

Towns of Acton and Concord



Establishment of a Regional Emergency
Communication Center for the
Towns of Acton and Concord

Governance Agreement

Town of Acton Benefits



Operational

- **Additional dispatch personnel to deal with increased surge of calls from large events, extreme weather and**
- **Opportunities for dispatcher advancements**
- **New equipment and better technology**
- **Standardized dispatch protocols**
- **Efficiencies through economy of scale and combined resources**
- **Increased professionalism of operations and increased expectations**
- **Independent dispatch department**

Financial

- **Non-Recurring Capital Savings
\$407,465.99**
- **Recurring Cost Savings
\$375,054.37**

Town of Concord Benefits



Operational

- **Additional dispatch personnel to deal with increased surge of calls from large events, extreme weather and**
- **Opportunities for dispatcher advancements**
- **New equipment and better technology**
- **Standardized dispatch protocols**
- **Efficiencies through economy of scale and combined resources**
- **Increased professionalism of operations and increased expectations**
- **Independent dispatch department**

Financial

- **Non-Recurring Capital Savings**
\$179,666.66
- **Recurring Cost Savings**
\$415,282.63

Governance Agreement



- Acton and Concord Agreement follows Chapter 6A Section 18M to 18T that was enacted in 2013 to Maximize effective emergency and 911 dispatch services as well as regional interoperability for the citizens of the commonwealth.
- The agreement is a five (5) year commitment to work together to deliver dispatch services. The agreement is binding but the participation of the towns is not.
- Agreement provides that if State 911 Department Development Grant funds are not awarded, the agreement will remain in effect, but the project to regionalize **does not need to move forward.**
- The Grant Guidelines are competitive using priority criteria. With an executed agreement, the submitted grant application is rated priority two (2). Without it, it is priority four (4).

Termination/Withdrawal



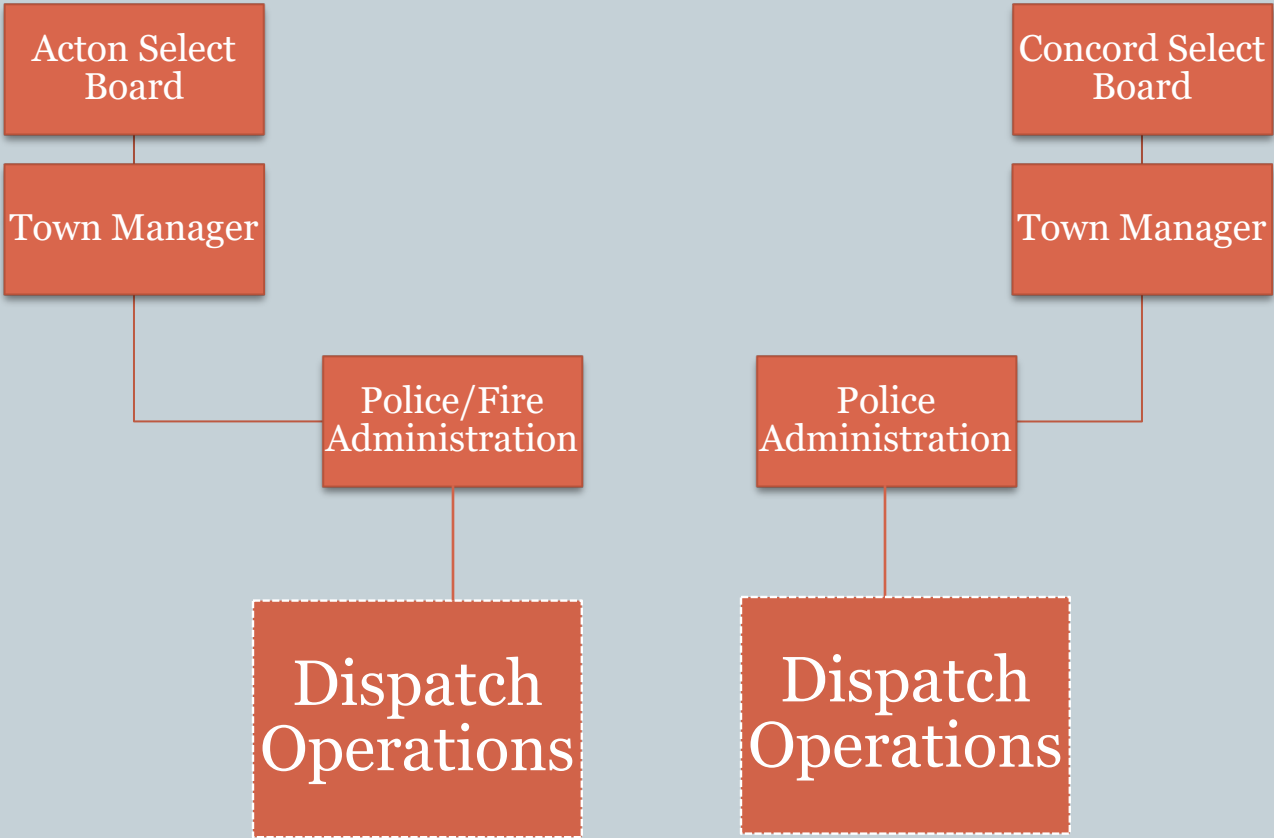
- A Participating Community can withdraw with written notice to the Chair of the Board not less than three years prior **unless there is a unanimous vote by the Board**
 - In practice, the three year requirement would be waived for withdrawal if significant Development Grant funds have not been expended.
- Termination of membership shall be effective thirty days following the payment of all obligations incurred and no less than two years from the receipt of notice of termination.
- No Participating Community shall be entitled to retain or be reimbursed for any costs or liabilities incurred prior to the effective date of termination
 - Ongoing obligations, like OPEB, would transfer back to withdrawing community

