



Southeast Region Homeland Security Advisory Council (SRAC)



Full Council Meeting Minutes

Meeting Conducted via Zoom Platform
December 2, 2021 – 11:00 A.M.

Members Present

Chief Brian Clark, Norton PD
Chief Michael Winn, COMM FD
Chief Thomas Lynch, Franklin PD
Chief Lance Benjamino, Middleboro FD
Chief Mark Thompson, Scituate PD
Chief Michael Kelleher, Foxborough FD
Chief Scott Fournier, Berkley FD
Major Daniel Callahan, PCSO
Rob Kenn, E. Bridgewater DPW
Stacy Lane, Norwood Health Dept.
Rick Ferreira, TEMA
Kevin Sweet, TA Wrentham

Guests Present

Christian Cunnie, MEMA
Joe Hattabaugh, MEMA
Richard Fiske, SWIC
Ed Caron, Acushnet EMA
Erick Berg, SEMA 911
Eleanor Smith, Fusion Center
Chief Paul O'Brien, E. Bridgewater

Support Staff Present

Kevin Ham, SRPEDD
Grant King, SRPEDD
Todd Castro, SRPEDD
Amy Reilly, MAPC
Brad Downey, MAPC
Benjamin Podsiadlo, EOPSS
Vicky Mboka-Boyer, EOPSS

Members Absent: Joan Cooper-Zack, South Shore Hospital; Robert Verdone, SE MA Regional 911 District; Chief David Guillemette, Harwich PD

1. **Roll Call:** Mr. Ham read the roll and attendance was taken. Chief Clark introduced council members to Kevin Sweet who will be the council's Government Administrative representative. Mr. Sweet introduced himself and stated he has served in municipal government for twenty years. He also has been in his current position for ten years. Mr. Sweet provided a bio of himself to the Council members.
2. **Public Comment:** No public comments were provided.
3. **Approval of Minutes:** The November 4, 2021 Full Council minutes were unanimously approved via roll call.
4. **Project Update/Fiduciary Report FFY19 & FFY20:** Mr. Castro reported that he and Mr. Ham are working to spend down FFY19 and FFY20 funds. Currently, they are working on procuring the inflatable tent and they have procured the FAC trailers and supplies. Mr. Castro stated that he has sent the PJ for the delivery pole and gas canisters to EOPSS. Mr. Ham has also sent the PJ for JHRT equipment to EOPSS. Mr. Castro stated that the RFQ for the ballistic shields expires today. He mentioned that the ATIRC and Laser training were held several weeks ago and were very successful.
 - **Discussion: FFY21 Investment Plan vs. FFY21 Contract (discrepancy in funding allocation of \$139.00):** Mr. Castro mentioned that originally a motion was needed for the discrepancy in the funding allocation of \$139 but there no longer needs to be a motion. This issue has been resolved; it was a mathematical error in the plan.
5. **MAPC Report:** Ms. Reilly mentioned that Program Managers across the state are working together to gather information on accomplishments that took place over year 2021. She mentioned she will be submitting the



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report to EOPSS and once it is complete, she will share it with the Council members. Ms. Reilly mentioned that they will also be looking ahead at 2022 and describe some major initiatives with which they hope to undertake during that calendar year.

6. **EOPSS Report:** Ms. Mboka-Boyer reported that the FFY20 contract is fully executed, the extension for FFY19 was requested and is being processed. She just received the contract and will be sending it to MAPC for signatures.

Mr. Padsiadlo stated that the PFAS is an issue still and EOPSS's view is that the homeland security funds are better served directed to the homeland security needs. He mentioned there was a large allocation to deal with PFAS for \$10 billion and the federal government will provide more guidance. Mr. Padsiadlo stated they have been looking at program support costs especially about meal costs. He mentioned they are also looking at Cyber Security that may require a match from the state which may come around next Fall. Mr. Padsiadlo mentioned a few highlights that EOPSS is working on.

Mr. Fiske mentioned that there was no SEIC meeting, and the next meeting will occur in January. He mentioned the statewide radio system upgrade project contract has been signed by the awarding vendor and the Commonwealth. The successful bidder was Motorola and the project started moving forward with actual planning, deployment and how that's going to phase out. He mentioned it's going to take about three to five years and it's over \$100 million project that's going to vastly improve capacity of the system.

