

WESTCOMM
BOARD OF DIRECTORS COMBINED
WITH FINANCE COMMITTEE AND
OPERATIONS BOARD MEETING

FEBRUARY 24, 2023 10:30 A.M.

ZOOM MEETING:

[HTTPS://US02SB.ZOOM.US/J/88655283087?PW:UFYMFdVc3PKBTIPQ3B6VDUXRUJBDZ09](https://us02sb.zoom.us/j/88655283087?pwd=UFYMFdVc3PKBTIPQ3B6VDUXRUJBDZ09)

PHONE: 1-312-626-6799 PIN: 886 2205 3087 PASSCODE: 569536

In Attendance:

Lyn Simmons, Longmeadow Town Manager
Erin Hastings, Executive Director, WESTCOMM
JoAnn Kupiec, Admin Assistant, WESTCOMM
Stuart Beckley, Town Manager, Ware
Jennifer Wolowicz, Town Administrator, Monson
Mary McNally, Town Administrator, East Longmeadow
Khristy Lord, Deputy Director, WESTCOMM
Shawn Crevier, Police Chief, Ware
Robert Stocks, Police Chief, Longmeadow
John Beaulieu, Chicopee
Steve Kozloski, Police Chief, Monson

1. Meeting called to order 10:33 A.M. Rollcall done: Present were Lyn Simmons, Mary McNally, Jennifer Wolowicz, Stuart Beckley and John Beaulieu 5 Present.
2. Preparation of Regional Meeting on 3/3/23: Each Board member was given certain towns to contact regarding the Regionalization meeting. Erin stated that she will be having a second meeting with Ludlow the week after the Regionalization meeting. Lyn is scheduled to speak with Northampton on March 1st, No word from Agawam just yet, Stuart will reach out to Belchertown, Granby, Palmer and Sturbridge. Mary has not heard anything back from Amherst or Southampton, although Amherst had stated they were not interested when receiving the initial letter. Jennifer reached out to South Hadley and stated that Lisa will share with Chief Gundersen. Easthampton had questions initially, they had heard WESTCOMM was not licensed the way we were supposed to be.

Hadley and West Side, Jennifer sent an email, but will send a second email to follow up. As of today Holyoke is the only city that will be attending.

Chief Kozloski stated that Belchertown and Granby were potentially not interested, but he will speak with them, and ask them to attend.

Chief Gundersen stated they are not interested at this time but will reach out this summer to see what's going on.

Belchertown aligned with Wilbraham, looking at July 2024.

Granby is similar to Monson with one person dispatcher, so the Community could benefit greatly by signing on with WESTCOMM.

Ludlow, potentially willing to entertain the idea of a regional 911.

Hadley stated at this time it's not a priority with making their 911 regionalized.

The game plan for any City/Town interested in signing on with WESTCOMM, will be to attend the Select Board Meetings for a presentation/questions to be answered.

If Holyoke joins this is a massive draw for other Communities to join in the future.

There was a questions: Is there a bench mark every year by adding a community to WESTCOMM? By doing this WESTCOMM moves up on the Development Grant funding.

State 911 guarantees they will fund WESTCOMM whether more Communities come on board or not.

If additional Communities come on board this will lower the cost for the existing Communities.

Holyoke has a Unionized Dispatch.

Erin stated that WESTCOMM is not looking to take on any other Communities until the WESTCOMM Annex is up and running, estimated time for that is 2 years, so in there is time to convince other Communities to on board with us.

Everyone agreed to follow back up with all communities to see who will be here and who will not, it was agreed if Holyoke was the only City that will be here, WESTCOMM will focus solely on them.

There is still a cost savings in going with a Regionalization compared to in house PSAPS.

Wilbraham is not considered a District like WESTCOMM is, Westfield is still in question.

The Board would like any of the Communities that said no, to be reached out to the Mayor or Town Manager and to speak to those individuals directly.

Moving forward there should be a Public Relations campaign set up, on a small scale.

We are hoping to have a head count by Wednesday.

New standards are coming out in the future that requires a minimum of two people for all PSAPS.

Frank from State 911 and Kerry from EOPS will be attending the meeting.

Currently there are no legislators invited, perhaps if we have a second meeting, they can be invited at that time.

Erin will be going to Beacon Hill in April and will be bringing up the topic of the small off shoots of regional PSAPS.

For the Friday meeting there will be a big PowerPoint presentation regardless of how many districts attend. There will be no media coverage, but it was suggested that just the presentation be recorded and put on Chicopee Access TV, and that it could be shared with other Communities Access TV.

Erin will reach out to the Board the day before the presentation to update them on the Communities that will be attending.

A motion was made by John Beaulieu and 2nd by Jennifer Wolowicz to enter into Executive Session in accordance with MGL Chapter 30A, section 21 (a) (2), to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion

personnel, and if the Chair so declares, not to reconvene in Open Session. Roll call was done, 5 yes, motion passed.