Corte Madera Town Manager Todd Cusimano called the meeting to order at 8:33 am. The following were in attendance: Undersheriff Jamie Scardina, Novato Police Chief Adam McGill, CHP Captain Robert Mota, Corte Madera Town Manager Todd Cusimano, Task Force Commander Mark Hale, Task Force Assistant Commander Ryan Petersen, Novato City Council Member Pat Eklund, County Administration Dan Eilerman, Board of Supervisor’s Judy Arnold, San Anselmo Town Manager Dave Donery, Task Force Special Investigations Assistant Christine Wheeler, public member Ed Schulze, public member Dan Falzon, and civilian Mark Dale.

Cusimano opened the meeting with introductions.

New Task Force Commander Mark Hale introduced himself to the committee. Hale emphasized his belief in the Task Force purpose and his intent to maintain strong relationships with all member agencies.

Cusimano then presented approval of last meetings minutes. All present approved.

Undersheriff Scardina informed the committee that there is a surplus in Asset Forfeiture funds in the amount of $65,383 after $253,093 in Asset Forfeiture receipts were distributed to Central Marin, Novato, and the County. Scardina requested the committee determine what they would like to do with the surplus amount. Cusimano proposed holding the funds until the end of the current fiscal year to consider with any additional Asset Forfeiture receipts that may be received this year. Eklund inquired if the funds are in a separate Asset Forfeiture account that accrues interest, which Petersen confirmed that they were. Schulze questioned if the lease and/or insurance rate increases were in good status. Wheeler confirmed that those items were accounted for in the budget and in fact were already paid. Eilerman proposed that the sub-committee meet to consider the pending funds and to ensure the JPA formula is sustainable in light of declining Asset Forfeiture seizures. Arnold moved to approve holding the funds until the end of the fiscal year. All present approved.

Assistant Commander Petersen discussed current stats, trends, case overviews, and District Attorney case filing stats. Eklund stated she spoke with DA Lori Frugoli regarding stats on non-filed cases and wanting to know the reasoning behind them. Frugoli responded that she requested funding for a tracking system that would help with this. Eklund stated her concern is to bridge the gap so that agencies are aware of why cases are not being filed. McGill replied that agencies receive notice as to why a case is not filed and the agencies adjust or address what they are able to, based on the reason presented. Petersen stated that the Task Force will continue to provide quarterly DA filing stats and also include these in the Annual Report.

Hale discussed a recent command change audit, inventory, inspection of evidence conducted by himself and SIA Wheeler per Task Force policy. Hale emphasized that all High Risk items were audited/inventoried (Firearms, Narcotics, High Value Items, and Currency) and all General evidence items 2018-2019 were also audited/inventoried. He found that everything was in good standing and found no issues.

Committee Member comment were opened. Eklund inquired if the message to member agencies were clear that the Task Force was available to them for additional resources. Petersen stated that communication is constant and he has spoken on this at the chief’s meetings. McGill stated that agencies are aware, that it is just a matter of defining the operational functions and what it
allows. Several members stated they are already using those resources and are confident that the message is being relayed, but agree that the scope of those resources needs to be defined.

Public comment was opened. Mark Dale spoke about 9th grade packets issued regarding suicide prevention. He also discussed recent successful events and upcoming events.

Next meeting set for January 13, 2020 at 0830. Location Novato City Hall.

Meeting adjourned 09:22 a.m.