Southeast Region Homeland Security Advisory Council (SRAC)

Full Council
Meeting Minutes
Meeting Conducted via Zoom Platform
January 6, 2022 – 11:00 A.M.

Members Present
Chief Brian Clark, Norton PD
Chief Thomas Lynch, Franklin PD
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
Robert Verdone, SE MA Regional 911 District

Guests Present
Christian Cunnie, MEMA
Joe Hattabaugh, MEMA
Chief Burke, Sandwich FD
Chief Burke, Hyannis FD
Chief Soffayer, Millis FD
Chief Cavallaro, Hanover FD
Greg Arpin, Vineyard TRT
Ed Caron, Acushnet EMA
Mark Munroe, MassDOT
Laurie White, SEMA EMS

Support Staff Present
Kevin Ham, SRPEDD
Todd Castro, SRPEDD
Amy Reilly, MAPC
Benjamin Podsadlo, EOPSS
Vicky Mboka-Boyer, EOPSS

Members Absent: Joan Cooper-Zack, South Shore Hospital; Chief David Guillemette, Harwich PD; Chief Michael Winn, COMM FD; Chief Lance Benjamin, Middleboro FD; Michael Lambert, BAT

1. **Roll Call:** Mr. Ham read the roll and attendance was taken.

2. **Public Comment:** No public comments were provided.

3. **Approval of Minutes:** The December 2, 2021 Full Council minutes were unanimously approved via roll call.

4. **Project Update/Fiduciary Report FFY19 & FFY20:** Mr. Ham reported on the FFY19 and FFY20 budget. He apologized for not having the at-a-glance budget sheet for the meeting. He did share his screen so the members could view the at-a-glance document. Mr. Ham mentioned that FFY19 is being spent at a good rate showing a negative balance with trainings. Once BF/OT reimbursements are completed, the line item will be closed with a zero balance. Concerning FFY20, $260,000 remains unallocated. However, with the motions taken later in the meeting, it will be spent down. Mr. Ham indicated that he has wrapped up reimbursements for the Laser, ATIRC and Medical Specialist trainings.

5. **MAPC Report:** Ms. Reilly reported that the extension for the FFY19 funds was approved and funds are available through the end of June 2022. She mentioned that MAPC did receive contracts for the FFY21. She stated that she working right now to develop the budgets in the PO logs and the spending of those funds can start happening.

Chief Clark asked when does NERAC have their Council meetings and whether or not these meetings are held by Zoom. Ms. Reilly mentioned NERAC meets the second Thursday of the month at 1 P.M. She stated that they were meeting in person and having hybrid meetings in November and December. She mentioned now with the
COVID numbers rising they have moved to virtual. Chief Clark stated that he would like to look at how they run their meetings for informational purposes.

6. **EOPSS Report:** Ms. Mboka-Boyer reported that they are still waiting for FEMA to provide EOPSS with guidance and the timeline, but they have not heard yet from them. She mentioned that EOPSS is asking that the Council put emphasis on special events and incident response by including them in upcoming training and exercises. She was referring to special events that are public events/mass gatherings that risk attack. ASHER, CBRNE and mass casualty incident response trainings are warranted. She mentioned that MEMA will be putting on classes and MEMA can explain further.

Mr. Podsiadlo reported that there is a lot of work being done to re-invigorate training and exercise programs given the pandemic. He mentioned they are dealing with new changes in that environment that we’re all aware of. Mr. Podsiadlo stated that he was grateful to Chief Kelleher for inviting him to get a comprehensive site visit to the Gillette operation this past weekend, and he was able to see the entire Homeland Public Safety operation with a multidisciplinary coordination between the various disciplines. He also mentioned he saw Mr. Verdone’s operation as well, which was impressive. He entertained questions from the Council. Chief Clark stated that it was great that Chief Kelleher invited him to attend the event.

