

**COLUMBIANA COUNTY 911
EMERGENCY SERVICE COMMITTEE MEETING**

**May 6, 2022
1:00 – 2:00 P.M.**

Those in attendance: Brian Rutledge, Rudy Sacchet, Tim Weigle, Peggy Clark, Jeremiah Cole, Brian McLaughlin, Scott Mason, Joe Capuzzelo, Jenn Swords, Jt Panezott, Deanna Johnson, Jenn Tucker,

The meeting called to order by Commissioner Weigle followed by the Pledge of Allegiance

Following the Pledge of Allegiance Commissioner Weigle reviewed the 911 Wireline and Wireless funds for the county. Brian added that there were changes made in third quarter of 2021 regarding how wireless funds are distributed. The state could not provide any details on what changed regarding it, but the county ended 2021 with approximately \$20k more than normal however year to date for 2022 we are only \$2K over last year.

Motion to except 911 finances by Jeremiah 2nd by Mason- all in favor

Meeting turned over to 911 Director Brian Rutledge

Minutes distributed from previous meeting via email and available for review. with no additions or corrections- Motion to except minutes by Jeremiah 2nd Mason- all in favor

The long-awaited Text to 911 project is nearing completion. After nearly 3 years of working through COVID and Technology issues the final hurdle is believed to be behind us. This past week Brian worked with Equature and Comtech to get an issue with recording text messages resolved and they have done so. In the coming days, the system will be turned on for dispatcher training. Once we feel the dispatchers are comfortable, we will work with local media and do public information campaign to inform the public of the availability of text to 911.

Brian discussed the upcoming kickoff of 988 as a national number for Suicide Prevention and Mental Awareness on July 16th of this year. As mentioned in previous meetings the goal is for people that are experiencing an issue with Mental Health and Suicide to call 988 instead of 911. There is a statewide group formed to push this initiative however like everyone else they are having trouble finding call takers and counselors to fill these positions. The 988 initiative is a federal mandate requiring every state to implement it for the July deadline. Brian stated that he was hoping for some direction from the State on how 911 and 988 would work together as the program takes off and after a discussion with the State 911 Director each county will be responsible to make their own plan on the two working together. Current discussion is to get the 911 Office, the PSAP Chiefs, Prosecutors Office and any other individuals that have a part in this to meet in the coming months and work on a plan for Columbiana County, so everyone is on the same page when managing these types of calls. There is hope that once this National Hotline goes public then more people will call 988 and there will be less use of the 911 system and first responders.

HB445- Brian reviewed the requests made by the ESINET Committee to the Pilot Counties and PSAP OPS Sub-Committees. Following several trips to Columbus and lengthy meetings the group presented to the ESINET Committee a recommendation that the Universal Device Fee should be set at 63 cents in HB445. The ESINET Committee however recommended adding

some room in the event the cost was higher and agreed to raise it to seventy cents. The Bill has been sent back to LSC within the State House and will be amended with the new amount. Once it comes out of the LSC it will be sent back to the House Committee and then hopefully out to Representatives for a vote. Brian thanked everyone that reached out to State Representative and members of the House Committee to push the need for more funding. Several members of our 911 Committee mentioned that if it were not for the noise that Columbiana and Jefferson County started making it is very possible it would still be twenty-five cents. Peggy explained that even though it is not the amount that we would have liked there's several other house bills that may start trying to go after wireless funding and we need to get this one passed before they do.

911 PSAP Consolidation- Shortly after the last 911 meeting the SOP Committee met and following discussion requested a meeting with Commissioner Weigle regarding the possible location of a County wide 911 center in the new records retention building. Commissioner Weigle stated that the SOP Committee had valid points on not relocating to that building and trying to keep the infrastructure in place where it is at the EMA. The 911 Committee held a lengthy discussion on where we should go from here with the Consolidation Study being done and the decision to not locate a 911 center in the new building being constructed across town. Following the discussion, JT made a motion that we should "**EXPLORE**" the following with a total cost of the three not to exceed \$150,000:

1. Purchasing of property adjacent to the EMA building for a call center
2. If the Village of Lisbon would approve vacating the alley located behind the EMA on the West side of the building?
3. Having a conceptual drawing done for communications center addition onto the EMA building

Scott seconded the motion -with all in favor.

Before this motion can be acted on it will have to be presented to the Board of Commissioners and if approved the Commissioner along with the 911 Office would start looking into the three items requested in the motion and would report out either before or at the next 911 meeting.

WGAF-FCC reports- These have been both submitted to the state. The WGAF is a review of how the county spends the wireless funds collected and provided by the State. The FCC report is a request at the Federal level on how all the PSAP's are structured in the country. The State provided each county with a form to fill out and then the State puts everyone's answers together and passes it back to the FCC. To be eligible for any State or Federal Grants these two reports must be filed each year.

Support and Compliance- The annual report to the State 911 Office will be coming due in July so Brian will be reaching out to each of PSAP's for all the information needed to satisfy the requirements. This will include the new CE requirements of 8 hours that has been raised by the previous 2 hours. It's Brian's recommendation that each PSAP put someone in charge of collecting all the signoff sheets withing the PSAP and then submitting them to him.

The next meeting is scheduled for August 4, 2022 @ 1pm at the EMA office.

Motion to adjourn by Jerimiah Second by Mason