



# NORTHEAST HOMELAND SECURITY REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

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## Full Council Meeting

### MINUTES

*March 14, 2024*

*1:00pm*

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

- **Call to Order**

- Chair Chief J. Gilliland called the meeting to order at 1:01 PM

- **Approval of Minutes from the February 8, 2024 Meeting**

MOTION put forth by B. Moriarty.

- Approve the February 8, 2024 meeting minutes.
- Seconded by N. Hovey.
  - In Favor: All
  - Opposed: None.
  - Abstain: None.
- The motion passed.

- **EOPSS/MAPC Updates**

- EOPSS – S. Malloy provided an update. Joshua Gaucher-Torres has joined the EOPSS/OGR team. OGR is accepting applications for car seat funding, which will be disbursed first-come first-served until August 31, 2024 or until funds are depleted. The Municipal Cyber Grant and the additional MA Non-Profit Security Grant were due and are being reviewed. EOPSS representatives attended NERAC's AAIR training in Bedford and commended the Council on the program.

- **Budget Updates**

- FFY20 – Grant End Date: June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024
  - MAPC expects to be able to close this out FFY20 shortly with some invoices that came in and the Council's previous vote allowing transfers of even swaps for closeout.
- FFY21 – Grant End Date: June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024 – MAPC will be requesting an extension.
- FFY22 – Grant End Date: July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024 – MAPC will be requesting an extension.
- FFY23 – Grant End Date: July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025
- NEMLEC Ballistic Shields Transfer
  - There is \$10,900.00 in FFY21 I.02 allocated for 1 tactical rolling mobile ballistic shield and \$30,000 in FFY23 for 6 ballistic shields to replace existing ones that are past their expiration (their original request was \$55,000, but \$25,000 was B-Listed).
  - Chief S. Nix of NEMLEC SWAT has requested the Council's approval to no longer purchase the rolling mobile shield, and to combine the funding for the purchase of the other ballistic shields.

MOTION put forth by N. Hovey.



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- Defund FFY21 I.02 Mobile Shield and reallocate the \$10,900 to support FFY23 B.03 NEMLEC SWAT Ballistic Shields.
- Seconded by T. Judge.
  - In Favor: All
  - Opposed: None.
  - Abstain: None.
- The motion passed.

- **Project Updates**

- *NEMLEC Ballistic Helmets*
  - The IFB for 60 ballistic helmets and accessories has been sent out to vendors and bids are due by March 26th.
- *Merrimack Valley Camera System Expansion*
  - MAPC is researching to get a better understanding of how the cameras are installed and function to determine if procurement of the new ones will require a revised EHP, SIEC approval, municipal and utility company approvals, etc.
- *District 6 JHIRT Equipment*
  - Equipment was delivered to Wilmington but some colors and sizes were not what was ordered, so we are working with Atlantic Tactical to correct this.
- *FD-14 Tech Rescue Equipment*
  - All items have been delivered and the invoices are being processed. This project is complete.
- *Cybersecurity Incident Response Project*
  - The consultant for this project will be procured through an RFP so that we are not restricted to the lowest bidder and can take into account more qualitative factors such as experience and plan of approach.
  - The scope of work and evaluation criteria are being finalized and the RFP will be sent out shortly.

- **Concord and Lexington 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Public Safety Preparations**

- Due to the expected scale and VIP attendance of these events in our region in April 2025, EOPSS has asked for this to be added as a recurring agenda item for relevant parties to provide briefings.
- Chief Ranger R. Biddle of Minute Man National Historical Park in Concord reached out about having some of their staff participate in NERAC's upcoming Active Attack Integrated Response courses to train with other local first-responders ahead of this event, so MAPC will notify them when the new courses are scheduled.
- Concord Fire Chief T. Judge provided an update.
  - The communities have been planning since early Fall for around 300,00-500,00 attendees over the course of the various events.
  - Arlington, Concord, Lincoln, and Lexington are the main communities involved, and they are also working with the National Park Service and Bedford.
  - They are planning for full department staffing along with HAZMAT, CBRNE, Technical Rescue, Strike Teams, fixed EMS locations, SWAT, snipers, etc.
  - They are planning for 4 EOCs managed by the individual communities but under the umbrella of UCC for resource distribution.
  - The events will occur around the same time as the Boston Marathon, so resources will have to be managed carefully.
  - Dignitary visits are likely.
  - A MEMA planner has been supporting the communities' efforts.



