



# South Worcester County Communications Center

357 Main Street • Webster, MA 01570 • 508-943-1212  
*Serving the Towns of Webster and Dudley, Massachusetts*



*Gregory Lynskey, Communications Center Director*

*SWCCC Board of Directors*

*Meeting Minutes for May 13, 2021 – Regular Session*

Board Members Present: Randy Becker

Board Members participating remotely: Chairman Jonathan Ruda, Doug Willardson, John Marsi

Board Members Absent: None

Others Present: Gregory Lynskey

Others participating Remotely: Earl Gabor

Meeting Location: Webster PD Community Room & Held Remotely Via Zoom

- Meeting called to order by Chairman Ruda at 10:04am.
- Chairman Ruda led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Mr. Becker made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from February 11, 2021. Second by Mr. Willardson. Vote: Mr. Becker-Aye, Mr. Marsi-Aye, Mr. Willardson-Aye, Chairman Ruda-Aye.
- Director Lynskey informed the Board that Mr. Willardson had submitted a grant application through Community Compact regarding an interoperable technology study to identify what technology would be needed to incorporate Charlton and/or Sturbridge if they joined the SWCCC. He stated that the Community Compact coordinator forwarded the request to State 911 Director Frank Pozniak who contacted Director Lynskey. Director Pozniak indicated that the Community Compact Interoperability funds are generally used to supplement funds already obtained from the State 911 Department for equipment. He indicated that State 911 has a contract with the Collins Center at UMass Boston for doing study. Director Lynskey explained to Director Pozniak that we were not looking to complete an administrative feasibility study as several have already been done, but that instead the intent was to do a technological study. Director Pozniak indicated he would have their consultant reach out to Director Lynskey to see if it was something they could do. If so, the study would be funded by State 911. Director Lynskey then spoke with the consultant, Tom Kennedy. Mr. Kennedy was explained the situation and agreed that a feasibility is not likely to be worthwhile since all communities have been part of several that determined the idea of regionalizing feasible and yet chose not to do so. Mr. Kennedy indicated he does have a technology person as part of the team and could focus a study on that portion while only minimally touching on administration and finance. He provided a draft project proposal. Director Lynskey read that proposal to the board. Mr. Kennedy suggested to Director Lynskey that it would be important to learn if there would be support from the Boards of Selectmen in the prospective towns as prior studies he has completed for those towns had support from Public Safety Officials and the Administrators and were shut down at the Board of Selectmen level. Mr. Willardson indicated he can reach out to the administrators in both towns to see if they still have interest and to see if they can get early buy-in from their selectmen. Director

## **Board of Directors:**

Jonathan Ruda - Chairman

Doug Willardson - Vice Chairman

Randy Becker - Member

John Marsi - Member

## **Operations Board:**

Dean Kochanowski - Chairman

Michael Shaw - Vice Chairman

Steven Wojnar - Member

Brian Hickey - Member

Gary Milliard - Member

Lynskey stated he thought it might be best if discussions were had between Chairmen of the selectmen in each town rather than having an open meeting discussion since an open meeting discussion would give opportunity for opponents to begin standing in the way of it early on. Mr. Becker agreed and stated he can reach out and have conversation. Mr. Ruda asked if there was any indication why Charlton chose not to move forward previously. Director Lynskey stated the selectmen were swayed on two different projects by the public safety unions and at the last minute voted not to go forward. Director Lynskey added that Mr. Kennedy thought that Douglas would be a great first step to adding communities since they are a smaller community, however he agreed that Douglas has shown no indication that they wish to regionalize with anyone. Director Lynskey also added that it is becoming more and more clear that the State is not going to push towns to join existing centers like they said they would. The state just recently approved a new regional center in Western MA for which another center is located between the two towns already. Mr. Becker made a motion to move forward with the study contingent upon agreement from the administrators and BOS Chairs in the towns. Second by Mr. Marsi. Vote: Mr. Becker-Aye, Mr. Marsi-Aye, Mr. Willardson-Aye, Chairman Ruda-Aye.

