

**COLUMBIANA COUNTY 911
EMERGENCY SERVICE COMMITTEE MEETING**

February 3, 2022

1:00 – 2:00 P.M. (via ZOOM-weather)

Those in attendance: Brian Rutledge, Rudy Sacchet, Tim Weigle, Peggy Clark, Jeremiah Cole, Brian McLaughlin, Steve Haberman, Scott Mason, Joe Capuzzelo, Jenn Swords, Mayor John Berlin, Brian Melcer, Jt Panzot, Deanna Johnson

This meeting was held virtually due to weather conditions- the meeting was called to order by 911 Coordinator Brian Rutledge followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance Brian asked for a moment of silence for the two 911 dispatchers that we have lost since our last meeting- Rita Lohman with the Sheriff's Office since 2009 and Andrea Hoffman with ELPD since 2017 and worked dispatch for Lifeteam EMS and Hancock County 911 previously.

Minutes distributed from previous meeting with no additions or corrections

Motion to except minutes by Jeremiah 2nd Mason- all in favor

Brian reviewed the Wireline and Wireless 911 Fund balances from the end of 2021 and 2022 year to date. (See attached agenda)

Federal Grant that was awarded for Text-911 has been delayed multiple times. Comtech is tentatively scheduled to be in the county next week. They plan to work their way around the PSAP's installing the software. (Following the meeting Brian was advised that this is pushed back again to middle of February)

The MCP Consolidation Study is completed, a presentation was given by Steve Haberman from MCP along with additional comments from Brian Melcer also of MCP. The presentation along with the final report are both being provided along with the minutes. Following the MCP presentation there was a question asked about the communication or radio side of a consolidation. Commissioner Weigle mentioned that the county has a good relationship with a company that has towers located around the county and they have used them to expand broadband. He stated that it could be extremely helpful in solving some of the issues if we went to a countywide radio system to collaborate with this same company. Commissioner Weigle also mentioned that the Commissioners are currently working on a project to build a 23,000 sq ft building for records storage. The thought is to carve out a 6000 sq ft portion of this building as a dispatch center. This would not be ideally located with the EMA but could be an option to try and get a central dispatching center. Commissioner Weigle advised that he will be meeting with architects in the coming week and would explore this as an option. Rudy questioned the idea of using a funding mechanism that would pass operating costs over to the users of the center. Brian explained that there are counties in the state that do use that mechanism to assist with funding. The example of Trumbull County that charges a fee for using the 911 center if you utilize MDT's or another fee if you do not use MDT's and rely on the 911 center for everything. Brian Melcer from MCP added that he will provide information to the county of additional funding mechanisms.

HB445- Commissioner Weigle, Peggy and Brian did attend the Transportation and Public Safety Committee meeting in Columbus and testified for additional funding. The ESINet continues to push that they are tasked with building the core network and not provide any additional funding at the county level. Commissioner Weigle mentioned that he submitted his name to fill a vacant seat on the Justice and Public Safety Committee as a representative from CCAO. Peggy recommended that Brian sends out a list of the two state 911 Sub-Committees to our 911 Committee members. It is recommended that our committee continues pushing the word out to as many different people as possible on the state committees.

Brian mentioned right before the last 911 meeting there was a CIT training for dispatchers. The CCMHRB will be sponsoring another training session for dispatchers on March 30th. There is still no direction from the State 911 Office on 988, it will become a national suicide hotline number in July. There will hopefully be more direction on this before our May meeting.

Brian has had several conversations lately with the new Trumbull County 911 Coordinator on multiple topics. He passed along high regards for the wonderful work that our Columbiana County 911 Committee does. Trumbull County has asked for the makeup of our committee and meeting minutes to try and get back on track as required with theirs.

Peggy commented on the 988 topic and the program that Salem has started with a peer support person available to assist the Salem PD. The Salem PD utilizes this person to assist law enforcement on substance abuse calls and it has helped to develop a relationship with those that need assistance. It added some information on the program and how great it has been working with this individual. He added that there has been remarkable success in his ability to communicate with those that have substance abuse problems. Peggy mentioned that the EMA was approached regarding a grant available through the University of Pitt for a similar program that could provide training funds to EMS responders. This would provide training to EMS individuals on best practices and training in substance abuse and mental health calls. It is also a hope that it might expand the foundation that the Salem program started and offer it to more areas of the county. Following a meeting with the people from Univ. of Pitt it was decided to put them in touch with the CCMHRB, so we aren't duplicating programs. More to come on this.

Jeremiah mentioned to keep sending him addresses of those that need to hear that 911 funding needs fixed until they get it right.

If there's any questions regarding the MCP report or HB445 please reach out to Brian at the EMA office.

The next meeting is scheduled for May 5, 2022 @ 1pm at the EMA office.

Motion to adjourn by Jerimiah Second by Mason