



# South Worcester County Communications Center

357 Main Street • Webster, MA 01570 • 508-943-1212  
*Serving the Towns of Webster and Dudley, Massachusetts*



*Gregory Lynskey, Communications Center Director*

## *SWCCC Operations Board Meeting Minutes for June 9, 2022 – Regular Session*

Attendees: Chairman Dean Kochanowski, Michael Shaw, Brian Hickey, Steven Wojnar, Gary Milliard, Gregory Lynskey, Marek Karlowicz

- Meeting called to order by Chairman Kochanowski at 9:06am
- Chief Kochanowski led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance
- Chief Milliard made a motion to approve the minutes from October 13, 2021. Second by Chief Wojnar. Unanimous vote.
- Director Lynskey stated that there was nothing to report regarding any other communities interested in joining.
- Director Lynskey informed the Board that there still remains a vacancy for full-time. He noted that two candidates were offered positions following interviews in March and that one had accepted and one declined. The one that accepted is currently training with the hopes to have training completed in the next month or so. He noted additionally that just yesterday, a dispatcher gave notice as she and her family are moving out of state. He noted that she provided 6 weeks notice which was much appreciated however will still leave us with two vacancies to be filled given the lack of applicants.
- Chief Wojnar stated he had requested this meeting to discuss the plan for Webster Police to move to a digital radio frequency. He stated he felt this was a step back as it would mean that Dudley officers would not be able to hear the Webster Police frequency. He stated he was concerned about why the plan wouldn't be to move the entire communications center to digital communications. Director Lynskey stated this project to move Webster Police to digital was not driven by the SWCCC but instead was driven by the Webster Police Union, in particular the Union Safety Committee. He further stated that the project is not being funded by any dispatch related funds but was funded by a free cash article at Webster's Town Meeting. He noted that this type of project has been discussed for several years at the operations board level along with a joint meeting last year with the Board of Directors. The project has even been submitted to State 911 several times for grant funding to cover both Webster and Dudley entirely but has been denied upon each application. He noted that Webster began buying digital radio equipment in 2009 and that now 13 years later has acquired funding for the last pieces of equipment that are needed. He stated that he again submitted the project to State 911 this past January to include all equipment needed for Dudley as well but has not heard yet on that grant application. He noted that the Webster project is likely to take until Spring/Summer 2023 to even go online due to supply chain issues. Chief Wojnar stated that had he known sooner about the plans he would have sought funding for Dudley via some other source such as a state budget earmark.

### **Board of Directors:**

Jonathan Ruda - Chairman  
Richard LaFond – Vice-Chairman  
Randy Becker - Member  
Steven Sullivan - Member

### **Operations Board:**

Dean Kochanowski - Chairman  
Michael Shaw - Vice Chairman  
Steven Wojnar - Member  
Brian Hickey – Member  
Gary Milliard - Member

Director Lynskey stated he is hopeful that if State 911 sees local funding was appropriated that maybe the grant funding will receive greater support. He also noted that all of the Dudley Police Portable Radios are already digital capable and would be able to still listen to Webster Police and also noted the option of having Zello available in the cruisers so the officers could still listen in their cruisers. Chief Wojnar stated he didn't think that was something that would work well but was satisfied with the possibility of funding being available through the grants to include Dudley in the project.

- The Board discussed the ongoing need to migrate Dudley radio systems off telephone company copper lines. Chief Kochanowski stated he was not able to apply for the Massachusetts Municipal Fiber grant as he was unable to get anyone to give him a quote on the installation of fiber to the radio sites in time. He will be continuing to work on it with the hope to apply for funds in 2023. Director Lynskey stated that he has had discussion with Roger from D&R who indicated another possible option is to in the interim go to telephone company T1 circuits. While they provide less bandwidth, they are sufficient for radio site use. Roger noted however that they do involve conversion of the radio signal to data meaning that additional equipment is needed on both ends of the circuit, however the equipment is relatively inexpensive. The circuits themselves are greater in monthly cost though than the copper circuits are.
- Director Lynskey stated that following a recent incident in Dudley where there was a potential of a scene response from Lifeflight, he and Dudley Fire Assistant Chief Paul Konieczny discussed if it might make sense to add GPS to some of the frontline fire apparatus. He noted that Lifeflight was being a bit difficult as they wanted exact GPS coordinates of where they were to land and the way it was being described by Chief Konieczny, dispatch was not able to confirm the exact location on mapping software available. It was discussed that usually police or EMS would likely be at the location, however in this scenario, police had gone well into the woods with their cruisers and the ambulance was staged at another location. Director Lynskey stated that the cost involved would be the cost of purchasing modems at about \$800 each but could then utilize the existing cellular connections already in use in the frontline apparatus. He noted that there is an annual maintenance cost as well of about \$90. After discussion, it was decided that it wasn't necessary given the infrequent use of Lifeflight to respond to this area and that alternatively in the future a cell phone 911 call could probably be used to identify the particular location if needed.
- The Board reviewed the Board of Directors Agenda for the meeting that will immediately follow this meeting.
- Lt. Karlowicz stated that Dudley has recently installed cameras at the Beach and Highway department and he believes that Town Administrator Ruda is going to be request at today's Board of Directors Meeting that dispatch monitor the cameras. Director Lynskey asked if they were part of the Avigilon system. He stated they were not but are easily accessible and dispatch can be provided

a login for them. Director Lynskey noted that Dispatch doesn't really have monitor space left to add another camera system beyond the Avigilon system that is already monitored. He also noted that he wouldn't commit to dispatch actively monitoring the cameras as there are already many being monitored between the 5 public safety buildings. Lt. Karlowicz suggested that it could be a system that dispatch would pull up and log into to watch cameras while police units are responding to an incident such as a fight at the beach. Director Lynskey noted that in the event of a fight at the beach it is highly likely that dispatchers will be fielding numerous 911 calls and would not have the time to be pulling up a camera system and logging into it. He stated that if time permitted it could be done but that it can't be considered an expectation of the dispatchers who have many other things to be handling as well.

- Chief Shaw made a motion to adjourn at 9:40am, second by Chief Wojnar. Unanimous vote.