

CENTRAL VERMONT PUBLIC SAFETY AUTHORITY

After several years of planning the Central Vermont Public Safety Authority (CVPSA) became a reality. In 2014 a legal charter was created by the Vermont General Assembly. The proposal (House Bill 892, 2014 legislative session) was signed into law by Governor Peter Shumlin on May 20, 2014. The voters of the Cities of Montpelier and Barre approved the creation of an authority. Although the CVPSA is a separate municipality, it is accountable to the voters of Montpelier and Barre. Our stated purpose is to provide them with an affordable, integrated, efficient and improved system of public safety (fire, police, emergency medical (EM) services, dispatch) services.

A budget of \$100,000 (\$53,000 from Barre City, and \$47,000 from the City of Montpelier) was proposed and approved for fiscal year 2016-2017. This cost breakdown follows the cost model that has been adopted by both City Councils.

Prior to 2016 the Authority's Board of Directors spent much of its time assessing the dispatching services in the area and developing a plan to regionalize these services. The Board had determined that creating a single dispatching system operating out of two locations is the best way to provide an integrated, efficient communication service. The focus of the Authority during its second year (2016) has been, in part, on seeking grants to improve the radio communications between the two Cities. This effort resulted in the receipt of two grants totaling \$75,000. The Authority is also using an estimated \$18,000 of its reserve funds for installation of the new radio equipment. The Authority spent considerable time developing an operational plan for dispatching. This along with development of a ceding of authority request for the management and direction of the dispatching services has resulted in a robust conversation around the topic. The implementation of the operation plan is intended to occur in phases over the next 12-24 months. Additional funds for dispatcher training were provided in the FY 16 budget request and this training will begin after January 2017.

The CVPSA Board of Directors have presented to both City Councils the ceding of authority request to administer dispatching services. This request is in accordance with the CVPSA Charter and represents a large step forward. The concept of moving dispatch services to the CVPSA has generated a large amount of interest from the public and employees. It has highlighted the need to address several more questions regarding the personnel and management transition and the operational effectiveness of this regional concept. The Board is continuing to address these questions and adjust the plan accordingly. Dialogue between the Authority and the City Councils is ongoing as of this writing.

Outreach and education have continued this year as well. The CVPSA web page has become operational with agenda, minutes of the meetings and other planning documents available for review at www.cvpsa.org.

The Board of Directors of the CVPSA, in the next fiscal year, will continue to explore options for enhancing public safety services and efficiencies. Some of the targeted activities include a focus on capital equipment purchases, a review of other functions that could be consolidated between the public safety agencies in both Cities and the continued efforts at implementing the new Central Vermont Public Safety Dispatch Center. All this means a large and ambitious agenda for the CVPSA in the next fiscal year.

The Board of Directors and staff of the Central Vermont Public Safety Authority include the following.

Tom Golonka, Chair

Tom is a Montpelier City Council Member appointed to the CVPSA board in August of 2014. His current term expires in March of 2018. In his professional career, Tom is a partner with Silverlake Wealth Management in Williston and Montpelier, VT. In addition to his membership on the Montpelier City Council, Mr. Golonka is on the board of the Vermont Municipal Employees Retirement System (VMERS), a member of the board of the Central Vermont Medical Center, and a member of the Vermont Pension Investment Committee (VPIC).

Alexandra Pastor, Vice Chair

Alexandra is from Barre and is an “at large” member whose term expires in 2017. She uses her BA in international affairs, and MPA in public works while working for the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources. She is currently a member of three Barre City committees. Alexandra views regionalization of public safety as a natural response to the complex challenges facing today’s central Vermont communities. By joining forces, neighboring towns can share expertise, streamline communication, and experience the efficiencies of collaboration.

Michael Smith, Secretary

Michael is a Barre City Council member appointed to the CVPSA board in August of 2014. He is active in the Barre community and has served on both the Greater Barre Public Safety Advisory Committee and the Greater Barre Community Justice Center board. Michael works as a driver for the Ready To Go Program of Good News Garage based in Burlington. His two year term on the board expires in March of 2016 and has been re-appointed in a term that expires in March of 2018.

Robert Sager, Treasurer

Bob has been a long-standing member of the efforts to bring about public safety regionalization to Central Vermont. He served on previous study committees leading up to the creation of the Authority. He was President, Vice President and Treasurer of the Barre Partnership, President of the Barre Merchants Bureau. He has also served on various city committees and is currently on the Barre Partnership's Economic Development Committee, Retail Committee and on the board of the Barre Lions Club. He is a retired business owner.

Dona Bate

Dona is a Montpelier City Council Member who was appointed to the CVPSA board in August of 2014. Her current term expires in March of 2017. Dona operates her own business, dbate Speaking; where she is a speaker, trainer and facilitator. Dona brings five years of service to the public safety committee which studied the feasibility of this regional public safety authority, and which successfully advocated for its being chartered. Dona says, “regional services will benefit both residents and employees.”

