

**COLUMBIANA COUNTY 911
EMERGENCY SERVICE COMMITTEE MEETING
November 4, 2021
1:00 – 3:00 P.M.**

Those in attendance: Brian Rutledge, Tim Weigle, Jeremiah Cole, Joe Cappuzello, Scott Mason, Jt Panezott, Peggy Clark, Brett Todd, Jenn Swords, Rudy Sacchet, Wayne Chamberlain, Bill Myers, Steve Haberman, Jen Tucker, Kevin Siembida, Sen. Michael Rulli, Stacy Banker-virtually

Meeting opened by Chairman Commissioner Tim Weigle

Followed by Pledge of Allegiance.

Meeting turned over to 911 Coordinator Rutledge

Minutes distributed from previous meeting with no additions or corrections

Motion to accept minutes by J Cole- 2nd Mason- all in favor

Financials reviewed by Brian-

Motion to accept by J Cole 2nd by Scott Mason all in favor

911 Federal Grants- Text-2-911 continues to be pushed back do to testing issues. Brian was advised in late October that testing should be completed the first week of November and hope to get Morgan County online first and Columbiana would follow up second. The work has to be completed by December 31st to meet the grant deadline.

The second round of the federal grant has been reimbursed to the county. We received a check for \$44,698.45 last week and that is the reimbursable 60% of the total project cost for the back up PSAP positions located at the EMA. The state did send out notice this morning that there will be a 3rd round available. Brian and Peggy will look over what the parameters are and will see if there's anything we can go after the grant for.

Brian received word from the State 911 Office that Columbiana County has met all the requirements in the annual Support and Compliance audit. Brian thanked the PSAP chiefs again for getting him the information that's required. 2022 is supposed to be the in-person audit from the state but Brian's not sure if it'll be pushed off because they've not done them during COVID. Regardless all the same information will need to be compiled next June for the July deadline. There will be another PST/EMD class starting before the end of November and hopefully be wrapped up by the middle of December. Currently there's 9 people that are supposed to attend the classes.

PSAP Consolidation- Brian updated the committee on the consolidation study by Mission Critical Partners (MCP), They met with the PSAP's virtually just to gather some initial information, held a in person kick-off session here at the EMA and then spent that week visiting each of the PSAP's. Steve Haberman attended the meeting in person and Stacy Banker was connected from Chicago. The two discussed each of their pieces of the study that they've been working on along with the team from MCP. Steve mentioned that they've gathered a lot of great information and it appears the communications side is complex. Steve stated that he has already found 20 different frequencies being used in the county for radio and he's not completed yet. Steve also added that there's no room for expansion at any of the current locations to make them a consolidated center. Stacy discussed some of the information that the PSAP's have provided and stressed the importance of looking at the checklist provided to each

of them and getting all the information back to her as soon as possible. The importance is to not only have all the costs associated with operating the PSAP's, but it helps to have a true picture from each PSAP moving forward in the study. Brian will be following up with each PSAP next week to try and get the gathering side completed. The time frame moving forward is to have a rough draft out in the next couple of weeks and if everything goes well the total project be completed by the end of the year. If they do get the report completed and the committee needs to be reconvened before the next meeting, then Brian will make sure everyone's notified. J Cole mentioned that he is completely in favor of a consolidated center and that he recommends MCP be at the next fire chiefs meeting. Brian will try and coordinate that with MCP and make it happen.

The consolidation study led into the discussion about the cost of operating a consolidated center and how to pay for it. Commissioner Weigle introduced Sen. Michael Rulli who was invited to attend and hear from the committee about the struggles of funding 911. Peggy discussed the fact that Ohio is 48th out of the 50 States in wireless cell phone fees at only 25 cents. There is currently a Bill in the House that pertains to developing the State 911 ESInet and the way it's written it'll leave the wireless fee at the current 25 cents. The Bill is written to add any device that can reach 911 and this will create some additional funding but not enough to help at the local level. With the HB adding the additional devices it'll only bring approximately \$25k additionally to the local level. Brian also stated that no other state has been able to use the Universal Device Fee method and have it brought in the amount of money it was supposed to. If the county moved to a consolidated 911 center it would be a little over \$4million annually to operate. Sen Rulli explained several ways to possibly get additional funding at the local level to help pay for the initial costs of a consolidated center. He mentioned that it might be possible to add an amendment to the HB to assist with the wireless funding to assist going forward. He requested additional information from Peggy and Brian and would like to continue this discussion. There was further discussion of the unfunded mandates by the state and how hard it is to hire dispatchers.

The EMA hosted a CIT (Crisis Intervention Team) training yesterday for about 12 dispatchers from different agencies around the county. The training was sponsored by the Columbiana County Mental Health and Recovery Board. There are funds available to offset the wage cost of sending the dispatchers to each PSAP by CCMHRB. Rudy Sacchet was not only a participant by also attendee for the day and stated it was training that is long overdue.

Brian brought up that 988 is the new suicide/mental health number nationwide starting July 2022. There's still a lot of questions that need to be answered on how it'll work for sure and will have more information at the next 911 meeting.

Next meeting scheduled for February 3rd at 1pm here at the EMA building.

Motion to adjourn Jeremiah 2nd by Mason all in favor

If there's any additions or corrections, please reach out to Brian