

Columbiana County 911 Program Review Committee
Emergency Services Advisory Group
May 1, 2025

PRC members present-Roy Paparodis, Brian McLaughlin, Wayne Chamberlain, Jim Sabatini, Jeff Kreefer

Brian Rutledge, Mary Ann Greir, Peggy Clark, Jeremiah Cole, Michelle Cole, Mark Edwards, Jeena Cadigan (WFMJ)

Meeting opened with Pledge of Allegiance

Financials reviewed by Brian for both CO1 & CO2 motion to accept Jeff Kreefer 2nd Brian McLaughlin

Brian reported on the status of the new 911 wireless fees and what the state is putting together regarding a new formula. The formula being looked at is a five-year plan between this year and 2030. The plan would be based on call volume, and each year, there would be a reduction in funding until we reached 2030. Columbiana County sits at 39th in the county for call volume. There is also an amendment that has been presented to eliminate the sunset of the current rates that would lower the wireless fees back to .25. There was a short discussion on what all the states around Ohio is currently charging for wireless fees.

Brian reported out that our migration to the new NG911 core the end of February. Everything went as planned and there was very little issues during the migration. There was no calls dropped during the migration and the only issue remaining from migration is the mapping. Also during migration the county worked with the CAD vendor to get the ANI/ALI spill to the CAD system.

Just before the migration Equature came out and installed all new 911 recorders at each of the PSAPs.

Annual Wireless Government Funding report was submitted end of February to the State of Ohio and shared with all the political subdivisions in Columbiana County as required by ORC. It was reported that it costs the county almost 3.2 million dollars to operate 911 in the county.

Brian and Peggy met with the Boardman Police Chief regarding how Mahoning County was making the move to all digital and the MARCS system. The story goes back over 10 years ago, when several agencies started a COG and invested in a radio system. In order to move over to the MARCS system, Mahoning County will need to make upgrades to the system before MARCS takes it over. There's a "Justice Tax" that helps fund the COG. There's close to \$250,000 in upgrades that need to be made. In addition to the justice tax, there has been a user fee on each radio and dispatching fees to each agency that they dispatch for.

Support and Compliance will be due in July for any person/dispatcher who answers 911 calls. Brian has been working with each of the PSAPs to gather the necessary information needed for that report.

The Sheriff was asked what would happen in the county if the Sales Tax doesn't pass. Sheriff McLaughlin stated that there would be significant cuts to the Sheriff's Office. There would be little cuts to the communications division due to having to maintain the 911 PSAP.

Next meeting here August 7 at 1pm