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\*The agenda was taken out of order to address some **Committee/Working Group Updates** before **FFY24 Plan Development**.

- **Committee/Working Group Updates**

- *Interoperability/ Info Sharing*

- Methuen to NSR911 Radio Transfer

- Methuen Asst. Fire Chief M. Fluet has a NERAC Radio that was part of the Region III EMS / CMED deployment that still works but they no longer have a use for because new equipment was installed as part of their department system upgrade.
      - NERAC Inventory #N10794 is a Console XTL 5000, Serial # 276CMK0083
      - It was purchased in 2011 with \$4,784.34 of FFY07 funding.
      - At their previous meeting, the Interoperability Committee voted to suggest transferring it to the North Shore Regional 911 center and making it available to the region if needed for backup with priority given to Northeast EMS if needed for backup or parts.

MOTION put forth by N. Hovey.

- Approve the transfer of the radio from Methuen Fire Department to NSR911 as suggested by the Interoperability Committee.
- Seconded by P. Cohen.
  - In Favor: All
  - Opposed: None.
  - Abstain: C. Ryan.
- The motion passed.

- *Regional Equipment Cache*

- Cache Fee Expenditure Procurement

- The Committee was instructed by EOPSS to spend down the balance of \$76,144.79 from the accounts that were previously used to collect cache fees since that is no longer allowable.
      - An IFB was conducted to procure 2 gator vehicles, one each for the Beverly and Framingham cache sites.
      - Two bids were received for \$89,672 and \$95,916.
      - MAPC is still reviewing bid documents to confirm whether they meet specs and requirements, so are not yet sure which vendor will be awarded, but would like issue the PO as soon as possible to close out the accounts as EOPSS instructed should be done quickly.

MOTION put forth by N. Hovey.

- Allow additional funds as needed, not to exceed \$20,000, from FFY21 Cache Unallocated to be used towards the Cache Program Income gator vehicle procurement.
- Seconded by E. Christensen.
  - In Favor: All
  - Opposed: None.
  - Abstain: C. Ryan.
- The motion passed.

- *Evacuation/Sheltering*

- Committee Member Appointment



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- At the last meeting re-instating the Evacuation/Sheltering Committee with several members from the Council, but an official vote is needed in order to appoint Committee members.

MOTION put forth by B. Moriarty.

- Appoint Eric Christensen, Mike Collins, Chief J. Gilliland, Dave Ouellette, and Heather Tecce as Evacuation/Sheltering Committee members.
- Seconded by N. Hovey.
  - In Favor: All
  - Opposed: None.
  - Abstain: None.
- The motion passed.

- **FFY24 Plan Development**

- Project Request Forms were sent out to regional stakeholders and were due on Feb 29<sup>th</sup>.
- The Cache, Interoperability, and T&E Committees have reviewed requests that fell within their respective categories to make their suggestions to the Council.
- Stakeholders who submitted requests were invited to attend the applicable Committee/Council meeting.
- The Council will review the project requests that would be handled by the Full Council and the Committees' suggestions to determine a preliminary FFY24 A-List and B-List.
- The NOFO or priority requirements have not been released by FEMA/EOPSS so today the Council can assume level funding and similar requirements as FFY23 to build a preliminary plan and will rework it as needed.
- The Full Council project requests and backup documentation, project summaries, and evaluation criteria were shared with the Council prior to the meeting.
- During a discussion of drone related project request, B. Podsiadlo of EOPSS noted that the state is putting together task force/working group on drones to provide streamlined guidance so entities are well coordinated relating to funding and operationally, and so that the scale and scope of projects are appropriate and deconflicted.
- The Committee discussed the projects based on the eligibility and evaluation criteria and determined the following FFY24 preliminary budget: (next page)



