



Minutes of the Eastern Shore of Virginia 9-1-1
June Commission Meeting
Thursday, June 26th, 2025 @ 1730 hours
Northampton County Board Chambers – Eastville

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Bill McCready, *Chairman, Atlantic Volunteer Fire Company*
AJ Ferebee, *Vice-Chairman, Captain, Northampton County Sheriff's Office*
Ben Byrd, *Wachapreague Volunteer Fire Company*
Donald Hart, *Accomack County Board of Supervisors*
Greg DeYoung, *Northampton County Department of EMS*
Charlie Kolakowski, *Northampton County Administrator*
Mike Mason, *Accomack County Administrator*
Ernest Smith, *Northampton County Board of Supervisors*
Coty Hodgson, *Sergeant, Accomack County Sheriff's Office*
Jeff Parks, *Accomack County Board of Supervisors*
Adam Zieger, *Eastville Volunteer Fire Company*

OTHERS PRESENT: Scott Chandler, *ESVA 9-1-1 Consultant*
Jeff Flournoy, *ESVA 9-1-1 Director*
Katie Brewster, *ESVA 9-1-1 Supervisor/ Recording Secretary*

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Jeff Renas, *Area 31 1st Sergeant, Virginia State Police*

REMOTE PARTICIPATION: None

OTHERS ABSENT: Krista Kilmon, *ESVA 9-1-1 Deputy Director*

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Bill McCready called the meeting to order at 17:31.

INVOCATION: Commissioner Donald Hart delivered the opening invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Chairman Bill McCready led the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: There was no public participation at this meeting.

MINUTES: *A motion to accept the minutes from the May 2025 Commission Meeting was made by Commissioner Donald Hart with a second from Commissioner Ben Byrd. There were no oppositions and the motion was carried.*

CONSENT AGENDA: There was no consent agenda items at this meeting.



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BUDGET REPORT:

Director Flournoy advised that there are no major changes or anomalies to the revenue coming in. All twelve months of the 9-1-1 Wireless Surcharge have been received. For the Communications Tax, eleven months have been received from Accomack and ten months from Northampton. Eleven months have been received from Chincoteague. Of the budget, 90% has been spent through May 2025: 87% of the Capital Projects, 84% of the 9-1-1 Operations, and 104% of the Other. The higher percentages shown in the spreadsheet are due to costs associated with currently working with two radio systems: maintaining the current system as well as fund needs for the ESVARRS project.

A motion to approve the budget report was made by Commissioner Greg DeYoung with a second from Commissioner Ernest Smith. There were no oppositions and the motion was carried.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Director Flournoy went on to provide his report. Meetings- He has had a lot of involvement in meetings with the VA Department of Conservation and Recreation talking about radio interoperability. Staffing- All eleven F/T positions are full and released; our four P/T staff are released; Supervisor Hodgson returned from maternity leave on June 22nd. Facility- There has been recent issues with the A/C unit serving the dispatch floor leaking in the kitchen. Chincoteague Pony Penning- ESVA 9-1-1 leadership has been participating and involved in planning meetings related to interoperability radio communications and other dispatch items, along with involvement from VSP, USCG, and others. Station 7- In recent weeks, effort has been devoted to Station 7's request for use of house-siren for tornado warnings. A draft MOU has been formulated and is being reviewed by the ESVA 9-1-1 Commission attorney and Station 7/Town of Parksley personnel. Station 11- The ambulances at Station 12, currently using Station 11 designations in the CAD and for radio operations, will transition to using Station 12 designation beginning July 1st 2025. Director Pruitt also requested an additional L3 Harris radio for a third ambulance that they are adding to Station 12. Radio Infrastructure- This past month, there have been a fair number of issues come in. F3: where the console wasn't transmitting intermittently; ACI came and resolved. F5: were unable to receive field units at the console; resolved by resetting the F5 repeater at the ACSO tower. F9: failure of the F9 power amplifier; resolved by ACI replacing with a new amplifier.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Director Flournoy provided Deputy Director Kilmon's report in her absence. ECW- We are still awaiting a resolution on the open ticket for stuck transfers. VDEM SHSP Grant- A grant extension was applied for due to struggles faced with establishing connectivity for the NOMAD devices. Since applying, connectivity has been established however, the NOMAD devices are still in Northampton County and Motorola still has some steps to complete to enable them to work with our network. Dispatch Failsafe- Efforts are still being put towards this; we have contacted IT to work on getting the draft application to download so that it can be tested. Training- Beginning July 1st, 2025, we will be using a new training platform called Virtual Academy to take the place of Police Legal Sciences.



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EASTERN SHORE OF VIRGINIA REGIONAL RADIO SYSTEM:

Director Flournoy provided an update on the ESVARRS project. Funding- The next invoice from L3 Harris for about \$162,000, related to percentage of subscriber radios installed/programmed, is anticipated soon. There remains about \$1.1 million in the COPS federal funds available for use towards the ESVARRS project.

