

Columbiana County 911 Program Review Committee
Emergency Services Advisory Group
February 29,2024

PRC members present- Wayne Chamberlain, Tim Weigle, Cyndi Dickey, Brian McLaughlin, Jim Sabatini,

Bill Myers, Brian Rutledge, Joe Cappuzzello, Scott Mason, Peggy Clark, John Lane, Krista Peddicord, Jeremiah Cole, Nicole Drabick, Keith Drabick, Jenn Swords,

Meeting opened with Pledge

Meeting minutes from Feb 22nd meeting not available will be approved at next meeting.

Financials discussed and the same numbers provided on agenda as of February 1st.

The Final Plan was reviewed with changes made from the last meeting to be reflected. Final plan was voted on to be submitted and signed by the Program Review Committee (PRC)

Discussion held on expenses being submitted with Final plan to the state from each of the PSAP's the state is looking for an idea on how much it will cost for each of the counties to operate a PSAP and the overall county costs.

Prog. Review Com. agreed to take the recommendation and discussion from the last meeting and keep the Emergency Services Committee together as a group. Sheriff' McLaughlin noted that it was a great group of knowledgeable individuals. They can provide great insight and remain a value to the county's 911. Brian R. noted that they are removing several of the members that have never attended as well as the carrier representatives, the new legislation doesn't require them to be part of a committee.

Lengthy discussion regarding the cost of operating 911, Peggy provided the process we went through with the state to get legislation passed at the amount that we needed. The legislation was written so that the burden comes back on the county. Further discussion on what was provided by MCP and the consolidation study.

Question brought up regarding consolidating down to three PSAP's and the fact that there's only half dozen counties with more than 4 PSAP's and we are one of them. The question was asked if we should consider consolidating down even if we can't get to one at this time. It was agreed that yes, we should but still no idea on how to fund it and move it forward. Several people agreed that we should go to one as opposed to just dropping one or two. The other cost saving to reducing PSAP numbers would be data line savings. If there was a PSAP that needed to or felt, they had to give up their PSAP we would need to know that we have a plan in place. The Sheriff's Office could possibly help in the short term but couldn't absorb the whole county even if they moved into the planned expansion space. The other problem is if someone consolidates the radio system is also an issue. The sheriff is currently looking at upgrading his radio system and it'll be in the million-dollar range or more.

It was mentioned the current landline levy was slowly dropping and that the counties can't go after wireless devices on their own. The current state formula was discussed, and the state is looking at possibly changing that formula. It's possible that the current minimum each county receives could be raised from 90K to 200K. T Weigle discussed that we talked at prior meetings that Board of Commissioners can assess a fee against properties to operate 911. The other option is that they

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can assess inside mileage, however that's not popular and could get someone unelected. Final option you can put a levy on however that won't last forever and will need to be renewed. It was also mentioned that you can lose the sales tax if you add another levy to the county. Currently more and more levies are being defeated. County Commissioners do have the opportunity to make the 1percent sales tax permanent, however haven't done so. Further discussion that we put pressure on both the CCAO and Buckeye's Sheriff's Association and it didn't help in the end. The group further discussed how you can charge each entity to pay what they are paying now for dispatching and make it fair across the county. How do you staff a dispatch center responsible to make it financially viable. Mayor Dickey noted that they have visited other counties and seen other PSAP's operating as a central location with a supervisor that can take critical calls and assist when things get busy. K Drabick discussed that there needs to be a solution such as if the EPFD was to move to the Sheriff's Office now it would be over 3000 calls. Drabick stated that someone is going to get hurt or killed with the current structure. Roy stated that the Commissioners have a responsibility to be prudent with the money and it should be solved by the entities. Brian noted that if any one of the PSAP's decided to close it would have to go to the Sheriff's Office. Jeremiah brought up the scenario of Columbiana could say tomorrow they can't do it anymore it'll get thrown at the Commissioners. The question was asked what is going to happen when the day comes a PSAP says they are done. The Sheriff brought up that's part of the reason for the need to update his radio system sooner than later.

There was some history of how they tried at one time to consolidate the PSAP's and the PDs didn't want to give it up. Question was asked if there are grants available for 911, Peggy stated there are grants that come up that might cover different pieces of equipment or construction, but nothing has ever been presented that will pay for ongoing costs to sustain it. Mayor Dickey stated that 81% of her budget is for safety forces and that cost continues to go up and eventually this is going to become everyone's problem. Brian stated that the current discussions going on at the state level don't include putting extra money for the county's 911. Chief Drabick and the Sheriff discussed the pros and cons of MARCS in the county and if it would work both physically and financially. It was asked if we could come up with a cost for a countywide MARCS system.

Sundance servers are being retired with a PC here at the EMA and Brian R is working with Sundance, Comtech and Victor on getting the PC up and running to allow the 911 information to spill the ANI/ALI information from the call handling software to Sundance.

The current recorders are nearly 9 years old and will reach a point in the next year or so that we won't be able to update them. We have recently experienced some issues where they won't take updates properly due to software issues.

Comtech has an October cut over date set to move over to the new call handling software. Brian would like to schedule a special meeting before our next meeting to make any decisions that need to be made. The county is going to have to decide on recorders, phone/ radio integrations, and anything else that would come up after the meeting with Comtech. Decision was made to meet on April 23rd at 8am and if we don't need the meeting, we can cancel it and meet at our regular meeting on May 2nd Motion to adjourn B McLaughlin, 2nd Cyndi Dickey all if favor.

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