



Franklin Regional Council of Governments

Executive Committee — *MINUTES*

Date & Time:	Thursday, January 9, 2019 at 5:00 p.m.
Location:	FRCOG, 12 Olive Street, Greenfield MA, Second Floor, Room 221
Facilitator:	Jay DiPucchio, Chair

Representatives Present:

- Jay DiPucchio, Regionally Elected
- Kevin Fox, Council Appointee
- Bill Perlman, Regionally Elected

Staff Members Present:

- Linda Dunlavy, Executive Director
- Rebekah Boyd, Admin Services Coordinator
- Claire McGinnis, Finance Director

1. Review and adopt 12.12.19 Executive Committee Minutes

Jay D. convened the meeting at 5:30 p.m. **Bill P moved adoption of the minutes of the 12.12.19 meeting. Kevin seconded the motion, which passed with all in favor.**

2. FCECS update

Linda reported what was learned on her recent meeting with the state EOTTS (Executive Office of Technology Services and Security). The modeling of existing coverage was inaccurate, with EOTTS staff making assumptions about microwave channels we do not have. Imprecise coverage maps resulted in incorrectly configured migration tables, and so on. Additionally, the engineering study has identified a statistical concern that the northwestern Massachusetts (State Police Troop B North) system may have inadequate capacity to handle all existing calls and new coverage. EOTTS will test this by moving calls to the 800 system without us knowing. They will add in normal traffic to see if doing so will cause a lockout. Once they simulate normal traffic, they won't need much time to assess capacity. EOTTS likely will want to change the former migration plan (Phase one, the 1-91 corridor; phase two, West County; phase 3, East County). They may now want northwestern areas to migrate first, adding in one discipline at a time after that to be sure we have adequate capacity and a well-working system.

Bill P. explained that EOTTS also might investigate a short-term capacity fix if needed — possibly adding a temporary sixth channel. Although the cost and engineering of that measure is currently unknown, EOTTS Secretary Woods assured us a temporary fix will happen, despite the naysaying of others. The Secretary is committed to our migration, and among the other state regions, we'll be the first to move over to the state system. EOTTS modeling shows service in Hawley is poor, but FCECS representatives tested Hawley and couldn't find any dead spots. Surrounding terrain results in Monroe and Rowe having the worst coverage. Shutesbury currently has 25% coverage, but will have 95% coverage once Troop B is working. To the question of complexity, cost, and timing of the capacity issue fix, EOTTS personnel responded vaguely, but suggested it would not take as long as 3-5 years.

Bill P. added that despite errors in coverage and the change to the rollout schedule, the project engineers are skilled at their work. Linda updated the Greenfield Mayor about possible changes to the migration phasing, she said.

3. Census Differential Privacy update

Linda reported that the Donahue Institute continues to do analysis regarding the intent of the Census Bureau (CB) to deploy disclosure avoidance systems — a plan that negatively affects census numbers in tiny rural places like Franklin County, thereby causing these locations to receive less aid. Those in the Commonwealth seeking to have the CB scrap the identity obscuring implementation plan will come at the task from two directions: First they will prove that there is too much distortion. Second, they will go to the legislature to explain how it will harm small communities. Advocates for removing distortion from census data have about a year to influence policy makers. California was the first state to raise the alarm and now states with many rural areas are particularly concerned.

4. Committee discussion about new Council appointment to the Executive Committee (EC)

Linda reminded members that with the retirement of Mayor Martin, the Council must appoint a fifth to the EC. Newly elected Mayor Roxann Wedegartner is willing to sit on the EC, and would like to be the representative on other FRCOG-related committees, but asked if it was possible to use a proxy rather than attending all meetings herself. Members all agreed that the mayor is certainly welcome to have someone sitting in on these open meetings but felt uncomfortable with having an alternate act as a voting member on each committee. Linda will form a nominating committee and advise them that the EC recommends appointment of the Mayor, if she's willing, especially considering population and Greenfield's impact on the County.

5. Business not reasonably anticipated 48 hours in advance

Radio Purchasing

Linda outlined a recent meeting with EOTSS regarding emergency communication system migration. The migration likely will occur in an order different from initially reported, with East County being last, although the exact order is still unknown. The state will create a grant program to pay for the cost of the cheaper radios, with distribution following the inventory FRCOG/towns gave them last year. Towns will shoulder costs for extra radios, upgrades from base model, and installation. FRCOG will have a vendor day here at the office by February, when towns can come select their radios. EOTSS assumes three rounds of purchasing: in late FY20, early FY21, and late FY21. Towns also will pay for radio programming. Linda and members of the Executive and Finance Committees (all present at this portion of the meeting) prefer FRCOG or a local vendor to program the radios — to assure long-term efficiency and effectiveness, so radios will stay serviceable, and to keep the programming expense down. The state hasn't yet agreed to this, but FRCOG will continue advocacy. FRCOG Finance will track and invoice Towns all expenses incremental to the base unit order funded by the grant.

Bill P. moved to adjourn the meeting. Kevin F. seconded. Meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Documents Distributed:

- Agenda
- 12.5.19 Draft Executive Committee Minutes