



Roger Marcoux, Jr.
Sheriff



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TESTIMONY OF SHERIFF ROGER M. MARCOUX, JR.
HOUSE GOVERNANCE AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
APRIL 7, 2016

WRITTEN TESTIMONY BY
ROGER M. MARCOUX, JR.
LAMOILLE COUNTY SHERIFF
HYDE PARK, VERMONT

Good afternoon Madame Chair and members of the House Government Operations Committee.

My name is Sheriff Roger Marcoux from Lamoille County. As of March 24, 2016 I have been appointed as the Vice Chair of the Vermont E911 Board. Previously, I had been the chair for the board, appointed in April of 2008.

Over the last two years E911 has been the focus of some committees in the Vermont Legislature. Last year the Senate Finance Committee directed the Board to cut it's budget by \$300,000.00 which was directed to the Department of Public Safety. The House of Representatives directed the Board to turn over \$425,000.00 to the Department of Public Safety. Until that time E911 had always tried to manage its budget. The E911 budget is derived from the universal service fund which comes from a service fee for hard line and wireless telephone users.

There was a mistake made when determining the ability of E911 to pay the \$425,000.00. The result this year was a deficit of \$150,000.00. The administration is working with the Board to resolve that budget issue and I believe it will be taken care of.

The Board has had an allocation of \$1,080,000.00 which is specifically to help offset the cost of people who answer 911 calls. All of these call takers work for law enforcement agencies. Money received is not sufficient to pay the true cost. There are currently twenty four call taking positions in the state. There are four local law enforcement agencies and the Department of Public Safety that staff these call taking positions. Last year the state had over 200,000 911 calls. E911 pays \$45,000 per year and each position requires a little over four people to staff. Therefore, the true cost of a position is over \$300,000.00 per year. E911 contributes \$45,000.00 therefore requiring a massive in kind contribution from each agency.

Individual	Call Taker	Dispatcher
Person with an emergency calls 911	A call taker with one of the five agencies takes the call and hands off to the appropriate dispatcher	Dispatcher determines what first responder is necessary and notifies fire, emergency or police.

The call taker and dispatcher are often the same person. Call taking is a state responsibility and should be completely funded by the state. Dispatch is the responsibility of local agencies or of Department of Public Safety.

I urge this committee and all of our legislators to recognize the importance of the partnership between locals and the Department of Public Safety. We are a small state with a comparably small budget. We can not operate the same way other states do, we can't afford it. Working together makes the most common sense even if we all share a bit of the fiscal pain that comes with it.

I thank you for the opportunity to address you all here today and remain available to answer questions.