Subscriber Radios- The installation of control station radios started in mid-April, continued after a pause in early June, and will be another pause in early July 2025. Work continues with agencies that may have programming/use questions. Almost all Fire/EMS and Law Enforcement vehicles now have L3 Harris mobile radios installed. Interoperability- Focus continues toward ISSI planning with Worcester County and the City of Chesapeake. ESVBA configured a new 5mbps connection for initial ISSI deployment. RF Site Activity- Eastville: tower remediation and the replacement of the antenna systems are complete. We were awaiting the replacement of the combiner unit however, that was completed on June 25th. Belle Haven: Have been trying to finalize the contract related documents to lead to a Notice to Proceed being issued however, this is taking longer than anticipated and may start to impact the project schedule. The tower was recently sold to Symphony from Delmarva Two-Way. While we have provided all documented needed, there are several outstanding questions related to the language in the lease for the site and while all communications with Symphony have been positive, it has been a struggle to communicate timeliness. There may be an additional \$16,800 cost related to the need to re-deploy a tower-crew for a third time, depending on when the NTP is received. The cost for a camera system at the shelter is approximately \$2,700. Craddockville, Mappsville, Chincoteague: L3 Harris has scheduled to be here the week of July 6th, 2025 to complete needed work on these sites. Timelines- The updated timeline for cutover to ESVARRS being late fall 2025 continues to appear reasonable based on recent information and progress from L3 Harris. Work will continue on needed radio installations, tower remediations antenna/combiner replacements, and other critical aspects of ESVARRS. Other- We have been using a storage room at the old Northampton County Middle School and will now be using an additional room across from it through the end of the year. Change Order- It was requested to use funds (1) (if needed) for the re-deployment of a tower-crew and (2) the security camera at the Belle Haven Site.

A motion to approve the Director's report was made by Commissioner Donald Hart with a second from Vice-Chairman AJ Ferebee. There were no oppositions and the motion was carried.

ACTION ITEMS:

A. Change/Addition – 9-1-1 Commission Resolution (Potential)

At the May 2025 9-1-1 Commission Meeting, direction was provided to 9-1-1 Director to devote time/effort towards language modifications to the Resolution creating the 9-1-1 Commission to present to the 9-1-1 Commission, with the following noted as expectations: (1) Substantially follow the language included in the Accomack BOS budget adoption, (2) Allow the continuation for existing compensation/benefit items for 9-1-1 Commission staff, (3) Allow for 9-1-1 Commission staff to be able to be provided compensation/benefits that may only be available to 9-1-1 Center staff (such as a VDEM grant for Primary PSAP's). Two items were provided as work in-progress (pending direction from Accomack County, the 9-1-1 Commission, and any legal/other review): (A) Initial consideration for language addition to include in the Resolution, (B) A more detailed consideration of language addition. The overall goal is to formulate the language addition needed to the Resolution covering, as best as possible, the three areas of focus above, to be approved by the 9-1-1



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Commission, ultimately leading to approval by both County's Board of Supervisors. The 9-1-1 Commission is asked to provide guidance and/or direction to 9-1-1 Commission staff, regarding the effort related to the Resolution language changes being considered. In regard to the Resolution amendment, there are anticipated actions related to compensation, along with the 1.5% bonus for F/T staff, following the parameters from the Compensation Board. Commissioner Mike Mason had presented a draft MOU to Director Flournoy and Chairman McCready prior to the Commission Meeting. The suggested modification/extension is as follows: "The 9-1-1 Commission may modify such initiatives, programs, and policies subject to available funding, and subject to specific finding of the Commission that such modifications are consistent with the overall intent of Section 5, which is the section that describes the compensation and how its index to Northampton; subject to the overall intention of the section to provide the 9-1-1 Commission with compensation and fringe benefits commensurate to those provided to Northampton County to its employees having comparable duties and responsibilities."

Potentially, this could have resulted in no action or action to vote in a general direction to continue to finalize this for an action item at the July 2025 9-1-1 Commission Meeting. Commissioner Mason made a motion that to continue this moving forward, Director Flournoy shall bring back the following for a vote: an amendment to the Joint Resolution that includes memorializing the funding side, the information that Director Flournoy provided to the Commission (the work-in-progress sheets), with the addition of the one verbiage that Commissioner Mason recommended.

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

B. VDEM Grant – Use of Grant Funds (Change)

At the May 2025 meeting was requested and approved to use these funds for \$150,000 to support the continuation of funding the increased costs of the transition to the ESINet. The rationale was that while VDEM has already committed to funding the "delta costs" for the first two years after a PSAP's cutover to the ESINet, feel an appropriate use of these additional funds (at \$150,000) would be to expand VDEM funding of these "delta costs" for additional years (the \$150,000 would provide approximately two additional years of funding) and after these four years, the additional costs (delta) will be a responsibility of the PSAP. However, after additional review of the grant expectations and dialogue with VDEM staff, while there may be path to use grant funds in later fiscal years than FY26, the intent was these funds be used in/for FY26. Also, while AT&T advised could provide an invoice (to be paid ahead of time) for a full-year, feel this is not the intent of this grant program and untimely paying for such services (costs) before they are provided can be problematic.

