



NORTHEAST HOMELAND SECURITY REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Interoperability Committee Meeting

Minutes

November 12, 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 9:36 am.
- The Committee observed a moment of silence to honor the memory of long-time member Mark Foster, who recently passed away.
- **Approval of Minutes**
 - October 8, 2024 Meeting Minutes

MOTION put forth by D. Frizzell

- Approve the October 8, 2024 Meeting Minutes.
- Seconded by R. Patterson
 - In favor: All
 - Opposed: None
 - Abstain: None
- The motion passed.

- **Budget Updates**
 - Copies of the FFY20-FFY23 budgets were included in the meeting packet.
 - FFY20 – Ended: June 30, 2024
 - The Council approved funding transfers to close out FFY20 which included shifting the grant year funding for some Interoperability projects, but overall Interoperability funding amounts were not affected.
 - 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 are expected to be available from approximately November 2024 - July 2026.
- **Project Updates**
 - *ECFCA UHF Receivers*
 - MAPC submitted the revised PJ/ICIP to EOPSS for the November SIEC meeting, and there were some follow-up questions.
 - This will be re-submitted to SIEC at a later date after consultation with T. Dechene.
 - *ECFCA Wide Area Network VHF Console Radios*
 - EHP approvals for Rockport and Beverly have been received.

- Draft specs are being reviewed for procurement.
 - *Field Comm Units 20 & 60 Upgrades*
 - The RFQ for installation services is due on November 13th.
 - *FD-5/15 Mobile Gateway Radios and Recorders*
 - NERAC's portion of this project (equipment purchase) is complete.
 - The project will remain an agenda item to continue tracking until installation is complete.
 - *FD-6 MW Groton to Westford*
 - The IP Backhaul Remote and Site Voter Module have been delivered to Cyber Comm.
 - Motorola shipping delays on GTR8000 and GPW 8000 – estimated ship date end of December.
 - Cyber Comm is working to expedite if possible.
 - *GBPC Microwave Routers and Switches*
 - Questions on locations and equipment needed are with T. Dechene to finalize specifications for procurement.
 - *Metrofire North District Radio Common Platform*
 - D. Frizzell is awaiting information on equipment needs from Metrofire.
 - *NERAC Radio Programming Initiative*
 - The Committee continued previous discussions on changes to the project.
 - Questions for Part 1 (to leadership) and Part 2 (to radio contacts) were discussed and finalized.
 - Part 1 is ready to be sent out, and MAPC will send a draft of Part 2 to C. Ryan for approval.
- **AAR: Northern NERAC Active Shooter Training**
 - The After Action Report for this project was included in the meeting packet for the Committee to review interoperability considerations.
 - D. Spinosa attended part of the training and reported that it went smoothly with minimal issues, though it was simplified for training purposes. The NEMLEC command post was on site and UTAC/VTAC channels were used from the beginning, which would not occur during a real event.
 - Several New Hampshire municipalities attended and declined NEMLEC's offers to patch their radios.
 - **School Radio Best Practices**
 - Committee members working on this have not had a chance to meet due to large events and brushfires.
 - R. Patterson will submit a draft for the next meeting.
 - **State Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC) Updates**
 - *Massachusetts Interoperable Field Operations Guide (MIFOG) Update*
 - D. Spinosa reported the following:
 - There will be a MIFOG update meeting next week, which he will attend.
 - UTAC being used in response to the brushfires locally is being run through a shelter/tower which was funded through NERAC, and the are would not have UTAC coverage if not for this investment.
 - NERAC-funded cache radios have been in use by the Essex County Fire Chiefs Association.
 - **Format for December and January Committee Meetings**

- The Committee determined:
 - The December 2024 meeting will be held in person.
 - The January 2025 meeting will be held virtually.
 - Additional virtual meetings may be held through the winter.

- **New Business Unforeseen by the Chair**
 - C. Ryan announced that J. Targ will be retiring as Chief at the end of December.

MOTION put forth by J. Griffin.

- Adjourn the meeting.
- Seconded by M. Kass
 - o In favor: All
 - o Opposed: None
 - o Abstain: None
- The motion passed.

*** Next Meeting: December 10, 2024 ***

ATTENDEES - COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Stephanie Brown: Beverly Public Safety Dispatch
 Dave Frizzell: Metrofire
 Joe Griffin: Greater Boston Police Council
 Mike Kass: Northeast Regional Ambulance Service
 Scott Morrison: Tri-Town School Union*
 Rich Patterson: Region 3 EMS
 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 – COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Alex Chadis: Newton Fire Department
 Mike Collins: Beverly Public Services & Engineering*
 Tyler Dechene: Middleton Fire Department
 Michael Mansfield: Andover Fire Rescue
 Graham Rowe: North Andover Fire Department

The following documents were used/referenced during the meeting:

- November 2024 Meeting Agenda
- October 2024 Meeting Minutes
- FFY20, FFY21, FFY22, and FFY23 Budget Updates
- Northern NERAC Active Shooter T&E Program AAR