays within the allocated funding.
- Seconded by Chief J. Fisher.
 - In Favor: J. Brickett, P. Cohen, Chief J. Fisher, Chief T. Judge, Chief J. LeLacheur, D.

Spinosa, J. Sanchez, Chief B. Moriarty, C. Ryan, C. Cousens, E. Chao, Chief N. Hovey, M. Foster.

- Opposed: None.
- Abstain: None.
- The motion passed.

- Interoperability/Info Sharing – C. Ryan
 - Essex County Fire Chiefs UHF Receiver Project- received SIEC approval and are moving forward with the procurement.
 - Fire District 5 and 15 Portable Radio Cache - completed engraving and programming of radios and working on finding missing equipment.
 - Fire District 6 Communications Upgrades – The IFB is out and due next week.
 - 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 – Waiting on PSE-01 contract.
 - Littleton All-Band Console – Received EHP approval.
 - The Metrofire North Feasibility Study- The PJ was sent to EOPSS.
 - The Radio Programming Initiative- SEIC approval was received, and they applaud NERAC on this requirement.
 - The Committee is working on updates to the Tactical Interoperable Communications plan.

- Regional Equipment Cache – J. Sanchez
 - The Portable Message Boards were delivered in January.
 - The 500kw Generator should be delivered in June.
 - The Mechanical Vehicle Barricades and Transportation Systems RFQ was conducted and only one quote was received. No contract will be awarded for this solicitation because the low quote exceeded the price threshold for this type of procurement. An Invitation For Bids will be issued instead.
 - The 30kW Trailer RFQ was sent out last week and one quote was received. MAPC is confirming all specifications before awarding the contract to the vendor.
 - The Cache maintenance and operations PJ was approved by EOPSS.
 - Lexington is no longer interested in being a cache site. Equipment will most likely be relocated to Beverly. They will eventually need to look for another cache site location to ensure they remain regional assets.
 - New MOUs have been drafted for the two cache sites.

- Evacuation/Sheltering – N. Berger
 - Free Fares in March made an impact on transportation ridership.
 - There is a driver shortage across the transit industry.
 - The Sheltering Committee has been going over potential project ideas for FFY22 and will be surveying the region to see if there is a need for regional shelters.

Discipline & State Agency Liaison Updates

- Discipline Updates:
 - Law Enforcement- EOPSS announced and invited regional teams to a discussion on a proactive integrated hostile incident response to follow a statewide model on Tuesday April 26th.
 - Cybersecurity- Threat awareness on nation states developing air industrial control systems. E. Chao and C. Cousens met and worked on project proposals for FFY22 with MAPC.
 - Public Safety Communications- TRT program and communications program with overarching COMLS and COMTS is being received very well. The TRT program will be presented to the 911 Commission. Federal requirement for 988 instead of 911 for mental health calls may be rolled out in July.
 - Correctional Services- The Essex County Sheriffs opened a STAR program in

Lawrence. This is a new community corrections initiative, which is offering programs and clinical assistance.

- State Agency Liaison Updates
 - Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency- MEMA supported the Burlington Mall FSE on April 3rd and will also be helping with the CLSW RTF Training at the end of the month. MEMA also has plenty of PPE for distribution.

New Business Unforeseen by the Chair

- The BF/OT of COMLs and COMTs was discussed.
- M. Foster would like to note an abstention.

MOTION put forth by D. Spinosa.

- Motion to change the \$35/hr cap to \$60/hr cap on BF/OT reimbursement for the COML and COMT programming project only, as long as the project stays within the allocated funding.
- Seconded by C. Ryan.
 - In Favor: J. Brickett, P. Cohen, Chief J. Fisher, Chief T. Judge, D. Spinosa, J. Sanchez, Chief B. Moriarty, C. Ryan, C. Cousens, E. Chao, Chief N. Hovey, M. Foster.
 - Opposed: None.
 - Abstain: None.
- The motion passed.

- The Town of Hudson has a foam trailer and would like to find the means to dispose of the NERAC asset due to PFAS issues. This issue will be added to next month's agenda.

MOTION put forth by J. Sanchez.

- Adjourn.
- Seconded by Chief N. Hovey.
 - In Favor: J. Brickett, P. Cohen, Chief J. Fisher, Chief T. Judge, D. Spinosa, J. Sanchez, Chief B. Moriarty, C. Ryan, C. Cousens, E. Chao, Chief N. Hovey, M. Foster.
 - Opposed: None.
 - Abstain: None.
- The motion passed.

**** Next Meeting: May 12, 2022****

ATTENDEES - COUNCIL MEMBERS

Chief Jason Gilliland, Chair: Marblehead Fire Department
Chief John Fisher: Carlisle Police Department
Mark Foster: Director, Beverly Emergency Management
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
John Brickett: Executive Director, Northeast EMS

Chief Neal Hovey: Topsfield Police Department

ABSENT- COUNCIL MEMBERS

Bill Klag: Emergency Preparedness Director, North Shore Medical Center

Sheriff Kevin Coppinger: Essex County Sheriff

Christopher Malone: Superintendent, Tewksbury Public Schools

Dave Ouellette: Dracut Public Health

ATTENDEES – OTHER

Lauren Sardella: MEMA Region 1

Heather Tecce: MEMA Region 1

Matt Kolhonen: MEMA Region 1

Lenny Imbrascio: FBI

Anita Arnum: Acton Fire Department

Mike Collins: City of Beverly

Ben Podsiadlo: EOPSS

Amy Reilly: MAPC

Lauren Sacks: MAPC

Rosemary Volinski: MAPC

The following documents were used/referenced during the meeting:

- April 14, 2022 Meeting Agenda
- March 10, 2022 Meeting Minutes
- FFY19 FFY20, and FFY21 Budget Updates
- April 2022 Project Status Updates
- Cover letters and resumes for open Public Schools seat