



NORTHEAST HOMELAND SECURITY REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Interoperability Committee Meeting

Minutes

October 8, 2024

9:30 am

*North Shore Regional 911 Center
18 Manning Avenue, Middleton, MA 01949*

▪ **Call to Order**

- Chair C. Ryan called the meeting to order at 9:30am.

▪ **Approval of Minutes**

- June 11, 2024 Meeting Minutes

MOTION put forth by J. Griffin.

- Approve the June 11, 2024 Meeting Minutes.
- Seconded by R. Patterson.
 - In favor: All.
 - Opposed: None.
 - Abstain: None.
- The motion passed.

▪ **Budget Updates**

- FFY20 – Ended June 30, 2024
- FFY21 – Grant End Date: June 30, 2025
- FFY22 – Grant End Date: July 31, 2025
- FFY23 – Grant End Date: July 31, 2025
- FFY24 – NERAC’s plan is with EOPSS for approval. Contracts have not been signed yet but funds (\$1,273,346.48) are expected to be available from approximately November 2024 - July 2026.

▪ **Project Updates**

- *ECFCA UHF Receivers*
 - Final draft of specs with diagrams are being reviewed at MAPC.
 - MAPC will conduct a State Contract RFQ, soliciting quotes from 3 TXRX re-sellers on contract.
- *ECFCA Wide Area Network VHF Console Radios*
 - There were conversations needed in order to get Rockport fully on board, but that has been resolved.
 - MAPC will be able to conduct a state contract procurement with a vendor they are comfortable with.
 - The PJ/ICIP were already approved (for 3 communities, but EOPSS has been updated that changed to 2), and the EHP has now been submitted to EOPSS/FEMA.
 - Once approved, next step is procurement.
- *Field Comm Units 20 & 60 Upgrades*

- Equipment was procured, installation procurement was attempted but did not receive responsive quotes and vendors had questions, so we will be re-doing procurement.
 - R. Patterson will assist with obtaining pictures of the vehicles to include in the scope so vendors can determine the necessary antenna kits without having to conduct site visits in order to quote.
- *FD-6 MW Groton to Westford*
 - Most of the work was completed, took some back-and-forth to get the correct prevailing wage documentation from Cyber Comm in order to pay invoice.
 - Remaining work: delivery/installation/programming of the IP Backhaul Remote, Site Voter Module, GTR 8000 Base Radio, and GPW 8000 Receiver.
 - Some equipment was damaged by lightning. Spares that had been purchased were installed, and the town is covering the matter through their insurance.
- *GBPC Microwave Routers and Switches*
 - The Committee voted to expand the project to as many sites as possible within the allocated funding of \$56,530.
 - Questions on some specification details and site locations are with Tyler, and MACP will submit a PJ amendment to EOPSS once that information is received.
- *Metrofire North District Radio Common Platform*
 - D. Frizzell will share the equipment list with MAPC once he receives it, the MAPC will complete the PJ-ICIP and submit for SIEC approval.
- *NERAC Radio Programming Initiative*
 - D. Spinoso updated the Committee that getting participation has been difficult due to the current nature of department staffing and workloads, and that the project as planned will not be feasible.
 - The Committee discussed alternative options to achieve similar goals, such as programming trainings based on department needs and a best practices document specific to public safety.
 - It was determined that the first step would be sending a survey to all NERAC police chiefs, fire chiefs, and town administrators to collect contact information for the person who handles radio programming for each department/municipality.
- **Radio Comms Checklist: Northern NERAC Active Shooter Training**
 - The NERAC Radio Communications Checklist for the Northern NERAC Active Shooter Training, along with the ERR/TRR, were submitted to the Committee for review and to determine if any support should be offered.
 - R. Holcroft was in touch with SWIC R. Fiske to determine plans and did submit an ICS-205.
- **School Radio Best Practices**
 - The latest version of the one-page flyer was provided in the meeting packet.
 - The Committee decided to resume work on this in November after some major regional events are over.
- **State Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC) Updates**
 - SIEC has not had a recent meeting.

- There was a call for state TERT to North Carolina in response to the hurricanes, but the MA team is not out of state certified.
- **New Business Unforeseen by the Chair**
 - C. Ryan addressed the following topics:
 - The FD-5/15 Mobile Gateway Radios and Recorders project will be included on future agendas to track, even though NERAC's portion is complete.
 - R. Patterson is retiring as Chief but will still be involved in EMS and therefore can remain a Committee member.
 - The November meeting will be held in person, and the format will be reevaluated for the December and January meetings.
 - D. Spinosa addressed the following topics:
 - Salem is seeing record crowds for Haunted Happenings and have patched Salem PD with ATAC and area wide channels.
 - The 250th concord Lexington celebration will be a large undertaking, coinciding with the marathon, and every available channel will likely be needed.
 - R. Patterson discussed considerations for keeping 4.9 in the public realm and whether or not to turn it over to AT&T/FirstNet.

MOTION put forth by D. Frizzell.

- Adjourn the meeting.
- Seconded by A. Chadis.
 - In favor: All.
 - Opposed: None.
 - Abstain: None.
- The motion passed.

* Next Meeting: November 12, 2024 *

ATTENDEES - COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Stephanie Brown: Beverly Public Safety Dispatch

Alex Chadis: Newton Fire Department

Dave Frizzell: Metrofire

Joe Griffin: Greater Boston Police Council

Scott Morrison: Tri-Town School Union*

Rich Patterson: Dracut Fire Department

Graham Rowe: North Andover Fire Department

Chris Ryan: North Shore Regional 911 Center*

Dave Spinosa: Essex County Sheriff's Department*

Joe Targ: Westford Fire Department

ATTENDEES - OTHER

Lauren Sacks: Metropolitan Area Planning Council

ABSENT

Mike Collins: Beverly Public Services & Engineering*

Tyler Dechene: Middleton Fire Department
Michael Mansfield: Andover Fire Rescue
Mike Kass: Northeast Regional Ambulance Service

The following documents were used/referenced during the meeting:

- October 2024 Meeting Agenda
- June 2024 Meeting Minutes
- FFY20, FFY21, FFY22, and FFY23 Budget Updates
- Northern NERAC Active Shooter T&E Program
 - Radio Communications Checklist:
 - ICS-205 Form
 - Exercise Review Request (ERR) & Training Review Request (TRR)
- School Radio Best Practices Draft