



Minutes of the Eastern Shore of Virginia 9-1-1
May 2026 Commission Meeting
Thursday, May 28th @ 1730 hours
Accomack County EOC – Melfa

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:	Bill McCready, <i>Chairman, Atlantic Volunteer Fire Company</i> Jeff Renas, <i>Area 31 1st Sergeant, Virginia State Police</i> Ben Byrd, <i>Wachapreague Volunteer Fire Company</i> Greg DeYoung, <i>Northampton County Department of EMS</i> Matt Spuck, <i>Northampton County Administrator</i> Mike Mason, <i>Accomack County Administrator</i> Ernest Smith, <i>Northampton County Board of Supervisors</i> Bobby Taylor, <i>Lieutenant, Accomack County Sheriff's Office</i> Jeff Parks, <i>Accomack County Board of Supervisors</i> Adam Zieger, <i>Eastville Volunteer Fire Company</i>
OTHERS PRESENT:	Scott Chandler, <i>ESVA 9-1-1 Consultant</i> Jeff Flournoy, <i>ESVA 9-1-1 Director</i> Krista Kilmon, <i>ESVA 9-1-1 Deputy Director</i> Katie Brewster, <i>ESVA 9-1-1 Supervisor/ Recording Secretary</i>
COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:	AJ Ferebee, <i>Vice-Chairman, Captain, Northampton County Sheriff's Office</i>
REMOTE PARTICIPATION:	Donald Hart, <i>Accomack County Board of Supervisors</i> , participated remotely from the Charlotte Court House, VA area for personal reasons.
OTHERS ABSENT:	None
CALL TO ORDER:	Chairman Bill McCready called the meeting to order at 17:30.
INVOCATION:	Chairman Bill McCready delivered the opening invocation.
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:	Chairman Bill McCready led the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.
PUBLIC HEARING:	Chairman Bill McCready opened up the Public Hearing for One-Time Additional Compensation for ESVA 9-1-1 Staff. There were no public attendance or comments. Chairman Bill McCready closed the Public Hearing.



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PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

There was no public participation at this meeting.

MINUTES:

A motion to accept the minutes from the April 2026 Commission Meeting was made by Commissioner Greg DeYoung with a second from Commissioner Adam Zieger. There were no oppositions and the motion was carried.

CONSENT AGENDA:

There was no consent agenda items at this meeting.

BUDGET REPORT:

FY26: The included spreadsheet for the current budget year showed through April 2026. Of the Projects Budget, 227% has been spent due to showing additional costs related to consulting expenses. Of the Operations Budget, 78% has been spent, as expected. A typo in the spreadsheet was corrected and there's been 76% of the Total Budget spent; no anomalies or concerns. Eleven months have come in for the 9-1-1 Wireless Surcharge and is appearing will come in more than projected. We have received 75% of Accomack County contributions and will be following up with the finance department on the last quarter. For the Communications Tax, ten months have been received from Accomack and is projected to be lower than anticipated; nine months have been received from Northampton and is projected to be lower than anticipated. Five months have been received from Chincoteague; Director Flournoy followed up and discovered there was a finance director change and the amount received will be corrected. The grants are beginning to come in, as well as the recovered costs. The Command View invoice for law enforcement and the ESO service expense for Station 9 have been submitted.

FY27: A balanced budget of about \$2 million was presented. Additional County Funding- Is understood Accomack County approved their FY27 budget and Northampton County expects to approve theirs in June. The funding was approved for salary increases and benefit related costs. The other items requested (additional F/T 9-1-1 CO position, additional 9-1-1 Commission vehicle, and funds to address increasing HRCJTA membership costs) were not funded. The funding requests for additional increase in benefit costs have been submitted to each County. Northampton is understood to be incorporating this additional request into its budget during initial approval. It's expected to be an action item at the June Accomack Board of Supervisors meeting. The recommended ESVA 9-1-1 Commission budget included these additional funds. The recommended FY27 9-1-1 Commission Budget is balanced, using projected revenue streams and fund balance for expenditures. Other- The twelfth 9-1-1 CO position is now not being included in the FY27 recommended budget. The two items included in the Contingency Line Item are there as a placeholder: benefit costs for the F/T RRSM position and the other is planned use of funds for several staff salary adjustments needed (following Northampton County's years of service formulas). Costs were added into the 731 Budget as a placeholder for future CTA consulting needs. There are some unknowns related to the migration from the legacy radio systems: transitioning the costs from the Townsend and Cape Charles sites into ESVARRS funding, ceasing ESVA costs at legacy sites, stopping ANEC costs at legacy sites, and determining if there will be any costs needed for maintaining any aspects of the legacy systems. There is a potential to increase the revenue projected for the state wireless surcharge however, did not, to be conservative as well as noting the



