



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 September 22, 2020 – Regular Session

Attendees: Chairman Dean Kochanowski, Michael Shaw, Steven Wojnar (see notes), Brian Hickey, Gary Milliard (see notes), Gregory Lynskey

- Meeting called to order by Chairman Kochanowski at 10:06am
- Chief Kochanowski led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance
- Being the first meeting of the fiscal year, the Board reorganized. Chief Wojnar made a motion to keep the current organization of the board for the ensuing year. Second by Chief Hickey. Unanimous vote.
- Chief Milliard arrived at this time.
- Chief Milliard made a motion to approve the minutes from June 9, 2020. Second by Chief Shaw. Unanimous vote.
- Director Lynskey stated there was not much to update regarding other towns other than during the last Board of Directors meeting it was reported that getting in touch with anyone out of Oxford was still difficult however a discussion had been had with the new Charlton Administrator who had expressed some interest. The Town Administrators would be attempting further communication with the Charlton Administrator.
- Director Lynskey stated that a formal proposal had been received for the replacement radio consoles for Dudley Police Station to be used as an emergency backup. The funding came in via a Grant so was not tied to the fiscal year. The total proposal under state contract is \$94,000. \$100,000 was awarded. Director Lynskey stated he will be working with Town Administrator Ruda to have a purchase order issued for the project.
- Chief Shaw stated the cell block complaint report is just about wrapped up. Chief Milliard stated he had been in contact with Deputy Chief Wheeler and would make a motion to close the matter as resolved. Second by Chief Hickey. Unanimous vote.
- Director Lynskey stated he did not receive funding under the State 911 Development grant program for the laptop based radio console. However, State 911 has offered to provide the funding as a one-time special increase to the Support & Incentive Grant. He stated this funding will allow a portable radio console that could be used in an emergency or in a planned event inside or outside of the dispatch building.
- Director Lynskey stated there was a second employee who ended up out on a 14 day quarantine due to doctor's orders even though the employee tested negative for COVID. He noted that the employee was out several days for an illness and required a note from a doctor which led to the extended absence. The doctor refused to adjust the note even with the negative test. This makes two full time employees who were out, however to this point the only positive test was a part-

Board of Directors:

Doug Willardson - Chairman
Jonathan Ruda – Vice-Chairman
Randy Becker - Member
John Marsi - Member

Operations Board:

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

time employee. He provided current status of case counts in both Webster and Dudley as well.

- Director Lynskey provided the Board with a letter received at the Webster Town Assessor's office from a resident of Thompson, CT. The resident resides at 42 Elaine St. and has a small portion of wooded property that extends into Webster. The resident is unhappy with emergency services provided in Thompson and requests to have their address recognized as a Webster address so they may receive Webster emergency services. Director Lynskey stated there is no portion of the house that is in Webster. He stated that it was his opinion that they cannot receive Webster services at their house. Additionally their driveway and street access is also in Thompson. Director Lynskey provided additional examples of properties that cross borders from Webster or Dudley into other jurisdictions. There are 2 other properties, both in Webster that he listed that have been provided emergency services in the past however are entirely in Connecticut. Neither property has any adjacent or contiguous property in Webster. One of them, 300 Lower Gore Rd. (known as 16 Gore Rd., Thompson) has not requested services since being sent a letter by the Town Assessor and the Town Clerk in 2017 advising them they are not Webster Residents. The other property, 1 Rattan Rd (known as 1410 Thompson Rd., Thompson) continues to receive services. He noted that the Webster Board of Fire Engineers voted in 1988 to provide services to the address upon request of the homeowner. Director Lynskey stated he believed that whatever decision is made has to be applied to all 3 properties. Chief Shaw and Chief Wojnar noted that there is an agreement in place between the State Police Agencies in MA and CT but that it does not extend to local departments. The police departments would have no right to operate or arrest at any of these addresses. Chief Hickey noted that there are mutual aid agreements in place for Fire and EMS however they require a request from CT. They Fire and EMS Chiefs noted however that exigent circumstances would cover them in the event they happened upon an incident at one of the addresses. The Board discussed the matter in further detail and came to the conclusion that primary emergency services coverage for all 3 addresses cannot be provided by Webster Services. Chief Wojnar left at this time. Director Lynskey stated he would draft a response to the request noting jurisdictional limitations and that any requests for services would need to be referred to emergency services in Thompson. He stated he would add a notation that the residents are welcome to contact the Town of Thompson to petition them for some form of automatic aid agreement, however they cannot be recognized as Webster addresses for emergency services. He stated he would also add notes in IMC related to this.
- Director Lynskey informed the Board that State 911 had required SWCCC to conduct a four week trial of receiving Phase 1 Wireless 911 calls. He noted that Phase 1 calls only provide tower location initially and not GPS location. He stated they allow for a call to arrive to us much more quickly without a transfer

needed. He stated however that it does mean that calls such as wireless misdials are now coming to us when they wouldn't have in the past. He stated he had held off State 911 as long as he could because they couldn't provide any data on the impact this would cause. He could no longer hold them off once they provided data that it would be an additional estimated 10 calls per day. The 4 week trial found that number to be accurate and at this point the trial has ended and he has agreed to continue receiving the calls. He noted that 3-4 additional calls per shift was not impactful and the benefit to the call of not having to be transferred from another PSAP but being answered here directly was beneficial.

- Director Lynskey informed the Board that full-time Dispatcher Pedro Jorge had left to further pursue his career in law enforcement. He had posted for the vacancy and anticipates interviews to be conducted in mid-October.
- The Board reviewed the Board of Directors agenda for September 24, 2020. Director Lynskey stated the only item on their agenda not yet discussed was an update on a request the Board met on at a special meeting in August. A supervisor had submitted a special request to be temporarily assigned to day shift for a period of 4 months due to a recent unexpected childcare issue. This would have allowed her time to make other arrangements. The Board was supportive of the request however wanted the union to sign an agreement with some conditions. The union did not support the request for accommodation and therefore the matter did not proceed.
- Chief Hickey made a motion to adjourn at 10:46am, second by Chief Milliard. Unanimous vote.