



NORTHEAST HOMELAND SECURITY REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Full Council Meeting

Minutes

December 12, 2024

1:00pm

*MPTC Lynnfield Police Academy
425 Walnut St, Lynnfield, MA 01940*

- **Call to Order**
 - Chair J. Gilliland called the meeting to order at 1:02 PM.
- **Approval of Minutes from the November 14, 2024 Meeting**

MOTION put forth by N. Hovey.

- Approve the November 14, 2024 Meeting Minutes
- Seconded by J. Fisher
 - In Favor: All
 - Opposed: None
 - Abstain: None
- The motion passed.
- **EOPSS/OGR Updates**
 - S. Malloy was unable to attend but sent the following updates:
 - I am sad to announce the departure of our Homeland Security Division Chief Ben Podsiadlo. We understand that this news may come as a surprise to you and may raise concerns about the continuity of our services. You can be assured that we have taken the steps to ensure a smooth transition of his responsibilities to the capable hands of our Homeland Security Division Manager Kathryn Latimer and the entire Homeland team. Moving forward any future correspondence will be directed through me [Sarah].
 - BSIR is open and the timeline has been extended to end of April to input full projects.
- **MAPC Updates**
 - A. Reilly reported that MAPC has hired Karla Kahale to fill the Program Specialist / NERAC Program Manager position, beginning January 6th, 2025. Karla has a Bachelors in Political Science from Clark University and a Masters in Criminal Justice from Salem State. She brings program management experience from her time at the Central MA Housing Alliance and more recently has overseen constituent services work for Massachusetts State Senators Harriette Chandler and Michael Brady.



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- **Council Membership Update**

- *Open Public Health Seat*
 - D. Ouellette has resigned from the Council due to scheduling conflicts.
 - The seat will be advertised to Public Health agents throughout the region.
 - Applicants will be sent to EOPSS for approval first and then approved candidates will be presented to NERAC.

- **Budget Updates**

- FY21 Grant End Date: June 30, 2025
- FY22 Grant End Date: July 31, 2025
- FY23 Grant End Date: July 31, 2025
- FY24 Grant End Date: June 30, 2026
 - NERAC now has access to FFY24 funding. Earlier deadlines will be prioritized, but urgent FFY24 projects can begin soon.

- **Project Updates**

- *Beverly Dive Team Equipment*
 - Funds 12 dry suits and buoyancy compensators for the Beverly Dive Team.
 - PO issued in November, sizing has occurred, delivery is expected in early February.
- *Cybersecurity Incident Response Project*
 - The contract was extended to March 31st but Securance expects to be done sooner.
 - Securance, MAPC, and C. Cousens met on November 25th to discuss plans for Task 2: Incident Response Plans.
- *District 6 JHIRT Equipment*
 - Atlantic Tactical delivered the wrong items to Wilmington, Chief Cavanaugh preferred to continue working with them rather than re-procure.
 - Atlantic Tactical has promised early January delivery.
 - FFY22 D.01 \$11,421.63, Invoiced: \$4,673.88, Remaining: \$6,747.75
- *NEMLEC Ballistic Helmets*
 - The PO was issued in August, sizing was conducted, and delivery is expected in January.
 - Body Armor Outlet is changing names and will be processing the order as Vantage Armor.
 - MAPC legal and requested proof of the name change.
 - BAO will need to submit proof of the name change to MAPC legal, then MAPC can adjust the order to the new company name.
- *NEMLEC Ballistic Shields*
 - MAPC is working on the PJ to submit to EOPSS.
- *Portable Morgue Expansion Cube*
 - In October the Council voted to allocate \$34,490 for a Morgue CUBE as a regional cache item.



