

Thurston 911 Communications
Operations Board Meeting Minutes
Monday, June 16, 2025 @ 1:00 P.M.

Meeting was held via Zoom and in person.

FIRE SERVICE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Brian Hurley – Chair, Tumwater Fire Department
Brian VanCamp – Thurston County Fire District 8
Jennifer Schmidt – Lacey Fire District 3
Ben Miller-Todd – Thurston County Medic One
Matt Morris – Olympia Fire Department

LAW ENFORCEMENT MEMBERS PRESENT:

Rob Carlson – Yelm Police Department
Ruben Mancillas – Thurston County Sheriff's Office
Shelby Parker – Olympia Police Department
Jay Mason – Tumwater Police Department

TCOMM STAFF:

Wendy Hill – Executive Director
Jonnicia Elkins – Deputy Director
Tim Klotz – I.T. Manager
Bre Skaggs – Administrative Assistant

GUESTS:

Shawn Crimmins – FLAC Chair, Tumwater Fire Department
Chris Patti – Lacey Fire District 3
Eric Forsythe – American Medical Response

Call to Order

Operations Chair, B. Hurley called the meeting to order at 1300 hrs.

Approval of Agenda & Minutes

Approval of the June 16, 2025 Agenda. **M/S/C (B. Miller-Todd/B. VanCamp)**

Approval of the March 17, 2025 Operations Board meeting minutes **M/S/C (B. Miller-Todd/B. VanCamp)**

Correspondence - None

Public Testimony - None

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

I.T. Services – T. Klotz stated CentralSquare is on site for testing of the new next-generation Vertex 911 phone system. Implementation is scheduled for November 3rd. The new CAD build is in the test environment and seems to be working well. Notifications will be sent out prior to switching over. Cell carriers are ending the ability to send alerts to cell phones without a separate paid service. Most agencies are using Active911 which has not been affected yet. So far we have identified T-Mobile, Verizon, and Nextel that are no longer able to send alerts.

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Radio Systems – W. Hill stated that the Motorola contract has been extended through the end of the year due to the remaining civil work at the Dupont radio site. Site work at FS82 is mostly done, with some yard work remaining. Two-tone paging is complete; all paging is going out on the primary dispatch channel. TCOMM continues to receive requests to be on TCERN from non-member agencies. The subscriber radio programming update is scheduled for later this year and the distribution of DVRS units will follow shortly after. The Fire Chiefs have been provided a suggested distribution list from the Operations Chiefs Training Group and will be finalizing that list at their June Fire Chiefs meeting.

FLAC Subcommittee Report – J. Elkins stated there was a request by Chief Buchanan to have a work group review lift assists and falls. Many agencies are sending aid units instead of engines to these calls if available. The goal is to configure a system to send both an aid unit and an engine for larger patients to reduce back injuries. TCOMM is working with Medic One to determine the best approach.

Old Business

None.

New Business

TCERN Subscriber Programming Update – W. Hill stated the subscriber reprogramming is planned for September. TCOMM wants to place programming terminals around the county and originally planned for about five locations. That has since increased for agencies to host roughly 12 or 13 programming terminals. These terminals consist of a rugged laptop and a Cradlepoint and will be on a secure, closed network. Radio Systems staff will work with the identified agencies to put these in place later this summer, after the identified agencies have been contacted and signed an interlocal agreement. A draft ILA is with the City of Tumwater for review.

Smart911 – W. Hill reminded members that Smart911 has been available since 2018, but many in the public are unaware of it. Public education efforts are geared towards both providers and the public, with outreach through public health, social services, and social media. Smart911 can be used to record important information and the link can be sent to field units when on a call. Training may be beneficial to familiarize member agency staff with Smart911. A social media toolkit is available, with resources on county websites and emergency management. B. Miller-Todd reminded Board members that Smart911 and TCAAlert are both available and able to be set up through the same website. W. Hill stated Smart911 is a valuable resource and stressed the importance of ensuring all employees are aware of and know how to utilize it.

2026 Budget Subcommittee Volunteers – W. Hill requested three volunteers from the Operations Board for the 2026 Budget Subcommittee. Meetings are typically held 1-2 times and will begin in September. B. Hurley, R. Mancillas, and J. Schmidt volunteered to participate.

Meeting adjourned: With no further business or good of the order, the Board meeting adjourned at 1:14 pm.

Next Meeting: July 21, 2025 at 1:00 pm