7. **SRAC Vacancies: EMS, Cybersecurity & Education Open Seats:** Chief Kelleher mentioned that Tara McEnroe was going to be a good fit for the education seat but she has since retired. He did mention that he reached out to the Chair of the Emergency Management Program and he has a designated an individual for that role. Chief Kelleher mentioned that the EMA Chair should have an answer by next week and he hopes to have the education seat filled. Chief Clark mentioned that he has no news on the EMS seat. Chief Kelleher mentioned they can work on it this month. Chief Clark mentioned he does not have a recommendation for the Cybersecurity seat at this time.

8. **Planning/Training/Caching:**

- **FFY21 Plan Refresher:** Mr. Kenn asked the Council to review the FFY21 Plan to see if the projects are still viable. He mentioned there are many new members and they should familiarize themselves with the plan. Mr. Ham shared the FFY21 Plan with the members and reviewed it with them. He did mention that we will be starting the planning of the FFY22 Plan soon.

9. **Fire Services:** Chief Kelleher discussed the motions below with the Council. Each of the motions were taken separately.

Chief Kelleher mentioned that he spoke with Mr. Podsiadlo and indicated there are millions of dollars within the American Rescue Plan fund for foam disposal. He mentioned that the Council does not need to use their funding and asked for a motion to unallocate the fund for the project.

**Motion:** To unallocate $200,000 from FFY20, Fire Services, Foam Disposal & Replacement line item back to the FFY20, Unallocated Line Item.

A motion was made, seconded and approved to unallocate $200,000 from FFY20, Fire Services, Foam Disposal &
Replacement line item back to the FFY2020, Unallocated Line Item.

Chief Cavallaro shared a presentation on the Fire CAT and he briefly discussed the new component on Metro LEC. Metro LEC and members of the fire service have been engaged in discussions about how the fire service can integrate and collaborate with Metro LEC and enhance what Metro LEC has to offer which has transpired into a separate unit of Metro LEC. Chief Cavallaro mentioned that Tactical Fire (TAC) has recently been put into action. TAC Fire mission is to support and enhance the capabilities of Metro LEC and specifically the special tactics, response, or the SWAT team to safely and efficiently respond to operate at and mitigate incidents. He mentioned it is a highly collaborative concept that has been in place where law enforcement, fire service personnel assist, coordinate the fire and rescue along with EMS components of any incident.

Chief Soffayer discussed TAC Fire in further detail. He mentioned that it was developed based on scenarios with real life scenarios, calls that they went on and the leadership of the team working on this with members of the fire services to ensure that they roll this out. Chief Soffayer mentioned they did use this in Braintree and it worked fantastically. He gave many examples to which TAC Fire had responded.

Chief Clark mentioned that there has been a major concern with the Undersecretary leading up to the marathon. He mentioned if members remember a couple short weeks before the marathon, this happened right in front of the governor’s house in Swampscott. He stated to have this capability is very beneficial for us. Mr. Podriadlo mentioned that he would make sure this information gets back to the Undersecretary. Mr. Ferreira stated that he agreed with the Chief’s on this project and the presentation was great. He mentioned it is an expensive piece of equipment and asked if this something they would be coming back to the Council for support. Chief Soffayer stated yes, they would come back to the Council for support. He mentioned that all need to be trained and the Tak Fire individual will train with their team so when they go to these call outs. He stated they all have to be comfortable working with each other depending on their needs. Chief Clark mentioned this would be a regional asset and available to all. The Chief’s answered questions from the Council on the equipment.

**Motion:** To approve $380,000 for purchase of a Fire CAT, with $230,000 from FFY21 Bearcat, not allocated and $150,000 from FFY 20 Fire Services, not allocated.

A motion was made, seconded and approved to allocated $380,000 for purchase of a Fire CAT, with $230,000 from FFY21 Bearcat, not allocated and $150,000 from FFY 20 Fire Services, not allocated.