Termination/Withdrawal (continued)

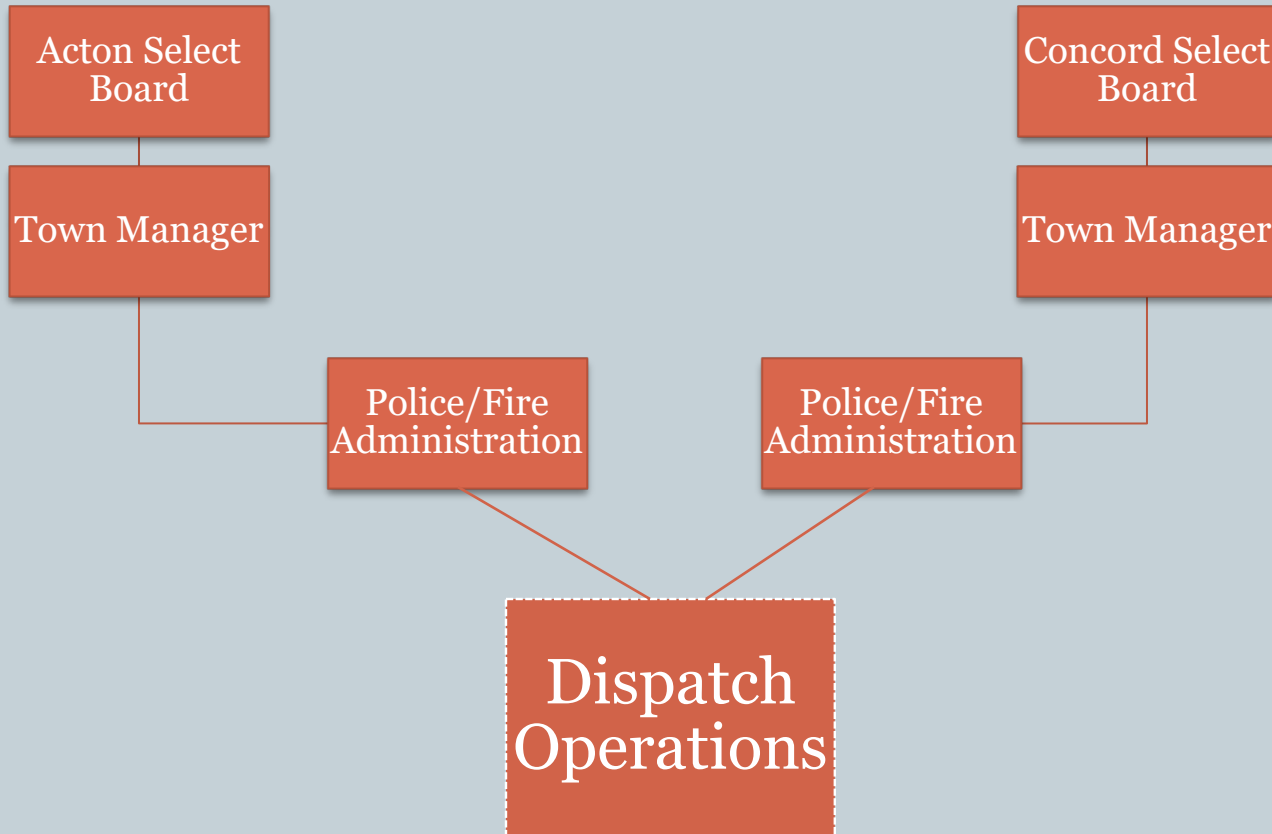


- **Participating Communities shall address the impacts caused by termination by either encouraging other parties to join the District or by reducing expenses of the District**
 - Terminated party shall remain liable for its assessment in full until the end of the current fiscal year absent mitigation.
 - The type of activities to be taken in mitigation shall be determined at the sole discretion of the remaining Participating Communities.