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- PJ was approved by EOPSS and MAPC is conducting a joint IFB because also purchasing one through a different grant program.
 - IFB responses are due December 30th.
 - *Pre-Hospital EMS Blood Transfusion Program*
 - In October the Council voted to allocate \$9,167.29 for specialized equipment to administer pre-hospital EMS blood transfusions.
 - PJ was approved by EOPSS, procurement conducted, and delivery expected December 15th.
- **Inventory and Disposal Updates**
 - All stakeholders and inventory host contacts were emailed with information on the responsibilities of hosting NERAC-funded equipment and the list of items that are currently approved for disposal.
 - MAPC is working on the remaining items that require additional EOPSS approval or transfer MOUs.
 - Foam Trailers:
 - The disposal request letter with required information was signed by Chief Gilliland and Chief Johnston from Ayer, and is with Chief Desautels from Hudson for review and signature.
- **Committee/Working Group Updates**
 - *Training & Exercise*
 - The Committee voted to shift funding for the Hamilton-Wenham drill to BF/OT reimbursement instead of a consultant.
 - The ASIM and Reunification Equipment PJ was submitted to EOPSS.
 - The Blue Card Incident Command Training TRR was submitted to EOPSS.
 - The Weston/Wayland/Lincoln ASHER Training has been postponed.
 - Technical rescue team AAR/ERRs were approved.
 - *Interoperability/Info Sharing*
 - Continuing to work on wide area network VHF console project.
 - Installation for Field Comm 20/60 upgrades will be procured with revised specifications.
 - The Committee is discussing other solutions for the NERAC radio programming initiative and is surveying departments in the region
 - School Radio Best practices draft document will be forwarded to the SWIC for input.
 - The MIFOG revision working group held a meeting.
 - Chief Joseph Targ of Westford Fire Department, representing District 6 on the Interop Committee, is retiring. The Committee suggests appointing Captain Matt Svatek as his replacement.

MOTION put forth by C. Ryan.

- Appoint Captain Matt Svatek to the NERAC Interoperability Committee.
- Seconded by J. Fisher
 - In Favor: All



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- Opposed: None
- Abstain: None

The motion passed.

- *Regional Equipment Cache*
 - The Beverly cache is rehabbing equipment which was heavily used during the Topsfield Fair and Halloween.
 - Requests to borrow equipment for the Concord and Lexington 250th Anniversary have been coming in.
 - Specifications are being developed for the gator firefighting skids.
- *Evacuation/Sheltering*
 - None.
- *Concord and Lexington 250th Anniversary Public Safety Preparations*
 - Communities have been submitting resource requests and continuing planning meetings.
- **Discipline & State Agency Liaison Updates**
 - *Discipline Updates:*
 - Cybersecurity – NERAC's 3 cybersecurity representatives are also in cyber resilient mass working group, and will share products for readiness with the Council when they are released.
 - Hospitals – Fatality management plans will be re-written with the arrival of the morgue expansion cubes. Hospitals are full. They are looking into rewriting emergent pathogens plan for the winter season.
 - Public Safety Communications – NERAC cache radios used (ECFCA and ECCOPA) and tower equipment in Middleton were critical for coordinating communications during the wildfire response.
 - Public Schools – ICS work is advancing, and proposals have been submitted to present the work at a summer conference.
 - *State Agency Liaison Updates:*
 - Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency – MEMA is hosting a quarterly EMD meeting on Dec 17th and a Shelter Ops meeting on January 10th.
- **New Business Unforeseen by the Chair**
 - It was noted that the NEMLEC IMT Van is a priority to move forward now that FFY24 funding is available.

MOTION put forth by N. Hovey.

- Adjourn the meeting.
- Seconded by J. Fisher
 - In Favor: All
 - Opposed: None
 - Abstain: None

The motion passed.



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****Next Meeting: January 9, 2025****

ATTENDEES – COUNCIL MEMBERS

Chief Jason Gilliland, Chair: Marblehead Fire Department
Chief John Fisher, Vice Chair: Bedford Police Department
Allan Alpert: City of Melrose Emergency Management
Eric Christenson: Northeast EMS
Paul Cohen: Town of Chelmsford
Mike Collins: Beverly DPW
Colby Cousens: Town of Danvers Information Technology
Chief Neal Hovey: Topsfield Police Department
Chief Tom Judge: Concord Fire Department
Chief John LeLacheur: Beverly Police Department
Chief Derek Sencabaugh: Lexington Fire Department
Heather Tecce: Lowell Emergency Management
Dr. Scott Morrison: Tri Town School Union
Christopher Ryan: North Shore Regional 911 Center
Dave Spinosa: Essex County Sheriff's Department

ABSENT – COUNCIL MEMBERS

Dorinda Goodman: Town of Lexington Information Technology
Bill Klag: Emergency North Shore Medical Center
Ryan Knowles: City of Gloucester Information Services
Dr. Stephen Zrike: Salem Public Schools

ATTENDEES – OTHER

Amy Reilly: MAPC
David Rodham: MEMA
Lauren Sacks: MAPC
Jake Santarelli: Hamilton Police Department

The following documents were used/referenced during the meeting:

- December 2024 Meeting Agenda
- November 2024 Meeting Minutes
- FFY21-24 Budget Updates