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Communications Tax funding from each county. The following are expected/potential undesignated Fund Balance Use: o-DAS for Wachapreague, improving shelters/sheds at Craddockville and Belle Haven, removal of the legacy antenna systems and other equipment from non L3 Harris sites, and retirement of staff.

ESVARRS- Work continues with the Northampton County Finance Director on creating a separate budget for ESVARRS, outside of normal budgets for 9-1-1 Center operations (annual maintenance costs, NOC monitoring, site electricity cots, etc.). Future Planning- FY28: likely will be additional funds requested for new 9-1-1 Call-Handling Equipment. The first “large” L3Harris annual maintenance invoice. FY28/29: The staffing needs of the 9-1-1 Center, ensuring ample staff to manage the long-term needs of ESVARRS. Available VDEM Grants have been used to help cover the cost increases since ESINet migration. There will be a need to request additional local funds. FY29: The first annual maintenance invoice for maintaining the ESVARRS microwave system will occur. It is expected to have a proposed budget to present at the June 2026 meeting.

A motion to approve the budget report was made by Commissioner Adam Zieger with a second from Commissioner Jeff Renas. There were no oppositions and the motion was carried.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Operations: Classes- On 5/13 Director Flournoy taught radio operations at a fire academy class in Melfa and on 5/14, he taught Freedom Application operations at Station 8. Staff- Deputy Director Kilmon returned from maternity leave on May 11th. Currently twelve of the eleven 9-1-1 F/T CO positions are filled and three P/T CO positions. ACPW- There are numerous facility items being completed and still needing to begin. VDEM Grant- After VDEM placed the Resiliency Grant on hold in late April 2026, at the state 9-1-1 Board meeting last week, it was announced the grant program will continue to not be available. The earliest would be into FY28 and this delay and potential elimination of the grant opportunity have not been well received in the 9-1-1 community. Summer 2026- Efforts have continued toward planning for the following events: Pony Penning, Onancock Sail250 Celebration, and the Cape Charles Sail250 Celebration. This includes additional planning meetings, planned use of ESVARRS, interoperability efforts, some events with dispatch staff in the field, and additional 9-1-1 staff on duty. Lifeguards- We have been working with federal law enforcement officers to develop and implement plans for the supervisory staff for Assateague Beach lifeguards. This will likely include temporary assignment of one ESVARRS radio and use of an operational talk group for communications needs. GIS- It is understood that Northampton County has received funding from VDEM related to addressing verification and improvement in the county. The intent is verifying all addressing and all street signage. It was suggested to include others, such as law enforcement, NCEMS, fire-station leadership, ESVA 9-1-1 Commission, and any towns in the County that handle their own addressing in a meeting as they start to move forward. IT- The firewall replacement for the 9-1-1 Center occurred last week. Several days there have been notable non-emergency telephone system/line issues. Radio Infrastructure- There have been no changes in information related to the legacy system.

Director Flournoy then turned the meeting over to Deputy Director Kilmon to provide her report. Personal- She returned to work in May, after 14 weeks of maternity leave. Camden is doing well and growing quickly. She is overall doing well, while still dealing with post-natal pre-eclampsia. The first two weeks back consisted of catching up on various items and this week she will be re-engaging the tasks that were being worked on prior to her leave. 9-1-1 B/U Center- Northampton County I.T. has installed the lines for our phones in the



