



Southeast Region Homeland Security Advisory Council (SRAC)



SRAC Full Council Meeting Minutes

Meeting held virtually through Zoom
June 2, 2022 – 11:00 A.M.

Members Present

Chief Brian Clark, Norton PD
Chief Mark Thompson, Scituate PD
Chief Scott Fournier, Berkley FD
Rob Kenn, E. Bridgewater DPW
Rick Ferreira, TEMA
Robert Verdone, SE MA Regional 911 District
Stacy Lane, Norwood Health Dept
Chief Thomas Lynch, Franklin PD
Chief Michael Kelleher, Foxborough FD
Michael Lambert, BAT
Brian Evangelista, Region V EMS

Guests Present

Christian Cunnie, MEMA
Joe Hattabough, MEMA
Phil Desroches, MEP
John Kelley, Wareham FD
Robert Stephanian, PCSO
Chief Soffayer, Millis, PD

Support Staff Present

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

Members Absent: Major Daniel Callahan, PCSO; Kevin Sweet, Wrentham; Chief Mike Winn, COMM Fire; Mike Guterrez, MMA; Chief Lance Benjamino, Middleboro FD; Michael Courville, Dartmouth; Joan Cooper-Zack, South Shore Hospital; Chief David Guillemette, Harwich PD

1. **Roll Call:** Chief Clark read the roll and attendance was taken.
2. **Public Comment:** No public comments were provided.
3. **Approval of Minutes: May 5th & May 17th 2022:** A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved via roll call to accept the May 5, 2022 and May 17, 2022 Council meeting minutes.
4. **Project Update/Fiduciary Report: FFY 19 & 20:** Mr. Castro mentioned that he and Mr. Ham are actively developing projects to include identifying a vendor for the Fall Metro LEC HRT. He mentioned they have completed the diagnostic work for a command vehicle and are now waiting for an appointment to have that vehicle camera work be completed. Mr. Castro mentioned that Mr. Ham has been working to get the reimbursement request in to MAPC. Lastly, there are unallocated funds remaining in both FY 19 and FY 20. He mentioned for FY 19 funds will expire in December 31, 2022r, and FY 20 funds will expire June of 2023.

Chief Clark asked what areas are the unallocated funds. Mr. Castro mentioned they are in Fire Services, Mass Care and T&E.



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5. **MAPC Report:** Ms. Reilly mentioned that the extensions were grants for FY 19 and FY 20 but she did mention it is very important to start generating projects for both those grants. She mentioned that the FY21 funds will be ready to spend soon in the Fall. Ms. Reilly urge the Council to think through how to spend down 19 and 20 funds so they can start to move on to other grant years.
6. **EOPSS Report:** Mr. Podsiadlo thanked the members that are retiring from the Council for being committed to the Council. He mentioned that the application is due on June 13th and EOPSS is working on it as well. Mr. Podsiadlo mentioned the Attorney General has joined the nationwide lawsuit to sue the manufacturers as responsible parties, in their awareness of the hazards of the PFS foam, which she announced on May 25th. He mentioned they are looking to the federal government in their plans for the critical infrastructure bill and the allocations towards PFS cleanup, remediation and mitigation. Mr. Ferreira mentioned that last week he attended the Spectator Sport training in Milford and the foam removal was discussed and Scott mentioned it was done at no charge. He mentioned no one attended from fire services and it was a great training that fire services may want to look into. Mr. Podsiadlo mentioned Scott worked hard to get the training here. Ms. Lane asked Mr. Podsiadlo if this lawsuit is going to be like the opioid crisis lawsuit were the states signed on and then individual communities signed on for the lawsuit, the distributors and the manufacturers. Ms. Podsiadlo mentioned he is not sure but will get back to Ms. Lane.

Chief Clark mentioned he asked Chief Soffayer to attend the meeting to talk about Active Shooter. He mentioned we are trying to get LSU to come to do training, but it is hard to get them. He mentioned Chief Soffayer will be giving an overview of a program that he's been involved with. He mentioned it may be beneficial to have a springboard to our area. Chief Soffayer discussed IRAT which is the Integrated Rapid Rescue Active Shooter Training for mass casualty incidents. He indicated this program was started four years ago and it is a 1-day class from 8 AM to 4 PM for Police and Fire. Chief Soffayer mentioned the training is broken into three phases. He discussed the training in further detail and stated if anyone is interested he could put the training together. Mr. Podsiadlo stated that this a great training and thanked Chief Soffayer for mentioning the program. Chief Clark stated that he will work with Chief Soffayer, Mr. Ham and Mr. Castro to see what funding would be needed to have this training and have it discussed at the next Council meeting.

