



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 September 30, 2025 – Regular Session

Operations Board Members Present: Dean Kochanowski, Michael Shaw, Jeffrey Saad, Marek Karlowicz, Gary Milliard

Operations Board Members Absent: None

Others Present: Gregory Lynskey

Meeting Location: Webster Police Community Room

- Meeting called to order by Chairman Kochanowski at 10:05am.
- Chairman Kochanowski led the Pledge of Allegiance
- Chief Shaw made a motion to approve the regular session meeting minutes from June 17, 2025. Second by Chief Milliard. Unanimous vote.
- Director Lynskey informed the Board that the Towns of Spencer, Charlton, Sturbridge, Auburn had all recently voted to join the Central MA Regional 911 District which is formerly known as Rutland Regional. He stated that Southbridge was taking up the matter today at subcommittee. He also added that Oxford and Sutton are reportedly in late state consideration as well. Chief Shaw and Chief Milliard both expressed surprise about Sutton as they had had a recent conversation with State Rep. McKenna who told them he believed Sutton was interested in joining the SWCCC. Director Lynskey added that he has watched all of the meetings where the discussions and votes have taken place except Spencer but found a news article regarding it. He stated that during the Auburn Meeting it was made clear that the concern with the SWCCC was the fact that it is located in the Webster PD Building. He stated that he believes the Spencer Chiefs who led the group truly believe that the Webster Police Department runs the operation and the Spencer Fire Chief was quoted as saying joining us was less desirable because member towns don't get a vote or say. Director Lynskey noted that not only is this perception entirely false but the governing structure was clearly explained when he and TA Ruda met with the group and it was clearly expressed in the letter sent to the Spencer Police Chief who was heading the group. He also noted that he had a conversation with the Southbridge Town Manager in late June who expressed disappointment that the SWCCC was not willing to change its governance model to give all towns a vote. Director Lynskey explained to the Southbridge TM that not only do all towns have a vote today but that the letter to the group clearly explained the intention to form a formal district and that any growth would require relocation out of the WPD Building. The Southbridge TM stated he had never seen such letter. Of note is that he was the administrative representative to the study group. Director Lynskey provided emailed him a copy of the letter, the IMA, as well as some other details. Director Lynskey never heard back from him after attempting to reach him multiple times. Chief Milliard stated the center runs well with 2 towns and he sees no reason to change that. Chief Karlowicz asked how this could impact us grant wise moving

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
Marek Karlowicz - Member
Jeffrey Saad - Member
Gary Milliard - Member

forward. Director Lynskey stated the operational funds are awarded based upon legislative language so right now there is no impact as it would take legislative change. He noted that the state could have sought legislative change to push regionalization and has not so he believes it seems unlikely they would seek change but that he could see at some point a change where 3 towns would be the min required for incentive funding. He did stated that it is his opinion that at some point it will have a negative impact if we become surrounded but can't guess when or how that would happen. Director Lynskey stated that while he was at a training last week, an Uxbridge Fire Lieutenant brought up the topic of regionalization with him. He stated it sounded like there is currently an appetite for discussion in Uxbridge and suggested that maybe we need to refocus our efforts more into the Blackstone Valley. He stated that one of the keys with the group that is forming the CMRECC is that all of the public safety chiefs were on board and pushed the agenda after they had been in contact with the existing chiefs of the Rutland Regional towns. He noted that this is a different approach than we had taken in the past where we tried going to the Tas/TMs and Boards of Selectmen. He suggested that a good approach might be for the SWCCC Chiefs to reach out to some chiefs in the valley to see if there is any interest in discussions or learning morning. It was noted that Mendon and Millville are currently part of the Metacomet Regional in Norfolk but are not happy being part of that. Director Lynskey stated that he suspected if the SWCCC was able to draw in some towns from the valley that Mendon and Millville would also likely be interested. After discussion, the Chiefs agreed that they would reach out to their counterparts in Sutton, Uxbridge, and Douglas to see what interest might exist.

- Director Lynskey presented the board with a revised Supervisor Job Description. He stated that Chief Milliard called him with a question about one item that was struck from the language and that was the EMD Quality Assurance. Director Lynskey stated this was due to the fact that it is currently outsourced but he stated that after further consideration he will be amending that language to require it in the event the task is brought back in house. He noted that the revisions were after reviewing job descriptions from some other comparable regionals who have a comparable position. He also noted that he suggests increasing the minimum experience from 1 year to 3 years. He noted that the last time a position was filled, 1 year was necessary due to the overall lack of experience among employees. He noted however now that 3 years would actually make all current full time employees eligible for the position. Chief Shaw made a motion to forward the Job Description to the Board of Directors and recommend approval. Second by Chief Milliard. Unanimous vote.
- Director Lynskey stated that there were 5 candidates in the process for hiring back in January before the position was filled with an internal candidate. At the time he advised those candidates that they would be kept in consideration for future positions. He has reached out to all 5 and 3 of the 5 expressed their desire to be considered. One candidate declined and one candidate has not responded. Of the 3 candidates, one has been through CritiCall already and two have not. Of those 2, one did not show as scheduled and did not reach out. The other is scheduled for later in the week. Director Lynskey asked the board if there ended up only being 1 or 2 candidates if they desired to interview them or

post and seek further. The Board was in agreement to interview any candidates and if none were suitable, then post.

- Chief Milliard made a motion to adjourn at 10:37am. Second by Chief Shaw. Unanimous vote.