

**Columbiana County 911 Program Review Committee  
Emergency Services Advisory Group  
August 7, 2025**

PRC members present-Roy Paparodis, Brian McLaughlin, Wayne Chamberlain, Jim Sabatini, Cyndi Dickey,

Brian Rutledge, Mary Ann Greir, Peggy Clark, Jeremiah Cole, Mark Edwards, Brett Todd, Lt Dan Morison, Dave Casto, Scott Mason, Bobby Smith, Jenny Swords

Meeting minutes from May meeting provided by B.Rutledge – No corrections Motion to except by Wayne Chamberlain 2<sup>nd</sup> by Brian McLaughlin

Pledge of Allegiance

Financials reviewed by Brian for both CO1 & CO2 - correction to financials sent out in original agenda - no questions regarding financials.

The House and Senate have agreed on the new budget, which includes House Bill 96. Included in the budget is the language and amount that will be accessed on wireless devices. The amount settled upon was sixty cents (.60). This is more than the original twenty-five cents and subsequently forty cents that is set to sunset (go away) in October. However, the formula for how that will be distributed has not been decided. The formula for how the amount collected is divided among the state has also changed, and these are the changes:

**Current law:**

72% - Local governments  
25% - State NG 9-1-1 program  
2% - State 9-1-1 office  
1% - Department of Taxation

**HB 96 Final:**

81.33% - Local governments  
16.67% - State NG 9-1-1 program  
1.33% - State 9-1-1 office  
0.67% - Department of Taxation

+11%local governments  
-Almost 8% state ng911  
2/3 less state 911 office  
1/3 less to dept of taxation

Hopefully, before our next meeting in November, the state will have some idea of a distribution formula to the counties.

Our migration to the new State NG911 Core was completed back at the end of February. The overall system has been running smoothly. The only issues have been surrounding the mapping program and the way in which it gets updates.

Brian reported that the annual support and compliance was due back in July to the State of Ohio's 911 Office. This is the annual audit of the PSAPs to make sure they are complying with all the requirements in the OAC. That report was submitted to the state just ahead of the deadline without any issues. Brian expressed appreciation to the PSAPs for working with him to get that completed on time. It takes a lot of time on behalf of both the PSAPs and our 911 office to complete this each year.

Planning to host another new dispatcher training class in late September or October. It'll depend on the needs of the PSAPs. We are looking at new sources for dispatcher training sites for additional training.

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Program Review Committee- Good of order

The question was asked by Mayor Dickey: if you no longer want to be a PSAP, what ultimately happens? If a PSAP decided to no longer want to become a PSAP, there would have to be meetings and discussions regarding logistics. The PSAP that would decide to no longer exist would lose what's being funded for them currently, and a decision on who could absorb that PSAP would have to be made. Ultimately, it would be the responsibility of the County Commissioners. It was discussed that currently, all the PSAPs continue to fight for the same staff, and that continues to drive costs up. Commissioner Papanodis thinks that one of the first things we need to do is discuss with the current PSAPs who would support a single location. Also, if the other Commissioners have any thoughts on the discussion of consolidation. Brian also stated that additional funding would have to be found to fully fund a centralized 911 center. Jeremiah Cole stated that if the county were centralized, it would make dispatching better because there would be one set of SOPs, and dispatchers would be held accountable to the county 911 board. Jeremiah also stated that, as President of the County Fire Chiefs Association, it would support a centralized location. Mayor Dickey stated that when the mayors meet monthly, they do have discussions regarding the cost of safety services, and a large part of that is dispatching. There's going to come a time when dispatching will no longer be sustainable for any given city or village. Mayor Smith advised that they are having a similar situation in East Liverpool with the rising cost of safety services. Jeremiah advised that it makes sense to centralize, where instead of paying the dispatcher wages to their city or village, it would be a decided-upon amount paid into a central location. Brian was asked if there was any chance the state would provide additional funding to support dispatching. There is very little chance that we will see additional funding, and that they only require us to join the state core or find our own NG911. Mayor Dickey asked if there are grants out there to assist in our goal of centralizing. Brian stated that most of the grants out there are FEMA-based. Commissioner Papanodis suggested that the mayors' group have a discussion and find out what their thoughts are on the idea of centralization. Brian will share the consolidation study out that was done several years ago so that it can be reviewed and discussed further. It was decided that the mayors' association and trustees' association could discuss it at their respective meetings and bring it back to the group.

Sheriff McLaughlin made a motion to adjourn, and Wayne Chamberlain 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Next meeting here November 6<sup>th</sup> 5<sup>th</sup>, 2026 at 1pm