7. **SRAC BF/OT Rate Increase Discussion:** Chief Clark mentioned that the SRAC BF/OT rate was discussed when the Laser and ATIRC training were taking place. He mentioned that the rate is \$35 an hour which is low and stated that it has not been looked at for a few years. Ms. Reilly mentioned that NERAC is capped at \$35 an hour and the Central region is at \$45.00 an hour. She mentioned the Western region pays the full rate, but they typically don't support BF/OT.

Chief Kelleher stated that each town is required to invest in Homeland Security on their own. He asked if it was worth paying backfill and over time anymore. Chief Kelleher and Chief Clark stated that some towns don't even fill out the paperwork for the BF/OT. He mentioned that some towns believe it is not worth the effort because it is a lot of paperwork. Many of the members indicated they would like to see those funds go to projects. Chief Clark stated that it has been a problem chasing people down for the paperwork in the past. Chief Clark asked if we should take a motion to remove BF/OT. Mr. Castro stated that we should leave it and if towns want to submit for it, they can. He mentioned the Council can always discuss making changes to the rate at a future meeting. Mr. Ham mentioned if someone provides a request for a training, they can ask for BF/OT in the request.

8. **SRAC Vacancy: EMS Open Seat:** Mr. Castro mentioned there are three vacancies still on the Council; EMS, Cyber Security and Education. Chief Clark stated that we can take the seats one by one. Chief Kelleher stated that the Fire Region represents most of the Council and he believes they are looking at the EMS seat. Chief Clark mentioned that we can reach out to the Education field to see if anyone is interested in filling that seat. Chief Clark mentioned starting in January the Education position should be added to the Council agenda for updates.

It was asked what the perimeters were for the Education seat. Mr. Ham provided details about the Education seat as well as the expectations of the seat. Mr. Castro stated that this ultimately could affect council quorum



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numbers especially once the Council meets in person. He mentioned the Council needs to select the right person who can attend meetings. Mr. Sweet asked if the Education seat is a seat the Council has decided to add because he believed the seat was not a requirement per EOPSS guidance. Chief Clark stated the change was made in the new SRAC Bylaws which were copied from NERAC. Mr. Ham mentioned that if the Council didn't have an Education representative, we would have ended up with an even number of council members. He mentioned that would make it difficult for meeting a quorum. Ms. Reilly mentioned that NERAC has a K-12 representative, and the other Councils have higher education representatives. She mentioned it looks at two different perspectives. Chief Kelleher asked if there was a college in the region that has a full-time EMA Director. Mr. Sweet stated that Mass Maritime has a full time Director of Environmental Health and Safety whose supports Emergency Management. He mentioned they also have a full-time Emergency Management department person, but doesn't believe they have a full-time Emergency Manager. Mr. Sweet mentioned he doesn't believe Bridgewater or Wheaton Colleges do either. Chief Kelleher thought perhaps the EHS person from Mass Maritime would be interested in the EMS seat. Chief Kelleher mentioned that he knows the Emergency Management Specialist and the Director of Environmental Health and Safety. Chief Clark asked if Chief Kelleher could reach out to Mass Maritime regarding the vacancy. Chief Kelleher stated that he would speak to them. Mr. Ham mentioned he has worked with Tara McEnroe Kent the Director of EHS at Mass Maritime. Mr. Castro also stated that if anyone knows of a Cyber representative to please let the Council know. Chief Clark asked Ms. Reilly where NERAC looked for their Cyber representative. Ms. Reilly mentioned that NERAC has added two seats to their Council. She mentioned MAPC sent out notifications to the mayors and managers in the regions along with targeted outreach as well. She mentioned that she did receive a nomination from an individual that works in the town of Dartmouth who is a part of the National Guard as well. She indicated that the nominee has thirty years of experience and seem very qualified. Ms. Reilly mentioned that she will make the connection with the fiduciary and the nominee. She mentioned that she reached out to Mass Cyber Center, and Seth Bouvier from EOPSS for a Cyber representative as well.

9. **Training & Exercise:** Mr. Castro mentioned he spoke to Michelle Goodwin regarding the previously approved Rappelling class. Originally this training was supposed to take place at the Fire Academy in Fall River but now looks as though Bridgewater State University is being considered as the host location. He mentioned the pandemic has affected us tremendously in that regard.

Chief Winn thanked all those who were involved with the ATIRC and Laser trainings. He mentioned it was a tremendous training. Chief Winn stated there was a wide spectrum of responders from across Southeastern Massachusetts in the classes. He stated that they were fortunate that on the final day of ATIRC Senator Walter Timilty, who is the Joint Chair of the Committee on Public Safety and Representative Bruce Hayes from Quincy came to observe as well. Chief Winn thanked all those involved and stated it was a great delivery.

