

GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY 911 BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MEETING MINUTES OF OCTOBER 29TH, 2020
COMMISSION CHAMBERS – GOVERNMENTAL CENTER

PRESENT:

Chief Pat Parker
Jeff O'Brien
Gregg Bird
Nick Lemcool
Sgt. Matt McCaul
Brad Jewett
Jason Torrey
Chief Andy Down
Chris Clark

AGENCY:

G.T. Metro Fire Department
Traverse City Police Department
G.T. County Emergency Management
East Bay EMS
Michigan State Police
G.T County Board of Commissioners
GT 911/Central Dispatch
Grand Traverse Township Fire Services
G.T. County Sheriff's Department

ABSENT:

Chief Jim Tuller

Traverse City Fire Department

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Leah Hornacek
Bill Parker
Brandon Flynn
Steve Meek
Nick Carpenter
Steve Myers
Dave Grattopp

GT 911/Central Dispatch
Blair/Paradise Township Emergency Services
Whitewater Twp. Fire Department
Grand Traverse Metro Fire
Grand Traverse Central Dispatch
Mobile Medical Response
NorthFlight EMS

CALL TO ORDER:

Meeting was called to order at 10:01 am. A quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

A request to begin the meeting with the business of the North Flight EMS to MMR transition was made. Motion by Brad Jewett and supported by Andy Down; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion by Nick Lemcool and supported by Brad Jewett; Motion passed.

NORTHLIGHT TO MMR TRANSITION:

- December 1st will be the transition date, moving dispatch responsibilities from North Flight dispatch to MMR dispatch in Saginaw. Steve Myers from MMR advised there will be no change in level of service and dispatching procedures immediately after the transition. Talkgroups will remain the same as well as paging procedures. November 27th – 28th is the plan to begin moving assets over. MMR will work with Grand Traverse 911 on reprogramming county-owned radios for private MMR channels. Chief Flynn discussed Whitewater Township's service agreement with MMR; Myers advised that the contact for Whitewater will not change. There was a discussion of the use of dispatch technologies, such as CrewForce application, to more effectively dispatch MMR units; nothing immediately, but in the works. Jason Torrey discussed secondary PSAP concept, where EMS calls are sent directly to MMR's dispatch center in Saginaw, and that Grand Traverse 911 declined to function in that manner; they will continue to maintain calls locally at the PSAP and not transfer callers to MMR.

DIRECTORS REPORT:

- Rounded out staffing plan with last new hire, Cory Ellis. There are a total of three people in training and they are progressing well.
- 911 surcharge discussions and social media interaction, finding little to no negative feedback. It is anticipated that the surcharge will be successful. Discussed with county administrator Nate Alger who advised that he had also not received negative feedback.
- 2021 budget was finalized and presented to the board of commissioners (not yet approved). Discussed equipment and additional full-time staffing during increased workloads; the county administrator advised he would continue to talk with the board regarding it. Torrey requests assistance from the 911 board in supporting the full-time position addition in 2021. Other line items seem to be in-line with years past. CPE grant upgrades slated for fall 2021.
- Rave mobility update: The state has tightened up on the budget and decided to pull fund matching for Smart911 service at fifty percent. A request has been placed into the budget for 2021 to continue operation. A request was made for a demonstration of Rave's alerting service. Gregg Bird discussed CodeRED updates and suggested Torrey and Leah Hornacek to communicate with CodeRED to discuss said updates.
- Acquired a service vehicle from the Sheriff's Office for field work, address verification and tactical dispatch team deployments. The vehicle will receive decals for clear identification.
- MPSCS radio outage from October 12th – no official report from the MPSCS, however, unofficial report was that a dual firewall failure at the zone controller for zone 4 lost occurred and lost all connection to other zones. This was possibly related to an upgrade process they were working on. The incident gave 911 an opportunity to rework the radio storm-plan and work on better preparing for any potential future events. Dispatchers and field personnel did a really good job using alternate methods of communicating.

- Next radio training class scheduled for November 7th. There has been little participation in these classes so far. Torey is looking for more MPSCS approved trainers in the county that can help participate in these classes.
- Working with Gregg Bird to finish up the EOC command trailer; waiting on IT for a few items and 911 equipment is currently being utilized in the temporary 911 backup center.
- Last call for any agencies with a need for batteries for radios and pagers.
- On September 21st, Board of Commissioners discussed hazard pay options and approved it for the Sheriff's Office. Board members had discussed 911 specifically, but decided not to include the department in the hazard pay.

SUBCOMITTEE REPORTS:

Technical

- No report.

Law Enforcement

- No report.

Fire and EMS

- No report.

OLD BUSINESS:

- No report.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Policy updates – Torrey submitted update to new Amber Alert policy with the most significant change being backfill with extra personnel in expectation of increased workload. Also submitted update to the lockdown policy, with a change in form of communications with schools via two-way radio. A motion to approve updates was made by Brad Jewett and supported by Nick Lemcool; motion passed.
- Discussion of Motorola proposal for capital improvement request, which includes a new fill-in radio site located at Central Tower off River Road, as well as two additional radio positions in the 911 center. Motorola worked with the state to finalize the build-out and offered Grand Traverse an incentive to place the order in 2020 with two-year, payment and interest free financing. MPSCS advised they believed Motorola was in a better position to install the equipment than they would be able to. Fire Chiefs agreed that implementation of the tower sooner than later is ideal. Torrey requested the 911 board to discuss and support in presenting this to the Board of Directors. A motion was made to support, if surcharge approved, by Pat Parker and supported by Brad Jewett; motion passed.

ROUND TABLE:

- No report.

Meeting adjourned 10:59 AM

DRAFT