

# **Roanoke Valley Media Public Safety Co-Op**

## **Minutes 01/16/03**

### Members Present:

|                        |                            |
|------------------------|----------------------------|
| Shelly Alley           | Roanoke Police             |
| Mike Stater            | VSP                        |
| Danielle Faal          | Roanoke Sheriffs Office    |
| Dutchie Hughes         | WVTF                       |
| Sgt. Bob Ross          | VSP                        |
| Lt. Richard Denney     | VSP                        |
| Sgt. Mark Vaught       | Vinton Police              |
| Keith Humphrey         | WDBJ 7                     |
| Jennifer Conley Sexton | Roanoke Co Fire and Rescue |
| Pat Grisetti           | US Attorneys Office        |
| WC Thomsen             | VDOF                       |
| Donna Wilson           | USFS                       |
| JoBeth Brown           | USFS                       |
| Shane Mooreland        | WSLS                       |
| Isak Howell            | Roanoke Times              |
| Kim O'Brien Root       | Roanoke Times              |
| Melissa Preas          | WSLS                       |
| Emily Ditmore          | WSLS                       |
| Meg Hibbert            | Salem Times Register       |

- I. Shelly Alley welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked everyone to introduce him or herself.
- II. Shelly introduced the speaker, Todd Burns, Corporate Communications, American Electric Power
  - Communications issues include – operational, storms, facilities, 76K project, policy, legislation
  - Roanoke is in the Charleston region – Ohio to Tenn to Virginia
  - Dispatch Center has 30 dispatchers, three at night, usually 12-13 during the day
  - Customers want to know two things about power outages – why is it out and how long will be out?
  - Computer system helps pinpoint areas of outage
  - Above ground lines are cost effective
  - Underground lines are more prone to problems
  - People have misconceptions that underground lines are better
  - Weather is monitored at all times by the dispatch center

- The group was taken on a tour of the dispatch/communications center and questions answered by AEP personnel

### III. New Business

- Mike Stater told the group that all field PIOs for the Virginia State Police are being cut through state budget cuts. His last day is February 10, 2003. Sgt. Bob Ross will be the interim PIO. Lt. Denney stated that a process will be conducted for a permanent sworn replacement in the coming months.
- Danielle Faal, Roanoke Sheriff's Office thanked everyone for their support/coverage of the new courthouse security procedures.
- Salem Police Department has had several major incidents recently (train wreck, shooting). Group decided to ask them to host next meeting and review those incidents.

### IV. Paging System

- Paging system will be changing on January 31, 2003. The broadcast box is going away and will be replaced with a voicemail distribution system. Each agency needs to set up their new 800 number voicemail account and there will be a new number for public safety agencies to call.
- Everyone discussed the paging system and the need for more participation by other agencies.
- The group decided to put pager issues on the next agenda.

### V. Next Meeting

- The next meeting will be March 20, 2003 at 10:00 am at the Salem Civic Center. The City of Salem/Salem Police will review some of their recent incidents and the paging system will be a major area of discussion.