Kimberly Cheney

Kim is an Attorney living in Montpelier who was appointed in August 2015 as an at large member of the Board for a term expiring in March, 2016 and was subsequently elected in 2016 for a three year term ending in March of 2019. His service as Washington County State’s Attorney and Vermont Attorney General brings practical public safety experience to the board. He joined the Board saying: “Regionally managed public safety can bring communities to work together for the benefit of those who serve and those who are served.”

Douglas Hoyt

Douglas Hoyt was raised in Montpelier and graduated from St Michael’s High School. He has since attained an Associate’s Degree in Criminal Justice from Vermont College and a Bachelor’s Degree in Government from Norwich University. He is also a Graduate of the FBI National Academy. Doug has retired from active law enforcement serving as Montpelier’s Chief of Police for 26 years. He was elected to the Board in March of 2015 to a term that expires in 2018.

Martin Prevost

Martin has lived in Barre City since 1978 when he moved here from Montreal. He was appointed to the Board in March of 2015 to a term that ends in March of 2017. He is currently employed by the Vermont Department of Liquor Control and was previously a Barre City Police Officer. He has been active in the Barre community including serving as school board member and city councilor as well as other civic boards and committees.

Francis (Paco) X. Aumand III, Executive Director

Mr. Francis (Paco) X. Aumand III has 39 years of law enforcement experience including service at the municipal and State levels in Vermont. Before his appointment as Executive Director for the Central Vermont Public Safety Authority, in July of 2015, he served as the Deputy Commissioner for the Vermont Department of Public Safety. Mr. Aumand also was employed as Executive Director of the Vermont Criminal Justice Training Council, and he served with the Bellows Falls Vermont Police Department for 14 years, the last 7 of those years as Chief of Police. He holds a Master of Science in Administration from St. Michael's College, Colchester, VT.

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The Central Vermont Public Safety Authority (CVPSA), comprised of the City of Montpelier and the City of Barre, is dedicated to establishing an affordable, integrated, efficient system of public safety services (fire, police, emergency medical services and dispatching), initially for the Twin Cities and possibly for all Central Vermont. A long journey begins with the first step – creating a single dispatch system to enhance public welfare by providing rapid, coordinated response to emergencies in member communities with highly qualified personnel.

The first budget for CVPSA began in fiscal year 2016, which finished the year with an \$18,724 surplus. This money is being spent this year (FY 17) to pay for the installation of new radio equipment. Two grants, totaling \$75,000, were received by the CVPSA to purchase radio equipment that will help with radio connections between Montpelier and Barre.

In fiscal year 2018, the CVPSA will continue the development of a dispatching system that will allow both Montpelier and Barre City dispatch centers to work seamlessly together. Training funds have continued in FY 18 along with money for operations planning between the two dispatch centers. Addition funds in the operating expense for FY 18 have been budgeted to help pay for radio circuits between the two Cities. Thus, continuing our efforts at improving continuity of operations.

The fiscal year 2019 budget projection begins a transition for the CVPSA to manage the dispatching services of the two cities. The budget line item for all dispatching services includes the transition costs associated with combining the Barre City and Montpelier dispatching centers into one communications system working out of two locations.

The fiscal year 2020 budget projection reflects the continued management of the new communication system. The CVPSA intends to move forward in FY 2021 with plans for further regionalization of fire, police and emergency medical services.

The fiscal year budget for 2017-2018 (FY 18) is represented below along with projections for future years.

Central Vermont Public Safety Authority Budget Projections					
<i>Budget Summary:</i>	FY 16 Actual	FY 17 Approved Budget	FY 18 Requested Budget	FY 19 Projected Budget	FY 20 Projected Budget
Expenditures					
Personnel	\$ 59,649	\$ 71,500	\$ 75,980	\$ 78,782	\$ 80,020
Operating		\$ 3,500	\$ 8,505	\$ 14,375	\$ 8,900
Dispatch Training		\$ 25,000	\$ 10,000		
Joint Operations Planning			\$ 5,515		
Total Expenditures	\$ 59,649	\$100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 93,157	\$ 88,920
Montpelier Dispatching	\$ -			\$290,776	\$ 241,272
Barre City Dispatching	\$ -	\$ -		\$558,645	\$ 523,786
Total Dispatch Expense		\$0	\$ -	\$ 849,421	\$ 765,058
Total CVPSA and Dispatch	\$ 59,649	\$100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 942,578	\$ 853,978
Revenue					
	FY 16 Actual	FY 17 Budget	FY 18 Budget	FY 19 Budget	FY 20 Budget
Balance on Hand	\$ 9,475	\$ 18,724	\$ -		
Miscellaneous	\$ 377				
Montpelier CVPSA Formula	\$ 34,725	\$ 47,000	\$ 47,000	\$43,784	\$ 41,792
Montpelier Dispatch Costs				\$ 290,776	\$ 241,272
Barre CVPSA Formula	\$ 40,275	\$ 53,000	\$ 53,000	\$49,373	\$ 47,128
Barre Public Dispatch Costs				\$ 558,645	\$ 523,786
Total Revenue	\$ 84,852	\$118,724	\$ 100,000	\$ 942,578	\$ 853,978
Note: This dispatch budget projects an increase in revenue for dispatch in FY 19 & FY 20.					