7. **SRAC Vacancy: Fire Services Open Seat:** Chief Clark mentioned that Chief Benjamino is retiring and he had suggested Chief John Kelley as a replacement from Wareham Fire Department. Chief Kelley gave an introduction of himself stating he has been in fire services for 28 years. He mentioned he believe he would be a great fit for the Council.

A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to have Chief John Kelly serve as a Fire Service representative as of July 1st to replace Chief Benjamino. A roll call was taken for the vote.



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Chief Clark mentioned that another vacancy has come up today. He mentioned that this vacancy can be discussed further at the next meeting, but Dan Callahan will be retiring from the Plymouth County Sheriff's Office. He has been the SRAC's Sheriff representative. Major Callahan will be retiring July 1st. Bob Stephanian has been recommended as a replacement. Mr. Stephanian stated that he is with the Plymouth County Sheriff's Office and currently serves as a Sergeant in the BCI Unit. He also holds roles on the satellite and Metro LEC teams for search and rescue and operational support. He mentioned has work closely with SRPEDD in the past as well. Chief Clark mentioned we can table this for the next meeting.

8. **Planning/Training/Caching:** No report.

9. **Fire Services:** Chief Kelleher discussed the motion below. He discussed Crowd Safety in further detail and how to recognize different patterns in behaviors. He mentioned this is great trainings for large venues, and parades. Mr. Ferreira mentioned that this program is very well done. Chief Kelleher stated that he is very familiar with this program and this is a more technical training and more crowd science. Chief Kelleher mentioned is it a 4-day class then the train the trainer is an additional 4 days.

Motion: To approve the Crowd Safety course project funding request in the amount of \$30,000 from FFY-19, Fire Services, Unallocated line item.

A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approve the Crowd Safety course project funding request in the amount of \$30,000 from FFY-19, Fire Services, Unallocated line item. A roll call was taken for the vote.

10. **Interoperability:** Mr. Verdone mentioned that the consultant for the backhaul project and the microwave conductivity project has been doing site surveys but he has not received a report back from them. He mentioned that Copicut Hill is released for vendors to mount equipment and start lighting up certain radios. Chief Clark asked if there is a date on when the site survey will be complete. Mr. Verdone and Mr. Castro mentioned they have no date at this point.

11. **LEC:** Chief Lynch mentioned there was an incident in Stoughton but it was a success and they also had a missing boy for two days that was successful as well. Mr. Castro referred the Council to the motion below and he did explain the below motion to the Council.

Motion: To approve an additional \$1,000 for the METROLEC SWAT HRT Training out of FFY-19, Training & Exercise, Not Allocated line item.

A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approve an additional \$1,000 for the METROLEC SWAT HRT Training out of FFY-19, Training & Exercise, Not Allocated line item. A roll call was taken for the vote.



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12. **Cybersecurity:** None
13. **EMS:** Mr. Evangelista stated they are in the preliminary phase of coming up with an EMS conference which may occur in the Fall. He mentioned they will be having a presenter from upstate New York at the conference.
14. **Education:** None
15. **Emergency Management:** None
16. **Regional Transportation:** Mr. Lambert stated that BAT has low ridership but. He stated they are having the TSA review the safety security plans which was free of charge. He mentioned they also had them do an unattended bag drill for the driver. Mr. Lambert mentioned that they received a grant from the Department of Industrial Accidents, to fund an active shooter training, as well as a general safety and security training.
17. **Public Health:** Ms. Lane mentioned that COVID is pretty steady but there was a little dip in cases. She mentioned many health departments have received antigen kits. She mentioned that she will be receiving 5,000 in her community. She said she will be using hers for the Police and Fire Departments. Chief Clark mentioned that he is seeing the number rise again.
18. **Hospitals:** None
19. **Public Works:** Mr. Kenn mentioned that Mass Highway is still working a mutual aid aspect of DPW and he will keep the Council posted as that evolves.
20. **Government Administration:** None
21. **MEMA:** Mr. Cunnie reported that MEMA is building out a yearlong course schedule. They have just received there IPP. Mr. Hattabough mentioned they will be releasing a \$180,000 CERT grant to all communities that have an existing team or anyone who would like to start one.
22. **Items not reasonably anticipated by the Chair 48 hours in advance of the meeting:** None
23. **Next Meeting/Adjournment:** The next meeting will be on August 4th at 11 AM. TBD on in person/remote meeting.



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