

Regional Dispatch governance group, 01/20/17

Present: Aaron Frank, Dawn Francis, Joe Colangelo, Ann Janda, Rick McGuire, Charlie Baker, Ray Coffey, Steve Locke, Kevin Dorn, Tom Hubbard, Joe Colangelo, Lee Krohn; and Liz Coyle and Don Denning, Deltawrx, by phone

Background and process, and governance work by this group, done in parallel with and will feed into consultant final report. Recommended governance structure of a Union Municipal District was reviewed.

Authorized under 24 VSA 4345(b). Legal review was also summarized – this structure has authority to create/enforce ordinances, sovereign immunity, ability to issue debt at lower rates, and other benefits. Charter doesn't need legislative approval. Send to AG, if not rejected, then OK after 30 days.

Does need a joint survey committee, with members appointed by Council/Selectboards; presumably would be primarily those involved in this working group to date.

Start as a dispatch entity, but structure so could add certain services later, if desired, with Board level approval... CUSI, animal control, technical rescue, for example...but not department level services. Initial charter needs voter approval; but could build in board level amendments to add limited services. Options considered reviewed with pros and cons. Next steps reviewed.

E911 Board informally approved reconfiguration of Shelburne PSAP catchment area to transfer to new entity. Police calls more frequent, but EMS calls take more time, as they stay on the line with those calls helping people through.

PSAP revenue and BTV call volume both important regarding financial viability.

Motion by Colangelo to approve recommendations A & C; starting with a shared services approach through CCRPC, and working toward the preferred governance structure as a Union Municipal District. Seconded by McGuire and approved unanimously. It was noted that Pat Scheidel also favored this approach by proxy as well. Dorn and others praised the work of this group. Dorn also noted a community survey done in South Burlington, when over 500 voters were asked about sharing services between communities, 93% said they would support that approach.

Joint Survey Committee – time to encourage bring in dispatchers...invite to Jan 31 presentation. Colchester will bring head dispatcher/union steward. Name of new entity? Pub Safety Authority? Public Safety Communications Authority? Joint Survey Committee for Chittenden County Public Safety Communications Services? In upcoming meetings with legislative bodies, share brief background on project, eventually seek motion to create Joint Survey Committee and appoint a local representative.

Technical subcommittee – Locke will chair – will invite Al Barber, Brad LaRose, Dan Manz, Jan Wright, Jeffrey Barton, Trevor Whipple, Tricia Vincent (Shelburne dispatch), Doug Brent. Important to engage dispatchers, perhaps with a third subcommittee? Ensure consistent communication, open dialogue... be sure they are informed, and have input.

BTV may release an RFI for CAD, RMS... but include CAD to support regional dispatch, not just the City. Needed with or without regional dispatch. Important to discuss systems, functionality, and redundancy.

Next meetings: January 25 webinar/presentation of draft report by Deltawrx, 12:00 Noon at South Burlington City Hall; then governance group meeting on the 27th from 8:00 – 10:00 A.M. at Colchester

Town Hall. Deltawrx final presentations will be on Jan. 31 at South Burlington City Hall at 12:30 P.M. and 7:00 P.M.; both slated for up to two hours as needed. This group will introduce the project and underlying rationale; Deltawrx will give their final report; this group will wrap up with 'what's next'. The governance group will then reconvene on February 3, from 12:00 - 1:30, at Colchester Town Hall.

Regarding pay and benefits, Dorn suggested that we include a step in our process to have municipal human resource staff evaluate current pay and benefits across the towns to understand differences and similarities, because we ultimately want to have a respectful package put together.

Work will continue on the governance summary presentation. With that, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Lee Krohn.