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dispatch room at NCSO however, they will need to be moved to the other side of the room. A visit is planned this week to evaluate the next steps in setting up this site as our back-up center. **NOMAD-** While this project is closed, work continues on policies related to the use of the devices. It is planned to use the NOMAD device during Pony Penning in a reduced capacity to evaluate how well it works in the field during an event. The plan will be to use it in a listen only mode on 9-1-1 calls and to have it available for use to make calls out from the command post. **Facility-** All of the ceiling tile/cable management has been installed throughout the building. They are currently awaiting the electrician to come and relocate and install a few switches, outlets, and the drop in lighting. Cabinets are tentatively being installed next week. Paint and flooring may also be complete by the end of next week. Director Flournoy reminded the importance of getting this project finished by June 30th as it's being funded by a VDEM Grant with no extension. He also advised that the long-term goal is to abandon Station 9 as the back-up center and fully relocate to NCSO.

ESVARRS: Deputy Director Kilmon turned the meeting back over to Director Flournoy to provide an update on the ESVARRS project. **Coverage-** Reports of coverage showing some decrease in areas where had not been experiencing coverage issues was mostly due to an issue at the Craddockville site and is now resolved. There are still potential pager coverage issues in other areas, such as Greenbackville, New Church, Saxis/Sanford, and Parksley and concerns related to pagers continuing to be constantly in and out of range. We continue to provide amplified G5 Unication pager chargers as needed. **Portables-** While 100% portable coverage inside all buildings was never expected, there are locations where portable radio coverage inside is marginal and is typically resolved with reprogramming. To address intermittent lack of coverage when off ESVA, this week the use of Be-On XLVirtual) will be deployed on i-pads on NCEMS ambulances to communicate with ESVA 9-1-1 dispatch. **Funding-** Just Grants showing review of final performance is pending and closeout still to be completed however, all COPS federal funds have been requested and reimbursed. Since the last meeting, much additional effort related to the USDA Grant has occurred and we continue to await reimbursement, with communications from USDA staff in recent days indicating this process should be nearing completion. One invoice remains to be received from Williams Communications for Final Acceptance of the Microwave System. After additional discussion with L3Harris, it's understood the long-term support of Exacom is covered/included as part of the in-place maintenance agreement with L3Harris (Eastern). There are numerous entities for ESVA 9-1-1 to request reimbursement from for additional radios and equipment ordered since the project implementation. **Interoperability-** We continue work with NASA/Wallops staff on solutions for interoperability for their Fire/EMS/LE radios and the ESVARRS system. They currently have five portable radios, loaned from ESVA 9-1-1, for needed Fire/EMS interoperability radio communications. Efforts continue to program the primary talk-groups for ACSO, NCSO, CPD, and other interoperability talk-groups into the VSP radios. This has been tested and is expected to program into local VSP units' radios and those deployed for Pony Penning. It is understood this initiative will also include other state law enforcement agencies. There has been ongoing dialogue with Federal Wildlife Officers and the National Park Service on their request to have ESVARRS programmed on their radios. RSMH has ordered a portable radio and anticipate ordering a mobile radio for their command trailer. The radios/chargers for NCPW have been delivered to leadership and can be used on ESVARRS as needed for their operations. **Other-** Work continues with CPD, ACSO, and NCSO on Exacom access/use/training. The transition to L3Harris ongoing support/maintenance with Eastern Communications has continued to progress. **Sites-** The spare TX/RX antenna for the Belle Haven site was delivered and is now stored at this site. With the Craddockville site, we



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continue work with Accomack County Administration and Big Wood Electric. Direction was provided to move forward with powering aspects of the older shelter; costs for this work to be a responsibility of Accomack County. The fence damage repair at this site has been completed. Several equipment issues continue to be managed, such as HVAC issues at Chincoteague site and ACSO cabinet. We are starting to explore other features, such as BeOn and the use of Wi-Fi on portable radios. While cutover to using the new radio system has occurred, it's not expected for the pace of his project to decrease anytime soon for the 9-1-1 Center. The L3Harris NOC is now monitoring the ESVARRS system 24/7/365 and work continues on additional items related to how notifications are handled. Expenses- There was one change order included: Delmarva Two-Way for additional amplified chargers. Director Flournoy presented the project budget overview spreadsheet; the revenue coming in is slightly more than the expenses obligated.