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Project Name	Request	'A' List	'B' List
<b>Full Council</b>			
FD-14 Tech Rescue Team Equipment [Previous B-List]	\$122,733.82		\$122,733.82
FD-14 Water Rescue Team Equipment [Previous B-List]	\$25,638.88		\$25,638.88
NEMTRT Equipment Updates [Previous B-List]	\$86,746.00		\$86,746.00
Ashby Aerial Protector Drone	\$18,932.00		
Ashland Fire Rescue Utility Vehicle	\$45,000.00		
MAPC Program Management	\$287,325.00	\$287,325.00	
NEMLEC IMT Command Vehicle Replacement	\$200,000.00	\$200,000.00	
NEMLEC SWAT Armored Vehicle (Priority 1)	\$350,000.00		\$350,000.00
NEMLEC SWAT Transport/Equipment Van (Priority 2)	\$75,000.00		\$75,000.00
NEMLEC SWAT Night Vision Capability (Priority 3)	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00	
NEMLEC SWAT Hydraulic Breacher (Priority 4)	\$20,000.00		\$20,000.00
Newbury High Water Vehicle	\$122,525.00	\$122,525.00	
<b>Interoperability</b>			
Dunstable Mutual Aid Mobile Radios	\$68,648.30		
ECFCA Baldpate UHF Receiver	\$17,000.00	\$17,000.00	
ECFCA Electrical Circuit Redundancy	\$35,000.00	\$35,000.00	
ECFCA Pow Wow Hill Fiber Connection	\$40,000.00	\$40,000.00	
ECFCA Pow Wow Hill VHF Receiver	\$17,000.00	\$17,000.00	
EMS Repeater and Multi Discipline Co-Location	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00	
Fire District 6 Simulcast and Receiver upgrade	\$61,768.31	\$61,768.31	
Salisbury Public Safety Communications Improvements	\$193,107.24		
<b>Cache</b>			
Regional Cache Program Maintenance	\$200,000.00	\$200,000.00	
Cache Host Annual Fee	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00	
<b>Training and Exercise</b>			
Cape Ann ASHER Training [Previous B-List]	\$194,040.00		\$194,040.00
RTF Equipment (Weston, Wayland, Lincoln) [Previous B-List]	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00	
Cape Ann ALICE and WAVR-21 Training	\$66,500.00	\$66,500.00	
MetroWest ASHER/MCI Exercise Series	\$87,500.00	\$87,500.00	
Technical Rescue Team Drills	\$64,000.00	\$64,000.00	
<b>TOTALS:</b>	<b>\$2,608,464.55</b>	<b>\$1,408,618.31</b>	<b>\$874,158.70</b>

MOTION put forth by N. Hovey.

- Approve the NERAC FFY24 Preliminary Budget as presented.
  - Seconded by B. Moriarty.
    - In Favor: All.
    - Opposed: None.
    - Abstain: J. LeLacheur.
  - The motion passed.
- **Discipline & State Agency Liaison Updates**
    - *Discipline Updates:*
      - Emergency Management – The EMPG grant is going to FEMA and will be more stringent.
    - *State Agency Liaison Updates*
      - Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency
        - None.



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- **New Business Unforeseen by the Chair**
  - None.

MOTION put forth by N. Hovey.

- Adjourn the meeting.
- Seconded by B. Moriarty.
  - In Favor: All.
  - Opposed: None.
  - Abstain: None.
- The motion passed.

**\*\*Next Meeting: April 11, 2024\*\***

## 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  
Dorinda Goodman: Town of Lexington Information Technology  
Chief Neal Hovey: Topsfield Police Department  
Chief Tom Judge: Concord Fire Department  
Ryan Knowles: City of Gloucester Information Services  
Chief John LeLacheur: Beverly Police Department  
Chief Brian Moriarty: Lawrence Fire Department  
Dr. Scott Morrison: Tri Town School Union  
Dave Ouellette: Dracut Public Health  
Christopher Ryan: North Shore Regional 911 Center  
Dave Spinosa: Essex County Sheriff's Department  
Heather Tecce: Lowell Emergency Management  
Dr. Stephen Zrike: Salem Public Schools

## ABSENT – COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Sheriff Kevin Coppinger: Essex County Sheriff  
Bill Klag: Emergency North Shore Medical Center

## ATTENDEES – OTHER

Chief Dave Evans: Newburyport Fire Department  
Chief Patty Fisher : Newburyport Police Department  
Joshua Gaucher-Torres: EOPSS  
Shawn Green: FD-14 Tech Rescue  
Connor Grenier: NEMTRT  
Matt Kolhonen: MEMA  
Sarah Malloy: EOPSS  
Ben Podsiadlo: EOPSS  
Lauren Sacks: MAPC

## **The following documents were used/referenced during the meeting:**

- March 2024 Meeting Agenda
- February 2024 Meeting Minutes



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- FFY20-23 Budget Updates
- March 2024 Project Updates
- FFY24 NERAC Project Requests
- FFY24 NERAC Suggested Preliminary Budget