

Central Vermont Public Safety Authority Board Meeting
Thur Jan 16, 2020 Minutes - DRAFT
at 6:30pm CV Chamber Conference Room

Board Members Present: Kim Cheney, Chair; Dona Bate, Mike Smith, Will Schwarz and attempts made by traveling south Doug Hoyt. Other Attendee: Steven MacKenzie and Stephen Whitaker.

Kim called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. Mike made motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Will and motion was approved.

Public comments were made by Stephen Whitaker about the new State Public Safety Commissioner Michael Schirling recent announcements. Schirling wants to create an agency of public safety rather than its being a department. He wants to eliminate the free dispatching now being done by the State and wants to see a priority and grants given to regional dispatch centers. Schirling also spoke about reorganizing 911. He has ideas for changing the 911 Board from a governing body to an advisory board; and for establishing a fee structure for those without a consolidated dispatch center. He emphasized the importance to modernize and standardize public safety communications. Last night after the city council meeting, Dona heard similar comments from Tony about Schirling's ideas for change. This may take some time to develop but it reaffirms CVPSA existence, its goals and future activities.

Minutes for Nov 21, Dec 19 and Jan 2 were approved after a motion from Will and second from Mike. Dona distributed packets which had the Chair Cheney's 2019 Annual Report, Dona's FY19-22 Financial Report and Budgets, Dona's brief CVPSA Annual Report given early Jan to Barre & Montpelier for their Town Meeting Annual Reports; and the original CVPSA Warning for its March ballot item which split the \$50,000 evenly and a revised warning that used the existing allocation formula of 53%/47% which changed Barre to \$26,500 and Montpelier to \$23,500.

Motion was made by Will to accept these Annual Report documents with second by Mike, motion passed. Dona made motion to approve the warning with the 53%/47% allocation, making Barre shares \$26,500 and Montpelier \$23,500. Mike seconded and motion passed.

Group discuss the current CVPSA Board vacancies. There was general disappointment that the city councils had not filled their slots though several of us have spoken with them. Dona felt they will wait to appoint until after Town Meeting vote. If our ballot item passes, the cities will want full participation in choosing the vendor and working on the needs assessment, which will likely lead to appointment of the chiefs and/or other public safety professional. Their presence would enhance the board's ability to advance its goals. Dona felt that Tony was more open to this possibility after hearing Schirling's proposals for modernizing public safety.

Kim asked for a motion to approve him and Dona as signatories on the CVPSA's Community National Bank checking account. Will made the motion, Mike seconded, and motion passed. Dona completed the appropriate bank forms and gave them to Kim to submit.

Kim still feels that CVPSA needs to revise the allocation cost formula and the related MOU. He was also concerned that CapWest has a limited membership with CVPSA which was created through a two-year MOU that expires July 2020. Dona felt we can work with CapWest to extend the current

MOU for a few months, but that it would be better to wait until we had the needs assessment report to work from. It will have the information on the equipment and problems for every town and will provide some options to resolve those problems, with equipment suggestion and cost estimates. Without the study we have no basis to create a fair and equitable regional cost sharing allocation formula.

Kim wanted to appear before Barre Council next Tues Jan 22 and Montpelier Council at its Budget hearing meeting Jan 23. Dona said she would arrange it for Montpelier, and Mike offered to do for Barre.

As promised Mike and Will had talked with various public safety individuals about the submitted proposals and wanted to share these comments with the board. Mike moved to find that premature general public knowledge of contract negotiation will clearly place the Authority at a substantial disadvantage in its consideration of the submitted proposals. Will seconded the motion and it was approved.

Mike made the motion that the board enter into executive session to discuss the three submitted telecommunication proposals under the provision of Title 1, Section 313 (a)(1) of the Vermont Statutes. Will seconded and motion passed. Went into executive session at 7:30pm and at 8:11pm Mike made motion to come out of executive session. Will seconded and motion passed.

Kim shared that Terry LaValley suggested we interview vendors, the group had assumed we would and went on to talk about saving time and money by using Skye or Facetime.

Next regular meeting is Feb 20 Thur at 6:30pm at CV Chamber.

Meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 8:18pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Dona Bate, Secretary