



South Worcester County Communications Center

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Serving the Towns of Webster and Dudley, Massachusetts



Gregory Lynskey, Communications Center Director

SWCCC Operations Board Meeting Minutes for December 8, 2022 – Regular Session

Attendees: Chairman Dean Kochanowski, Michael Shaw, Brian Hickey, Steven Wojnar, Gregory Lynskey

- Meeting called to order by Chairman Kochanowski at 9:09am
- Chief Kochanowski led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance
- Chief Shaw made a motion to approve the minutes from June 9, 2022. Second by Chief Hickey. Unanimous vote.
- Director Lynskey informed the Board that the State 911 Department had hired a Director of Special Projects who was assigned his first task to review regionalization and the challenges that agencies have seen with advancing regionalization. Director Lynskey stated he had the opportunity to meet with the gentlemen who is a former Deputy Director of a regional 911 center himself. Director Lynskey presented a history along with the challenges the SWCCC has seen. Director Lynskey was informed that the lack of support from State 911 to push centers to join regionals seems to be a recurring theme, however being a home rule state, the Department has determined they do not have the authority to force towns to join regionals. They anticipated that throwing free money would do the trick, but it has not. There is also the political pressure that State 911 gets hit with any time they try to push a consolidation. Director Lynskey added that there are proposed changes to the State 911 CMR that contains the Standards. He stated that the proposed change would require that all primary PSAPs employ at least 6 FTE Dispatchers. He noted that this change would only impact 3 or 4 departments in the area and that the word is the State does not intend to proactively enforce such but can use it as a measure to enforce other violations of regulations. Lastly, there is uncertainty with the forthcoming change in Administration. While the Secretary of Public Safety is expected to remain, it is likely that there will not be the push for regionalization from the Governors Office that has been seen over the last 8 years.
- Director Lynskey informed the Board that the two trainees are progressing well. He noted one is a little ahead of the other but both are anticipated to be in a position to complete training in early January. He stated this will bring full time staffing to the full complement of 10 for the first time in almost two years. He noted that an 11th full time position was authorized effective January 1, however after consulting with the trainers, a decision has been made to hold off on filling the position for a little to give the trainers a break as they have been training consistently for 18 months at this point.
- Director Lynskey provided an update on the radio project. He noted that all funded radio equipment is on order. The vast majority of the radio equipment has been delivered. At this time, three critical components are on back order

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

that are necessary for the transition to digital in Webster. There is no estimated timeframe from Motorola and Director Lynskey has been informed it could be anywhere from 1 week to 9 months for the delivery of the equipment. Additional equipment is needed for migration to Digital for Dudley PD. That equipment is also on order and anticipated delivery is currently early spring.

- Director Lynskey stated that the State 911 Development Grant Guidelines have been issued for FY2024. He noted that after a meeting between State 911 and a group of Regional Directors, priority to replace equipment at existing centers, such as the SWCCC, that are approaching 10 years old will be given higher priority in this grant cycle. The Director will be seeking funding to continue the radio project, most notably for migration of Dudley Fire to digital. He will also be assessing any other equipment that may be coming due for replacement.
- Director Lynskey stated there was no longer a need to discuss the GPS system issue as the vendor has managed to resolve an issue they previously indicated had no resolution. The issue was making the system nearly unusable, however all is now well.
- Director Lynskey informed the Board that while attending the recent APCO Atlantic conference, he had several discussions with both IMC and others in the field about the future of IMC. He was assured that there is no plan to bring an end to IMC as they continue to have over 900 customers, over 200 in Mass alone. That being said, the account manager for IMC who he has worked with for years did state it would make sense to start considering the future as, at some point, number of active users of the system is likely to decrease to a point where it no longer makes sense for IMC to continue the product, however that is far from imminent.
- The Board reviewed the Board of Directors Agenda for the meeting that will immediately follow this meeting.
- Chief Kochanowski recognized Chief Wojnar who is attending his final meeting before retirement. Chief Wojnar has been a member of the Board since inception and was part of the original planning for the Center. Chief Wojnar noted that it was a heck of an undertaking to get it done. He stated there were some bumps in the road but overall it worked out well. He stated he was proud to be a part of it. Each Board member thanked him and wishes him well in retirement. Director Lynskey noted that he couldn't have made it all happen in the timeframe it was done in without Chief Wojnar's support.
- Chief Hickey made a motion to adjourn at 9:36am, second by Chief Shaw. Unanimous vote.