**9-1-1 Advisory Council**

**Meeting Executive Summary**

**Thursday, June 25, 2020**

**Zoom Meeting**

**Attendees:**

Voting Council Members/Alternates: Adriane Beck - PSAPS >30K; Liz Brooks - PSAPS >30K (Alternate); Kimberly Burdick - MT APCO; Rich Cowger - MT Fire Chiefs; Mike Doto – MT Fire Fighters Assoc.; Michael Fashoway - MT State Library (Alternate); Geoff Feiss - Telecommunications Provider; Peggy Glass - PSAPS <30K; Burke Honzel - DMA/DES; Lisa Kelly - Wireline Telecommunications Provider; Andrew Knapp - DOJ/MHP (Alternate); Clint Loss - MEMSA; Gary MacDonald – MACo; Quinn Ness - DOA, Council Chairman; Pat Roos - MSPOA; Jennie Stapp - MSL; and Curt Stinson - MACOP.

Guests: Sandra Barrows, Barrows Consulting; Mike Feldman, MHP; Jody Hickey, Glacier Co. Sheriff’s Office; Eric Parry, Federal Engineering; Ken Wall, Geo Data Services; and Karen Young - City of Great Falls 9‑1‑1.

Staff: Kevin Hammond, DOA/SITSD Accountant; Don Harris, DOA/SITSD Attorney; Wing Spooner DOA/PSCB; and Rhonda Sullivan, DOA/911.

**Introduction:** Chairman Quinn Ness opened the meeting and explained that at the end of the June 25 meeting, the Council forgot to address the five applications for ESInet conversions. The purpose of today’s meeting is to take action and make a recommendation to the department to fund all five of the ESInet conversions for the full amount requested.

Chairman Ness reminded members that at its December 2019 meeting, the Council set aside $5 million that was transferred from the NG911 Infrastructure account which expired on Oct. 1 to the 9-1-1 Grant Program account.

**Motion:** Member Ness moved to recommend to the department to fund all five of the ESInet conversion applications for the full amount requested. Member MacDonald seconded.

**Discussion:** Member Stapp asked why the Billings application was so much higher than the other applications. Member Kelly was asked to explain. The City of Billings has diverse connections, in other words, connections from two different locations. So, if one of the fiber facilities is cut, they have a diverse path. As a result, their ESInet configuration requires additional hardware, which explains why the one-time costs are higher.

Member Stapp clarified that the other requests, therefore, do not have the continuity of service availability that Billings currently has. Member Kelly explained that the four other applications do not currently have diversity, so costs for that were not included in their vendor quotes. Member Kelly said all the PSAPs have the ability to request diversity, but the quote did not include it because they were trying to get more of a one-to-one ratio to what they currently have.

Member Stapp asked is there would be any benefit of trying to build that diversity into the grant process right now. Member Kelly indicated that is not what the applicants requested today; perhaps at a later point they can request an additional grant for diversity.

Chairman Ness explained that the number one priority of the department and the Council was to get the non-ESInet PSAPs converted over to the ESInet and then the Council could look at additional requirements they might have. He believes a request for additional network capability would be an eligible use of grant funds. We would of course also consult the Statewide 911 Plan to look at requirements for NG911 on the ESInet.

Member Stapp said if we are going to continue to support an ESInet, it seems that the kind of diversity that Billings has should be a standard best practice for other PSAPs. She would like the Council to encourage this type of development in the future. She wondered if it would be more cost efficient to create diversity during the initial conversion rather than rolling it out at a future time.

Member Kelly said that in addition to the one-time conversion costs, PSAPs also have monthly recurring costs that they pay for services. For the four smaller PSAPs, their monthly costs actually decrease as a result of converting to the ESInet. However, if they were to upgrade to diversity, PSAP monthly costs would go up according to tariffed rates.

**Vote**: Chairman Ness asked for anyone opposed to the motion to raise their hands in the Zoom application. No one was opposed. **The motion passed unanimously**.

**Public Comment**: None

**Announcements**: Program staff will finalize recommendations and forward them to executive management. Then the final results will be sent to Council members and posted on the website.

**Adjournment**: Member MacDonald moved to adjourn. Member Kelly seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 11:22 am.