Director Flournoy proposed to modify what was approved at the May 2025 meeting, the following would be included in the ESVA 9-1-1 Commission grant request; Already included for potential funding in FY26 planning: (1) Additional ESINet costs in FY26. (2) The one-time compensation for F/T staff in early FY26, following the Compensation Board parameters. (3) Continued use of T-Mon system to monitor existing F/E radio system. (4) Convert employee board pictures to digital board and replacement television in training room. (5) New light fixtures in hallway at 9-1-1 Center (old extension office). (6) Remote annunciator panel for new generator at 9-1-1 Center. (7) Ceiling cable management for loading concerns. Added to FY26: (1) A one-time compensation (bonus) for all staff (later in FY26) (focused of retention and appreciation of 9-1-1



Minutes of the Eastern Shore of Virginia 9-1-1
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Center staff). (2) Local YMCA membership for staff during FY26 (focused on promoting wellness/fitness of 9-1-1 Center staff). Approval of this grant application modification is requested and applications are due by June 30th, 2025. Commissioner Mason questioned if it was possible to redirect the grant funds from the two added requests (one-time bonus and YMCA membership) toward the kitchen modifications/remodel at the ESVA 9-1-1 Center that was originally requested in FY26 and did not get funded as a lack of resources. It was stated that with the resolution amendments and additional pay, it will be a good year for compensation for the 9-1-1 Center Commission staff.

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

C. Adoption – FY2026 – 9-1-1 Commission Budget

Northampton County adopted their budget, with some conditions on some compensation that was deferred. Changes/additions to the FY26 budget would include removing the use of fund balance and using the VDEM grant funding to cover these expenses. The proposed budget continues to include the use of fund balance for the items related to ESVARRS site work, normal 730 budget lines items, and facility improvements. Adoption of the proposed FY26 9-1-1 Commission budget is requested, with the changes that were just approved, as well as the language that includes the 9% salary increase (effective in July); initially will only include a 3% salary increase (with the difference in salary retroactive back to July 1st).

Commissioner Greg DeYoung asked what the cost would be to offer the one-time compensation (bonus) to P/T as well and if it would be able to be covered by the VDEM Grant. Director Flournoy stated that the cost would be minimal, around less than \$1,500 and that it could be funded by the grant. The only concern was that it would be going outside of the parameters of what Northampton and Accomack Counties are doing however, it was stated that both counties extended the 1.5% bonus to P/T employees as well. Commissioner DeYoung made the recommendation to add the 1.5% bonus to the P/T staff, based on their hourly wages over the last 12 months and to fund it using the VDEM Grant.

A motion to approve the amendment to the budget was made by Commissioner Greg DeYoung with a second from Commissioner Ben Byrd. There were no oppositions and the motion was carried.

A motion to approve this action item was made by Commissioner Donald Hart with a second from Commissioner Jeff Parks. There were no oppositions and the motion was carried.

CONSULTANT'S REPORT:

Consultant Chandler reported that in addition to his normal routine items he also assisted Director Flournoy with the Draft of the Joint Resolution, reviewed L3H installation payments, and attended several project review meetings.

A motion to accept the 9-1-1 Consultant's report was made by Commissioner Donald Hart with a second from Vice-Chairman AJ Ferebee. There were no oppositions and the motion was carried.



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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: Chairman McCready had nothing to report.

OTHER BUSINESS: **Discussion - July 2025 Commission Meeting**

The July 2025 Commission Meeting is scheduled for July 31st, 2025 @ 1730 @ the Accomack EOC. This year, Pony Penning Auction on Chincoteague falls on the same day. VSP, ACSO, 9-1-1, CPD, and others will likely be heavily involved in this event and it's asked if wanted to reconsider rescheduling this meeting due to Pony Penning Week because of potential impacts to staffing. It was discussed to reschedule the July Meeting to July 24th, 2025 @ 1730 @ Accomack EOC or ESVA 9-1-1 if the EOC is unavailable.

Commissioner Donald Hart made a motion to change the date of the July 2025 9-1-1 Commission Meeting, with a second from Commissioner Jeff Parks. There were no oppositions and the motion was carried.

PAYABLES: *A motion to pay the bills was made by Vice-Chairman AJ Ferebee with a second from Commissioner Adam Zeiger. There were no oppositions and the motion was carried.*

ADJOURNMENT: *Vice-Chairman AJ Ferebee made a motion to adjourn the meeting with a second from Commissioner Adam Zeiger. There were no oppositions and the meeting was adjourned by at 18:31.*

Respectfully Submitted,

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