

Central Vermont Public Safety Authority (CVPSA) is all about combining resources and combining local control to form a more efficient, efficient, and sustainable public safety services for all the towns in Central Vermont. CVPSA is about enhancing the hiring and retention of employees with more training and advancement opportunities, improving how public safety services are delivered, funded, and planned. Combining local voices to obtain state and federal grants to replace seriously flawed, obsolete 35+ year old equipment and have dependable radio communications for first responders to protect their lives and the lives of residents.

Jan-Feb 2021 CVPSA hired Televate, a highly experienced public safety telecommunications consultants, to do Phase I of a Central Vermont Telecommunications Needs Assessment and hired Francis (Paco) Aumand as Project Manager to oversee CVPSA contract with Televate.

May 2021 CVPSA submitted applications to US Senators Leahy and Sanders for \$5.4 million to overhaul the telecommunications equipment that serves over 30 towns and over 74,000 residents. This included all the towns served by Capital Fire Mutual Aid System (CFMAS), and cities of Barre and Montpelier. Though we did not receive any earmarked funds, we were encouraged to divide the capital request into several smaller requests, to obtain local and state funding to supplement the federal, and to strength our regional coalition capacity to handle a large grant. Though our telecommunication study was not done, the Televate generously share their expertise, gathered data and partial complied information to be used in these federal applications.

August 2021 CVPSA's regional Telecommunications Needs Assessment report was published by Televate consulting team, Rick Burke and Dominick Arcuri, that contained recommendations. This study was reviewed by both cities' public safety staff and CFMAS members who released their own recommendations.

Televate, Barre Staff, Montpelier Staff and CFMAS all agreed to the following recommendations:

1. To replace and update the current seriously flawed, fragile, and obsolete public safety telecommunication equipment.
2. To have greater Fire & Police Chief participation on CVPSA Board.
3. To develop an acceptable and equitable funding formula for the needed capital investment.
4. To have agreement on governance of capital investment.

Oct 2021 CVPSA presented the Televate report and the above recommendations to CFMAS members and to a Joint City Council meeting, where it asked both cities to direct their Twin Cities Team (city managers and fire/police chiefs and deputy chiefs) to work with CFMAS and CVPSA-Televate to develop governance model, cost allocation formulas and funding strategies. And for this Core Team (Twin Cities Team, CVPSA-Televate, CFMAS) to bring their work back to the perspective Councils and Boards for approval and commitment to advance these regional tasks.

Dec 2021 CVPSA discussed using its limited fund balance for Phase II Part 1 of the Telecommunication Study, having consultants assist the Core Team in advancing these four regional recommendations. CVPSA continues to work on regional partnerships where everyone gains by sharing resources, and everyone pays less when buying together than if they purchase equipment alone. Replacing obsolete radios for some 30 fire departments, upgrading, and adding radio tower equipment, and purchasing a new simulcast system is estimated to cost \$3.9 million. That is big number that needs local, state, and federal dollars, which need a Central Vermont regional approach.

Once there is a firm follow-through commitment from the Cities and CFMAS to work together to secure funding, then CVPSA can initiate Phase II Part 2 Telecommunications Equipment Acquisition. The year ends with CVPSA Board considering a town meeting ballot request for its operations and to advance Phase II Part 1 in FY23. In any case, the region's top priority should be to overhaul its seriously flawed public safety telecommunications system as soon as possible.

-Dona Bate
CVPSA Board Chair

2021 Board of Directors

Dona Bate, Chair, At-Large Elected term expires March 2023

Doug Hoyt, Vice Chair, Montpelier Council Appointed term expires March 2023

Brent Householder, Secretary, At-Large Elected term expires March 2024

Paul Charron, Barre City Council Appointed term expires March 2023/resigned Dec 2021

Kimberly Cheney, At-Large Elected term expires March 2022

Sally Dillion, CFMAS Appointed term expires March 2022

Justin Drechsler, Montpelier Council Appointed partial term expires March 2022

Dan Richardson, Montpelier Council Appointed term expires March 2022/resigned Aug 2021

Will Sutton, CFMAS Appointed term expires March 2023

Jim Ward, Barre City Council Appointed term expires March 2022