Current Organizational Structure Both Communities



Proposed Organizational Structure Both Communities



Current Costs for Acton and Concord Dispatch



Dispatch Center	Personnel Expenses*	Support Expenses	Budget Total
Acton	776,424	36,500	812,924
Concord	751,415	48,125	799,549
Total	\$ 1,527,839	\$ 84,625	\$ 1, 612,464

*Personnel costs include salary, benefits, and other government costs
Currently all costs for the Dispatch Centers of Acton and Concord are provided by municipal funding with the exception of \$140,641 of State 911 Department Support Grants.

State 911 Department Support



Support and Incentive Grant funds on an annual recurring basis for a RECC for the Towns of Acton and Concord.

FY2021- Acton-Concord RECC - December 10, 2020			
Entity	Support	RECC	Total Grant Funding
Acton-Concord RECC	\$ 140,641	\$ 561,224	\$ 701,865

Development Grants - Equipment and other transition expenses:

- Radio interoperability
- Redesigned Dispatch Center
- CAD/RMS and Fire Alarm systems
- Personnel and Transition Award

Transition Award



- *Payable to the entity that operates a regional PSAP or RECC on behalf of the participants*
 - **the *greater of* a) the last allocation for the decommissioned PSAP under the State 911 Department Support Grant; or b) the amount of the assessment or charge allocated to such PSAP for the current fiscal year under the terms of the signed inter-municipal agreement or other equivalent agreement governing the operations of the regional PSAP or RECC.** Such transition award(s) shall be credited against the obligation of the decommissioned PSAP(s) by the grantee.
- *A decommissioned PSAP may be provided with:*
 - two (2) additional grant cycles, but the award will be limited the first time to **50%** of the *greater of* a) the last allocation for the decommissioned PSAP under the State 911 Department Support Grant; or
 - the second time to **25%** of *greater of* a) the last allocation for the decommissioned PSAP under the State 911 Department Support Grant; or b) the amount of the assessment or charge allocated to such PSAP for the current fiscal year under the terms of the signed inter-municipal agreement or other equivalent agreement governing the operations of the regional PSAP or RECC.

Cost Benefit Analysis



Anticipated savings from the economy of scale, cost-sharing, as well as a grant funding effort for recurring costs and a separate effort through Development Grants for capital costs/equipment to establish the RECC and to replace outdated equipment.

Community	Non-Recurring Capital Savings	Recurring Cost Savings
Acton	\$407,465.99	\$375,054.37
Concord	\$179,666.66	\$415,282.63
TOTAL	\$ 587,132.65	\$ 790,337.00

RECC Budget Process



- Executive Director, the Operations Committee shall develop and recommend to the Finance Advisory Subcommittee an annual budget by mid-December of each year.
- The Finance Advisory Subcommittee shall recommend an annual budget to the Board.
- The Board shall set a schedule for annual budget preparation that permits time for due deliberation prior to the **statutorily required February 1 notice** to the Participating Communities of their share of costs for the following fiscal year.
- The annual budget shall set forth all anticipated expenses and revenues for the following fiscal year and contingency funds for unanticipated operating and capital expenses.

Local Budget Process



- Once the RECC budget is established, each town will be assessed its share.
- The Town Managers would include the assessment in public safety budget proposals
- The assessment and supporting documentation would be presented to Finance Committee and Select Board as part of annual Town Budget process.

Cost Sharing



Community	911 Call Volume	911 Calls only	Population 2018	Population only	50% calls 50% population
Acton	4,315	51.25%	23,738	55.27%	53.26%
Concord	4,105	48.75%	19,211	44.73%	46.74%
	8,420	100.00%	42,949	100.00%	100.00%

Employees



- All existing employees will have opportunity to work for district
- Committed to negotiating a fair contract that reflects the new working conditions
- Maintain competitive benefit structures
- New promotional opportunities
- New professional development and professional growth opportunities

Timeline



- May 31, 2021, Submit Executed Agreement to the State 911 Department
- June 30, 2021 – State 911 Department sends award letters to the recipients
 - Review award – if fully awarded, project timeline calls for transition to the RECC by October 1, 2022
 - If project not funded, the implementation of the creation of the RECC will be put on pause.

Motion for Consideration



Move that the Acton Select Board accept the provisions of sections 18O to 18V, inclusive, of chapter 6A of the General Laws providing for the establishment of a regional 911 emergency communication district, together with the towns of Acton and Concord, and the construction or siting, administration, operation and maintenance of a regional 911 emergency communication center by the district under the provisions of the proposed district agreement filed with the Select Board.

Q&A

