



## Central Massachusetts Regional 911 District

### Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

**Date:** January 21, 2026

**Time:** 9:00 AM – 10:04 AM

**Location:** District Administrative Offices, Rutland, MA

**Remote Access:** Microsoft Teams

**Meeting Type:** Regular Meeting

**Recording:** Yes

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## 1. Call to Order

Acting Chair James Ferrera called the meeting of the Central Massachusetts Regional 911 District Board of Directors to order at **9:02 AM**.

The meeting was conducted in accordance with the Massachusetts Open Meeting Law and was recorded for accuracy and public access. No additional recordings were declared.

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## 2. Roll Call & Quorum

A quorum was confirmed, with members present both in person and remotely.

### Board Members / Representatives Present:

- Robin Grimm – Sturbridge
- Heather Butler – Rutland
- Maribel LaRange – Oakham
- Austin Cyganewicz – Sutton
- Peter Walker – Hubbardston
- Jim Ferrera – Warren
- Jeff Bridges – Spencer
- Andrew Golas – Charlton (Remote)
- Melanie Jackson – Barre (Remote)
- Earl Dessert – Charlton (Remote)

### District Staff Present:

- Michael Moriarty – Executive Director
- Elizabeth DeFosse – Deputy Director



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### Other Representatives:

- Earl Dessert – Sturbridge Police Chief – (Remote)
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### 3. Acceptance of Previous Meeting Minutes

Board members confirmed they had reviewed the prior meeting minutes.

**Motion:** To approve the previous meeting minutes

- **Moved by:** Peter Walker
  - **Seconded by:** Maribel LaRange
  - **Vote:** Unanimous approval
  - **Result:** Motion passed
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### 4. Discussion – Board Reorganization

The Executive Director introduced a discussion regarding **Board reorganization**, noting:

- Six new communities have been formally accepted into the District.
- There has been turnover among existing Board representatives.
- The current Chair no longer represents an original member community.

It was recommended that **formal Board reorganization (Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary)** occur at the **February meeting**, following further discussion on governance during the transition period.

No vote was taken.

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### 5. Personnel Update

The Deputy Director provided the following personnel updates:

- **Resignations**
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- Lydia Gustafson resigned in December 2025; appreciation expressed for her service.
- **New Hires & Training**
  - Samantha Mikulski: Currently attending the Public Safety Telecommunicators Academy; graduating February 2026.
  - Ray Balsler: Recently hired; began orientation and will attend required training.
  - Emily DeFosse: Recently appointed Supervisor; completing supervisory certification.
  - Gabby Arsenault: Completed Communications Training Officer (CTO) certification.
- **Public Safety Awards (January 14, 2026)**
  - Communications Leader of the Year: **Jody McGuinness**
  - Outstanding Team Member: **Supervisor Michael Parker**
  - Exceptional Service Award (Police/Fire): **Officer Michael Shea (Warren PD) and Captain Justin Bassett (Rutland Fire)**
  - EMD Rockstar Award: **Gabby Arsenault**
  - Shining Star of the Year: **Michael Parker & Jody McGuinness**
  - Communications Specialist of the Year: **Christopher Wilder**

Board members discussed turnover, recruitment challenges, and applicant interest.

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## 6. Old Business

- Outstanding **operational amendments** require signatures from current member communities.
- Members present were asked to complete signatures following the meeting.

No additional old business items were raised.

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## 7. Open Discussion / Public Comment

Extensive discussion occurred on the following topics:

### a. Revised Assessments

- Revised assessments are expected **February 2026**, following completion of police and fire agency operational analyses.



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- Assessments will reflect updated call volume, staffing, and operational data.

### **b. New Community Participation & Voting Authority**

Key points discussed:

- New member communities are not receiving dispatch services yet.
- Assessments should not begin until PSAPs are decommissioned and services are provided.
- Consensus emerged around:
  - Original five communities retaining authority over current operations.
  - New communities participating in future-oriented decisions (capital projects, facilities, long-term planning).
- A formal governance framework is needed to define voting authority, assessments, and committee participation.

### **c. Facility & Building Project Update**

- Focus has shifted to a Charlton facility site.
- Preliminary layouts support up to 32 dispatch consoles (ADA compliant).
- Project planning includes redundancy (power, HVAC, generators, connectivity).
- Development Grant funding will be pursued in phases due to project scale.

### **d. District Transition from Rutland**

- Financial, payroll, insurance, and banking transitions are underway.
- Goal is to complete transition by FY27, with efforts to level-fund and minimize assessment impacts.
- Transparency and documentation of indirect costs emphasized.

### **e. Committees & Governance**

- Discussion supported creation of:
  - Personnel/Negotiations Committee
  - Building/Capital Committee
  - Finance Committee
- Committee structures will be proposed at the February meeting.



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### 8. Executive Session

An Executive Session was listed on the agenda for:

- Executive Director & Deputy Director contract discussions
- Dispatcher collective bargaining negotiations

However, due to attorney unavailability and the need to first establish governance and committee structure, the Executive Session was postponed.

No Executive Session was entered.

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### 9. Next Meeting

**Date:** February 18, 2026

**Time:** 9:00 AM

**Location:** Hubbardston Town Hall

**Address:** 40 Gardner Road, Hubbardston, MA

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### 10. Adjournment

**Motion:** To adjourn the meeting

- **Moved by:** Board Member
- **Seconded by:** Board Member
- **Vote:** Unanimous

The meeting adjourned at **10:04 AM**.

**Minutes respectfully submitted by:**

Michael Moriarty, Executive Director

Approved on: 02/18/2026