



NEW FAIRFIELD COMMUNICATIONS CENTER

302 Ball Pond Road
New Fairfield, Connecticut 06812
(203) 312-5701 – Dispatch
(203)- 312-5711 – Fax
(203) 312-5719 – Communications Manager

February 15, 2015

Department of Emergency Services & Public Protection
Division of Statewide Emergency Telecommunications
Middletown, CT 06457

Re: DSET Docket No. 13-01

To Whom It May Concern:

The New Fairfield Communications Center and the Town elected officials would like to take this opportunity to comment on the proposed regulatory changes regarding the subsidization of Regional Emergency Communications Centers, multi-town Public Safety Answering Points, and eligible municipalities.

1. We think funds should be distributed equitably to both larger and smaller PSAP's, regardless of whether they are large independent centers, regionalized/multi-town, or small independent centers such as ourselves.
2. When the "Small Town PSAP Consolidation Report" was done, the Town of New Fairfield was one of 11 towns that were *not* in favor of PSAP consolidation, and we currently stand by that for several reasons:
 - a. 911 calls are just a portion of what a telecommunicator does during their normal course of work.
 - b. In small towns such as New Fairfield, the issue of a "dark lobby," where an individual comes to the Police Department for assistance and there is no one to address their needs, remains a great concern.
 - c. Staffing personnel to address the above (item "b") does not save the municipality any money.
 - d. It has not been clearly addressed how the thousands of routine non-emergency calls would be handled.
3. The Town of New Fairfield is committed to providing the best service to the residents and visitors when it comes to emergency services, beginning with the Communications Center. We can cite several instances where our local dispatchers significantly reduced response times to emergency situations by determining where a person was based upon their description of landmarks when the caller did not otherwise have any idea where they were



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At this time, we would encourage the State of Connecticut to support individual municipalities in a manner in which they choose to operate or consolidate their emergency communications. We do not support mandates or reduced funding for non-regionalized centers. The Town of New Fairfield and its Communication Center remains committed to its residents and anyone inside our borders when it comes to emergency communications. Regardless of funding, this will be our long term outlook and commitment.

Respectfully Submitted,

Daniel McDermott
Lead/Supervising Dispatcher

Susan Chapman
First Selectman