10. **Planning:** Mr. Kenn mentioned that the Planning committee met last week to discuss the SPR and thanked Mr. Ham and Mr. Castro for their work on the document. He thanked everyone for their input. Mr. Kenn mentioned that the SPR is due next week.
11. **Fire Services:** No report.
12. **Caching:** No report.



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13. **Interoperability:** Mr. Castro reported that there are no major updates. Mr. Castro has been informed by vendors that the equipment is supposed to be delivered to during the latter part of the year. He mentioned this the delay in arrival is attributed to the pandemic. Once the weather cooperates, they should be able to start offloading it off the delivery vehicles and place the equipment on to the tower.

14. **LEC:** Mr. Castro explained the motions below and Chief O'Brien did as well.

- Motion: To approve the purchase of camera & camera related equipment in the amount of \$40,000 from FFY20, LEC, Not Allocated line item for the SEMLEC Command Post vehicle.

A motion was made, seconded, and approved for the purchase of camera & camera related equipment in the amount of \$40,000 from FFY20, LEC, Not Allocated line item for the SEMLEC Command Post vehicle.

Chief Kelleher asked if these was a Command Post vehicle in the Cape. Chief Clark stated that he didn't believe so.

Mr. Castro explained the motion below regard the pole camera. He mentioned at the last meeting this was voted on but he wanted to amend the terminology on what the Council had voted on. He asked them to approve the Noise Diversionary Device Delivery Pole rather than the pole camera.

- Motion: Amend last month's motion of approval of a "Pole Camera" to approval of a Noise Flash Diversionary Device Delivery Pole. *(Funding amount is \$2,530, FFY-20, LEC).

A motion was made, seconded, and approved to amend last month's motion of approval of a "Pole Camera" to approval of a Noise Flash Diversionary Device Delivery Pole. *(Funding amount is \$2,530, FFY-20, LEC).

15. **Cybersecurity:** Mr. Ham discussed the CISO project which is the Feasibility study. He mentioned the vendor is on board and are having a meeting in a couple of weeks. Chief Clark asked what a CISO was. Mr. Ham stated it is the Chief Information Security Officer. The Feasibility study is looking to help towns find their own CISO position to various degrees and are looking to regionalize the position which would handle multiple towns.

16. **MEMA:** Mr. Cunnie echoed what Chief Winn stated about the trainings held at COMM. He stated it went very well and he thanked Chief Winn.

Mr. Hattabough mentioned that the nor'easter that we had in southeastern Massachusetts on October 27th did not meet the threshold from FEMA for public assistance. He stated that the state threshold is 11.4 million and the state was \$6.5 million. The state was recently awarded \$110 million through MEMA for grant funding to improve hazard mitigation and communities. He stated this is about 10 times the amount of funding MEMA usually receives, and it is due to the COVID declaration. Lastly, he mentioned the recent events at the parade in Wisconsin and the active shooter event at the school in Michigan the other day, the region is offering an Until Help Arrives Class. Mr. Hattabough stated that he rolled this class out in Franklin with Chief Lynch and a few other communities. He stated that it is a beneficial class and open to the public. MEMA instructors have come in to deliver the class. It includes how to call 911, how to remain safe during an emergency, stop the bleed portion and tourniquet training. He indicated it is a two-hour course and is free. MEMA can come to communities to put the class on.



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Chief Clark stated that if the Council could have LSU come out at least once a year for trainings it would be beneficial. He mentioned they did a great job with the trainings at COMM. Mr. Hattabough stated that he would speak to Jeff about it and mentioned they are limited what they can do. Discussion continued regarding LSU as the council would like to have trainings in the future with them.

Mr. Ferreira mentioned that MEMA is doing a drone program. He mentioned this will be a great program. Mr. Hattabough mentioned that MEMA brought in a drone program in from Hawaii. The lead instructor had flown fixed wing assets for the Naval Special Warfare. He mentioned he will work with Jeff and see if we can get something similar back to the Commonwealth.

17. **Items not reasonably anticipated by the Chair 48 hours in advance of the meeting:** None.
18. **Next Meeting/Adjournment:** Chief Clark stated that the next meeting is scheduled for January 6, 2022, at 11:00 A.M via Zoom. The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 P.M.