Chief Burke discussed the motion below to hire an Intelligence Analyst. This is a position that is focused on trying to bring fire and EMS to collaborate to gain up-to-date/actual intelligence information. Chief Burke explained the position in further detail. Mr. Ferreira stated in all his years on the Council he doesn’t remember the Council ever funding a position. He asked Ms. Reilly if other Councils have funded a position. Ms. Reilly mentioned she believes it is allowable, but would have to check with EOPSS. Chief Burke mentioned that it is a full-time position and he did research when this came up. He mentioned that BRIC is and the entire BRIC staff is funded through Homeland Security funds. He mentioned that they are taking this proposal seriously. Chief Clark asked if that would be a SEMRECC employee. Chief Burke indicated that there could be a few ways to do it. He mentioned that BRIC contracts with a government contractor and they subcontract with a GSA contract. They get an employee that is paid by a private company, and BRIC is all privately paid by a contractor. Chief Fournier asked if this is a long-term position, will this person be an employee and asked how they will be paid. He stated there are many questions to this and may be the Council should get more information on the position before voting. Chief Kelleher mentioned that fire services have the funds to do it this year, but after that maybe it could be split. Chief Clark asked if it could be split with Cybersecurity if that is one of the aspects. There was discussion between the members and
Chief Burke along with questions/answers about the position.

**Motion:** To approve $100,000 for hiring of an Intelligence Analyst, from FFY20 Fire Services, not allocated.

A motion was made, seconded and approved to fund $100,000 for hiring of an Intelligence Analyst, from FFY20 Fire Services, not allocated.

Chief John Burke from Barnstable County Fire discussed the motion below.

**Motion:** To approve $20,000 for the Cape Cod Training Prop Project Funding Request from FFY20, Fire Services, Unallocated Line Item.

A motion was made, seconded and approved to fund $20,000 for the Cape Cod Training Prop Project Funding Request from FFY20, Fire Services, Unallocated Line Item.

10. **Interoperability:** Mr. Verdone mentioned Interop has not had a meeting since the last Council meeting. He mentioned he met with Glenn Corrado from CISO yesterday about his interface with Interop and the new intelligence and kicker component of the Interop committee. He stated Melissa Nazaro has been appointed as the Region 1 Communication Coordinator for CISO and DHS.

11. **LEC:** Mr. Castro explained the motions below. He mentioned that the Baffled Cannisters project has been denied. He mentioned both of those monies will go back into the LEC line item. Chief Clark mentioned we cannot purchase these items but he asked Chief Saffoyer to further explain the two items below. Chief Saffoyer explained these items. He stated this is unfortunate that this is not approved because he is being stripped of a necessary tool that ensures an operation to be safe. Mr. Castro stated that he did not use any language that would make this project denied. He mentioned he did speak to Mr. Podsiadlo and the answer was no. Mr. Podsiadlo stated that he is familiar with this device, but EOPSS has seen a scrutiny of devices and weapons. At the FEMA level, there has been a tightening of these items. He mentioned he can continue to research and advocate for this item with FEMA. Chief Saffoyer stated he would be more than happy to gather information on this item to have it discussed further with FEMA and EOPSS. Mr. Podsiadlo mentioned he could speak to Chief Saffoyer after the meeting. Mr. Castro stated that maybe the Council should wait on the motions below to get more directions. Chief Clark stated that he was fine with that.

**Motion:** To unallocate $9,200 for the Baffled Cannisters Project in FFY20 LEC Line Item back into the FFY20 LEC Unallocated Line Item.

This item was tabled until the next meeting.

**Motion:** To unallocate $2,530 for the Noise Flash Diversionary Pole Project in FFY20 LEC Line Item back into the FFY20 Unallocated Line Item.

This item was tabled until the next meeting.

12. **Cybersecurity:** Mr. Ham mentioned that the Feasibility Project is still underway and when he has updates, he will share them with the Council.
13. **MEMA:** Mr. Cunnie mentioned there has been a personnel change that might have an impact on the Operations Unit. Rich LaTour, the previous Logistics Manager has been temporarily promoted to the Assistant Director of Operations because Mike Russas has moved onto MassPort.

14. **Items not reasonably anticipated by the Chair 48 hours in advance of the meeting:** None.

15. **Next Meeting/Adjournment:** Chief Clark stated that the next meeting is scheduled for February 3, 2022, at 11:00 A.M via Zoom. The meeting was adjourned at 1 P.M. He did mention that he would like to get the Council to SEMRECC so all can take a look. Chief Clark stated that we will keep an on the COVID numbers as well. The meeting concluded at 12:30 PM.