A motion to approve the Director's report was made by Commissioner Bobby Taylor with a second from Commissioner Ben Byrd. There were no oppositions and the motion was carried.

ACTION ITEMS: A. ESVARRS – o-DAS – Wachapreague Area

We continue to work with Station 11 leadership to install a pole to be used for the o-DAS at their back-up building location. The pole will be used to house the antennas to provide the coverage enhancement in the area, with the radio/amplifier being located inside the facility. There are three overall efforts related to the implementation o-DAS planned for the Wachapreague area: (A) the purchase and installation of the 80' pole to be used (B) the actual o-DAS, engineering, radio/antennas/cables, and other related equipment (C) the installation of the radio equipment inside the building. We are working with Rock Creek Line Construction on the purchase, transport, and installation of the 80' pole, and with C Squared Systems on the actual o-DAS system. The detailed scope of work, coverage expectations, and quote for the work was just provided, and they performed a site visit on May 7th, with ESVA 9-1-1 and Station 11 personnel on site. Costs associated with the installation of the radio/other items inside the building are included in the scope of work from C Squared Systems and any other costs associated with this aspect of the implementation are expected to be minimal. The proper procurement/purchase vehicle continues to be explored, potentially using Section 7 and Section 8 of the 9-1-1 Commission Procurement Policy or an existing contract vehicle that can be used for this effort. There have been some discussions with the 9-1-1 Commission's legal counsel on this. Is it noted that during outreach to Monmouth County representatives, where they are using several o-DAS solutions, they indicated notable coverage improvement from these systems in the geographic areas where installed. Approval to move forward with the implementation of an o-DAS is requested. Once the final design is reviewed and if determined to be acceptable for all aspects on this initiative, authorize ESVA 9-1-1 Commission staff to move forward to implement. This includes efforts to coordinate Rock Creek Line Construction, C Squared Systems, Station 11 leadership, and others as needed. The use of up to \$280,000 towards the efforts needed; (1) from any remaining funds from the ESVARRS project implementation (2) from any remaining funds in the FY26 operational budget and/or from the reduced cost in FY27 (3) from the 9-1-1 Commission's fund balance. This approval is requested to allow this work to start as soon as possible, to improve ESVARRS coverage in the Wachapreague area. Commissioner Mike Mason recommended to use the emergency procurement.

A motion to approve this action item was made by Commissioner Mike Mason with a second from Commissioner Adam Zieger. There were no oppositions and the motion was carried.



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B. One-Time Compensation – ESVA 9-1-1 Staff – FY26

Northampton County approved a 2% one-time compensation for County personnel. Following the direction, for compensation to be commensurate between ESVA 9-1-1 Commission and Northampton County, requesting approval for the 2% one-time compensation for 9-1-1 Commission staff. Costs are projected at a little over \$20,000, and these additional expenses will originate from either (first) unused expenses in FY26 or (second) from undesignated fund balance from the 9-1-1 Commission.

A motion to approve this action item was made by Commissioner Greg DeYoung with a second from Commissioner Adam Zieger. There were no oppositions and the motion was carried.

CONSULTANT'S REPORT:

Consultant Chandler advised that aside from his routine duties, including reviewing correspondence, emails, and updating the ESVA 9-1-1 website, he was also involved in ESVRRS meetings and tasks. He did the o-DAS onsite visit, CTA post-contract review and evaluation, maintenance review with Eastern Communications, RPM2 programming diagnostics, and attended the 2026 APCO/NENA Spring Conference.

A motion to accept the 9-1-1 Consultant's report was made by Commissioner Bobby Taylor with a second from Commissioner Ben Byrd. There were no oppositions and the motion was carried.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Chairman Bill McCready advised that he was going to soon reach out to the Personnel Committee to set a date to meet.

PAYABLES:

A motion to pay the bills was made by Commissioner Adam Zieger with a second from Commissioner Bobby Taylor. There were no oppositions and the motion was carried.

ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Donald Hart made a motion to adjourn the meeting with a second from Commissioner Bobby Taylor. There were no oppositions and the meeting was adjourned by at 18:42.

Respectfully Submitted,

Katie Brewster, *ESVA 9-1-1 Supervisor/ Recording Secretary*