- Director Lynskey updated the Board that he would not be asking to utilize funds from the reserve for the server replacement as they were able to find a way to utilize COVID funds to cover the cost.
- Director Lynskey informed the Board that the dispatchers union had officially decertified from SEIU and had organized under MassCOP under a voluntary recognition that took effect May 1. Director Lynskey indicated that the contract with SEIU covered through June 30, however SEIU confirmed that they have released the dispatchers as of May 1. Director Lynskey has received request from the dispatchers to begin negotiations for the new contract and is asking the Board to set the negotiation team. Mr. Willardson made a motion for the Negotiating Team to be Mr. Willardson, Chairman Ruda, and Director Lynskey. Second by Mr. Becker. Vote: Mr. Becker-Aye, Mr. Marsi-Aye, Mr. Willardson-Aye, Chairman Ruda-Aye. Mr. Ruda asked who represents the Board as a labor attorney if needed. Mr. Willardson stated it would be Webster's labor attorney, Brian Maser of KP Law. Mr. Ruda asked if the Board has a legal budget. Director Lynskey indicated it is part of the indirect cost assessment.
- Director Lynskey stated he was requesting that the Board rescind its offer of employment for per-diem dispatch that was made to Mariusz Karlowicz at their prior meeting. Director Lynskey indicated that the date of appointment was TBD once he spoke with Mr. Karlowicz. Director Lynskey stated that he reached out to Mr. Karlowicz to determine his availability at which time Mr. Karlowicz asked for a couple days to decide if he was going to accept as he had been offered another job elsewhere as well. Director Lynskey asked Mr. Karlowicz to reach out to him by the end of that week with an answer. Mr. Karlowicz never reached back out to him and did not answer any attempts to contact him. His voicemail was full and no message could be left. An email was sent to an email

address known to be correct and no response was received. A further email was sent indicating that Director Lynskey would be requesting the Board to rescind the offer. No response was received. Mr. Becker made a motion to rescind the offer of per-diem employment that had been made to Mariusz Karlowicz and to send a letter indicating such. Second by Mr. Willardson. Vote: Mr. Becker-Aye, Mr. Marsi-Aye, Mr. Willardson-Aye, Chairman Ruda-Aye.

- Director Lynskey presented a review of the budget through March 31, 2021. He pointed out that while the Dispatcher Salary line item looked to be well underspent that the dispatchers were being paid exclusively out of the State 911 grant up until that funding was expended before we were paying them out of local funding. He indicated that as of the current time he has no concerns with funds in the budget for the remainder of the year.
- Director Lynskey provided the board with several budget transfers, one of which required a vote.
  - \$3,500.00 from Employee Training 6421152 530008 to Computer Equipment Maintenance 6421152 524015. Director Lynskey informed the Board that this transfer was covering the cost of upgrading all police, fire, and EMS camera systems to the latest software version as the software version being used was approaching and end of life. Director Lynskey indicated this is approximately an ever 3 year expense and noted that while the individual departments are officially responsible for the equipment, this is the second upgrade that he has been able to cover out of the dispatch budget. Mr. Becker asked if this is for cameras that are able to be monitored from Dispatch. Director Lynskey stated yes it is. Mr. Marsi made a motion to approve the transfer as presented. Second by Mr. Becker. Vote: Mr. Becker-Aye, Mr. Marsi-Aye, Mr. Willardson-Aye, Chairman Ruda-Aye.
- Director Lynskey presented the Board with the following transfers for their information that did not require a vote:
  - \$2,073.60 from Regular Overtime 6421151 513000 to Vacation Incentive 6421151 514008 – Director Lynskey indicated this was to cover vacation buyouts that were authorized for the end of Fiscal 2020 as a result of COVID.
  - \$1,520.00 from Employee Training 6421152 530008 to Communications Maintenance 6421152 524006 – Director Lynskey informed the Board this was to cover the cost of purchasing equipment to implement Zello. He indicated that Zello is a system that allows interfacing radios into the internet for use via a cell phone app, thus extending the use of radios to areas they may not usually reach. He indicated that he was able to procure equipment for all 5 public safety agencies and that Zello provides their product free of charge to public safety users.
  - \$0.12 from Other Charges & Expenses 6421152 570000 to Telephone 6421152 534001 – Director Lynskey stated this was simply due to rounding the budget line item.

- Director Lynskey stated he had one other item he wished to update the Board on. He stated just yesterday that Motorola had completed installation of the laptop radio console that he had received grant funding for. He stated this console would be able to be portable and used anywhere there is internet with functionality just like sitting in the dispatch center.
- The Board set the next meeting date as June 17 at 9:00am to be held at Dudley Fire.
- Mr. Marsi made a motion to adjourn at 10:48am, second by Mr. Willardson.  
Vote: Mr. Becker-Aye, Mr. Marsi-Aye, Mr. Willardson-Aye, Chairman Ruda-Aye.