Massachusetts Communications Supervisors Association
Meeting Minutes for January 21, 2004
Amherst, MA

To Order: 10:20 George Fosque, Presiding

Attendance: Rita Burke, Stephen Cote, Paul Doucette, George Fosque, Butch Garrity, Dave Hanson

Meeting this month took place in the comfy confines of Amherst Police Dept. in a room stocked with memorabilia of that constabulary's history as well as treasured art items ("Move away from the cookie jar!!") Thanks to Rita Burke for arranging the space as well as refreshments.

MINUTES

CORRECTIONS MADE AND ACCEPTED:

- RE the change of title for Cambridge personnel, it should read "***Police Dispatchers*** *were changed to* ***Emergency Telecommunications Dispatchers (ETD)*** *which* ***title was approved*** *as Group II"*

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. Garrity reports receipt of a bill, to MCSA, from Medical Priorities for materials for an Emergency Police Dispatch course for the last Academy. He reports that this seems to be a change in curriculum about which we were not consulted. As we were footing the bill for the last Academy, this $1995 puts us $1276 in the hole for that class. He will pursue this question with SETB as well as apprise President Carroll.

NEW MEMBER AGENCY: We voted to formally accept the City of Worcester, Communications Division as a MCSA member agency. Welcome aboard.

RETIREMENT:

Following up on comments by our guest at the last meeting (Joe Connarton of the Public Employees Retirement Administration Commission) there was discussion on how to effect change in the system more equitably treat our various personnel. It was noted again that many Dispatchers are Group I but are not aware they can petition their Retirement Boards to go to Group II.

Group I may, after 32 years of service, retire at age 65
Group II, 32 yrs and retire at age 60
Group III, 32 years and retire at age 55

Some communities have been able to make this change (Cambridge) but others have tried to change status and been unable (Boston Fire).

Mr. Fosque suggests a strategy to move most Dispatchers who are in Group I up to Group II. Since @ 1995 HRD has recognized several "Municipal" Classes such as Cambridge's "ETD". (See the document on MA911.org) The Cambridge Retirement Board passed a "Supplemental Rule" and submitted it to PERAC (letter also on site).

Mr. Fosque suggests that agencies can use this as a model for change. We should post several documents, which have worked in this respect and post them on the site for member agencies to consider.

It was discussed that each community should seek out who is the most influential player on or around their Local Retirement Board. Determine who, in your community, should make the request of the Board.
And it was suggested that MCSA seek out a competent Retirement Attorney as a resource on the topic. As we did for the DTE hearings. The topic is too important to go blindly waltzing through the forest.

Ms. Burke will develop a draft proposal for Group II reclassification for Emergency Dispatchers and Communications Directors who also function as ED's.
Mr. Fosque will develop a "Retirement" section of the MA911.0rg web page as a resource for members.
And Ms. Carroll will be conferring with her Retirement Board for technical advice.

ACADEMY AND TRAINING ISSUES
TRAINING ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Mr. Hansen reports that there will be a meeting of the TAC on Feb 4 at 10:00 at SETB(Reading). He, Mr. Garrity, and Mr. San Severino will be in attendance. We understand that a copy of the Dispatch Survey, which we have requested several times, will be "probably" be ready then.
Our TAC representatives will send out an Email summary of that meeting.

There is still no Academy scheduled.

Ms. Burke noted that, even in her own department, several people are completing "in house" training and that the appeal of the Academy is waning as "unnecessary". It is feared that when a new course is posted the pump will be dry and we will have to start from scratch to generate the perceived value to the PSAPs.
Mr. Hansen wonders if we are losing the connection between "Curriculum" and "Standards".

MARCH TRAINING WORKSHOP
Ms. Favreau is traveling and unable to attend today. We had hoped to get a status update on the March 24th event in Milford. It is reported that things are well in hand but we must begin to publicize this event to assure attendance. Let's talk it up among our peers. Here are some details:

- **DATE: MARCH 24 (07:30 TO 15:30)**
- **LOCATION: RADISSON HOTEL, MILFORD MA (OFF I-495)**
- **COST: $25 PER MCSA MEMBER…$35 PER NON-MEMBERS**
- **INFORMATION:**
  - **LESLIE CARROLL (781-893-3700)**
  - **LAURIE FAVREAU (978-632-5600)**

Mr. Fosque spoke of the former "Babson" Institute where all manner of training related to Public Safety was conducted (some of it by him, too). He proposes we look into setting up a series of Professional Level classes for our experienced people. We will discuss it in Hamilton.

FIRE MOBILIZATION PLAN
Mr. Doucette talked about Boston FD's method of handling the FMP through the Metro-Fire overhead. Through a system of "running cards" each function is guided and then tracked upon implementation. He reports that their procedures are clear and well understood and by their people who train regularly (as well as actually implementing the system…the best training of all).

Mr. Garrity passed around a State Fire Marshal's study on this. We all agreed that the printing and binding was nice…and he will attempt to distribute this information to members and interested parties for more detailed study.
Mr. Fosque: MCSA should contact the Commission and tell them "We have to operate this. How can we best support this Plan? How can we help you, the Commissioners?"
We directed Mr. Garrity to draft a letter from MCSA, for Ms. Carroll's signature, to this effect. He will report again at the February meeting.
Mr. Cote will develop a *précis* on the AMBULANCE STRIKE TEAM element, which is in early to mid stages now. He will report in February also. (Oh, relax! It'll be a short *précis*. Words like this are the only use I have for those 3 years of Latin in High School.)

NOTE THE LOCATION

NEXT MEETING: February 18 (10:00AM): Hamilton Library

Hamilton Library is right next to Hamilton Police Station, which is at 265 Bay Road. This is only 10 minutes from Rt-128, reports Kevin Harrison (you know, that road that goes to Gloucester, opposite direction of all those commuters coming into the City). He also reports it is "within walking distance from the train station". The train leaves North Station, Boston. He tells us he is calling all the PSAPs in their area to be there…so let's see if we can top him!

And as a bribe <G> they are offering a simple lunch. So let's do them the courtesy of a preliminary head count. Contact Leslie (lcarroll@city.Waltham.ma.us) or Kevin Harrison (kharrison@town.hamilton.ma.us). I can assure you that us Berkshire cousins will appreciate a lunch (why, by the time we get all the way out to Hamilton we'll prob'ly have eaten the mules!)

AND LAST BUT NOT LEAST…

Attached is an Excel file with contact information for all listed members. Check yours. If your information (or YOU for that matter) is not there, or is incorrect, return email me with the goods. If you got these minutes by Snail-Mail then I don't even HAVE an email address for you. Call me for any corrections you want to make. Thanks. Steve Cote

Adjourned: 12:15

S.J. Cote, Recorder