

## DATA PROCESSING USERS COMMITTEE MEETING

September 6, 2007 – 2:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Chairman Spencer Hellwig; Carol Holley, Real Property Tax; Sam Pitcherale, Treasurer; Bill Baker, Personnel; Dale Angstadt, Hans Lehr, Mental Health; Bob Kingsbury, Data Processing

Chairman Hellwig called the meeting to order.

Mr. Baker moved to approve the minutes of the meeting of March 29, 2006. Ms. Holley seconded. Unanimous.

Chairman Hellwig said we are starting to lose available space to be able to add new users to the internet, and with existing users, the response time is beginning to slow down especially is the remote locations. We will need a large overhaul of the system to remedy this. Mr. Kingsbury said we have reached the limit on our current network/internet connections using a mix of Verizon frame relay services and Road Runner services. Currently, there are 250 users of the internet sharing one T1 line of throughput. Because of this mix, we have two departments paying for both frame services and Road Runner services, and we can't put them fully on Road Runner because it overloads the T1 internet line. He said converting the rest of the County to use Road Runner will boost our throughput 4 fold and save approximately \$650 per month. He said the cost of the conversion is \$19,980 for system engineering services and \$11,383.76 firewalls, routers, security appliances for a total of \$31,363.76 (48 ¼ months payback not counting the benefit of increased performance and security). He said after one year, the annual maintenance on hardware will be \$1,238. He said he did not budget for this, as it just snuck up on us.

Chairman Hellwig said over the course of four years, the savings will cover the transition. Once we reach the end of that four-year period, the monthly cost for T1 as opposed to what it would be with Road Runner will be \$650/mo. less. He asked when this could be started? Mr. Kingsbury said as soon as they get a minor contract with CPI and order the hardware. He said the hardware is on State contract. Chairman Hellwig said how long will it be until the switchover? Mr. Kingsbury said they have to order Road Runner. We can get the hardware within a couple of weeks, he said. Mr. Baker asked if there was any money for this in the 2007 budget. Chairman Hellwig said \$60,000 is still in the Users budget, as most of this year's requests have been met by the departments' budgets.

**Chairman Hellwig moved to authorize the Chair to enter into an agreement with Computer Professionals International (CPI) to provide computer system engineering at a cost not to exceed \$19,980. Mr. Baker seconded. Unanimous.**

Chairman Hellwig said Mr. Lehr met with Mr. Kingsbury and reviewed a situation that exists in Saratoga Springs. There is an equipment issue, as we are running old software, and it does not take long for it to become dated. They are using Windows 98, he added.

Mr. Lehr said Mr. Kingsbury and he have been doing a lot of work of pulling this all together. The Center is totally reliant on information technology for day-to-day operations. Billing, census, demographics, scheduling and mandated reporting on the administrative side and patient record maintenance on the clinical side are based in our integrated hardware and software systems, he said. We are experiencing major problems with both, he added. He said recently, they had major problems with their server, and one of Mr. Kingsbury's people said it could die any day. He said their server needs to be replaced. They have a lot of old Windows 98 machines that won't connect up to a new server, he said. He stated they have been with their particular vendor since 1989, and they have done a nice job with us. He said they did a major upgrade in 2002, but their timing was terrible because quickly after that, the Feds implemented HIPAA. He said they have been doing major patchwork. We have a system that never was developed for the HIPAA world, and that creates major problems for us in the billing perspective, he said. He distributed copies of a proposal to upgrade their hardware, operating systems and current Netsmart Management Information System at a cost of \$89,600. He said Netsmart has provided them with many more hours of programming time than required by their maintenance agreement without charge, but that is unlikely to continue into 2008. He said they have money in their budget to cover this. Mr. Baker asked what the dollar amount would be for the maintenance agreement for 2008. Mr. Lehr said he would find that out and get back to him. Mr. Hellwig said he does not want to be replacing monitors at this time if they are working. We should control this as much as possible. Mr. Kingsbury pointed out flat panel monitors have a better energy savings. We can replace the monitors as they die, he said.

Mr. Hellwig said typically, we look for competition to submit bids, but only two vendors produce this software. Mr. Lehr said Netsmart has a users group in New York. We are all faced with the same issues, he stated. Chairman Hellwig said let's get this taken care of and not drag it out. He requested Mr. Lehr to notify the Committee, or at least him and Mr. Kingsbury, about the status of the project. **Mr. Pitcherale moved to authorize the Chair to enter into an agreement with Netsmart to provide services related to the replacement of existing billing software and hardware in an amount not to exceed \$89,600. Ms. Holley seconded. Unanimous.**

Mr. Hellwig said he has a bunch of requests for expansion of the internet access. He said the one he is looking at now is the Board of Elections. Some of the delay is due to the fact of the capacity we are at. This may come back to Committee due to the urgency, he said. We should be able to accommodate the single requests by the end of the year, he added.

On a motion by Mr. Pitcherale, seconded by Mr. Baker, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine M. Sodemann