

## **Metacomet Board of Directors Meeting (MECC)**

### **Minutes of Meeting**

**June 8, 2022**

**APPROVED JUL 13 2022**

A meeting of the MECC Board of Directors was held on Wednesday 6/8/2022 via Zoom. Board members present were Chair Jamie Hellen, Vice Chair Sweet, Clerk Blythe Robinson, and Member Brian Noble. Others in attendance were: Metacomet Executive Director Gary Premo, Millville TA Peter Caruso, Wrentham Police Chief William McGrath, Franklin Fire Deputy Chief Joseph Barbieri, Norfolk Fire Chief Erron Kinney, Metacomet Communications Operations Manager Nicole Connors and Administrative Supervisor Padraic Pomeroy.

The meeting was called to order at 8:01 a.m. by Chair Hellen.

#### **Agenda Item One:**

##### **ITEMS FOR ACTION**

1. Annual elections of Board of Directors officers.

Vice Chair Sweet makes a motion for Jamie Hellen for Chair. This motion was seconded by Clerk Robinson. No discussion. A roll call vote was taken, Sweet -Y, Robinson-Y, Noble-Y, Newman-absent, Hellen-Y. 4-Yes/0-No/1-absent. Motion is passed.

Clerk Robinson makes a motion for Kevin Sweet for Vice Chair. This motion was seconded by Chair Hellen. No discussion. A roll call vote was taken, Robinson-Y, Noble-Y, Sweet-Y, Newman-absent, Hellen-Y. 4-Yes/0-No/1-absent. Motion is passed.

Chair Hellen makes a motion for Peter Caruso for Clerk. This motion was seconded by Clerk Robinson. No discussion. A roll call vote was taken, Sweet-Y, Robinson-Y, Noble-Y, Newman-absent, Hellen-Y. 4-Yes/0-No/1-absent. Motion passed.

2. Approval of minutes, meeting of 02/09/2022.

Clerk Robinson makes a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting from 02/09/2022. This motion was seconded by Vice Chair Sweet. No discussion. A roll call vote was taken, Sweet-Y, Noble-Y, Robinson-Y, Newman-absent, Hellen-Y. 4-Yes/0-No/1-absent. Motion is passed.

#### **Agenda Item Two:**

##### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

##### **Operations Update:**

Executive Director Premo addresses staffing. He reports that the MECC is currently short staffed and trying to attract quality employees has been difficult. There are currently three new employees in training, and we are looking to hire 2 more. It takes between 6 and 12 months to train a new employee. Chair Hellen asked where we are recruiting from. Director Premo asked Communications Manager

Connors to speak on this topic. Manager Connors reports that we post on Indeed and FB. There is initially a large response, but there is very little follow through with next step which is the testing, they do take the test and fail. Chair Hellen adds that he knows it is a struggle to maintain staffing but is not sure this is the same problem as everywhere in MA. He also states he is concerned with retention. Chair Hellen wants to see for the next meeting what other RECCs are dealing with and doing about it. Director Premo reports that he has already started working on that project. Vice Chair Sweet added that we should be tapping into our own local resources and Social media. He suggests having open houses. Manager Connors adds that we have posted on social medias. She adds that in the last few months we have had 91 applicants. We had about 5 pass the test. The rest either do not pass the test or don't show for an interview. Manager Connors further states that she believes that many applicants are simply fulfilling their unemployment requirements by applying. Clerk Robinson suggests reaching out to professional organizations in the area for help. Director Premo agree to reach out.

#### Life Saving Commendation-Mendon Select Board Meeting:

Director Premo reports that at the May 25<sup>th</sup> Mendon Select-Board meeting, a letter was read from Mendon Fire Chief Kessler and a presentation was made to Supervisor Angela Buerstatte for life saving CPR instructions that helped in the outcome of a medical emergency. Director Premo adds that when speaking with Chief Kurczy, he believes that the level of service was the reason for the outcome.

Director Premo wants to lastly address the multiple mass shootings that are occurring. The MECC will be hosting specialized dispatch training in September.

Chair Hellen asks Director Premo when the last ops meeting was. Director Premo states it has been difficult to get all the Chiefs here for a meeting. He adds that he has been having meetings and additionally meet when issues arise. Chair Hellen states he believes it unacceptable for Chiefs to not find time. He adds he would like to see a standing meeting. Clerk Robinson agrees and will speak with her Chiefs.

Clerk Robinson wants to note that the Norfolk Board has made Todd Lindmark the Interim TA for Norfolk.

Chair Hellen thanks Clerk Robinson for her leadership and participation on the BOD.

Vice Chair Sweet asks to open the floor to the Chiefs.

Wrentham Police Chief asks to revisit the recruitment issues. He questions if the test not being effective. He offers to help with the efforts helping with recruitment. Director Premo responds that the State 911 has in the past offered classes and he hope that they will resume. He adds that we have had interns from Franklin come and spend time learning. Chief McGrath suggests something more on the lines of a citizen's academy. Chair Hellen asks for more information on the test. Manager Connors reports that the test is designed for dispatch and includes typing, multitasking, understanding information. She adds that there needs to be a criterion because of the cost of and length of training. She also discussed the strain on the training officers having to train on every shift.

**ADJOURN:**

A motion was made by member Noble to adjourn. Chair Hellen seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Sweet- Yes, Noble- Yes, Robinson- Yes, Newman-Absent, Hellen- Yes. 4 Yes/0 No/1 Absent.

Meeting of the Metacomet Board of Directors adjourned at 08:31.