

## Public Safety Committee Minutes

September 7, 2010 – 3:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Wormuth; Supervisors Barrett, Daly, Jenkins, M. Johnson, Veitch, Wright, and Southworth; Paul Parker, Paul Lent, Ed Tremblay, Emergency Services; Daniel Butler, Animal Shelter; Press.

Chairman Wormuth called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance.

**On a motion made by Mr. Wright, seconded by Mrs. Johnson the minutes of the July 13, 2010 meeting were approved unanimously.**

Mr. Butler gave the monthly Animal Shelter report as follows: Usually the months of July, August and September are the busiest months at the shelter, with almost ten animals a day coming in. There were 108 animals that were spayed/neutered, and one bat that tested positive for rabies in the Town of Milton.

Mr. Butler requested approval to reduce the adoption fees for cats from \$50 to \$25 for the month of September only, as September usually sees the largest increase in the number of animals brought in. to the shelter.

**A motion was made by Mr. Wright, seconded by Mr. Jenkins to approve a resolution to reduce the cat adoption fee for the month of September 2010 from \$50 to \$25. Unanimous.** (Committee approval only)

Mr. Butler said the annex had a great weekend, adopting out 13 animals.

Mr. Butler said Friends of the Shelter have had a benefit at Saratoga National for the past three years. They are planning a fourth benefit for the opening of the new Animal Shelter on October 7<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Invitations will be sent out and anyone is welcome to attend. Much of the money that is raised goes for the medical care of the animals, he said.

Mr. Lent said a portion of the new microwave system that was installed in 2009 has now passed through the factory warranty period. A bid specification was sent out with three bids received. Part of the bid spec required the successful vendor to have at least one level three technician. A level three technician is validated through Alcatel and indicates the individual has passed and possesses a significant level of training and competency.

The lowest bidder does not have a level three technician at this time. The second low bidder does meet the specifications.

The following bids were received:

	<u>1<sup>st</sup> Year</u>	<u>2<sup>nd</sup> Year</u>
Capital Digitronics	\$21,600	\$21,000
RS Telecom	\$24,000	\$26,000
Alcatel Corp	\$41,084	\$41,084

Mr. Lent recommended accepting the bid from RS Telecom to provide maintenance services for the 6.7 GHz microwave system, which is the backbone of the radio network that connects all transmitter sites to the dispatch center.

**A motion was made by Mrs. Johnson, seconded by Ms. Daly to approve a contract with RS Telecom to provide maintenance services for the county microwave system. Unanimous.**

Mr. Lent opened up discussions with regard to the proposal from the July meeting to allow wireless carriers to use the county tower infrastructure to provide wireless coverage. He said most of the interest has been for the northern sites that have been developed. There have been casual discussions about the Milton and Providence sites as well.

Ms. Daly asked how you go about something like this and keep it fair and open so any carrier can apply for the opportunity?

Mr. Lent said that not every carrier wants every site, so each carrier reviews the sites that are available and determines their level of interest and whether it fits into their plan of coverage.

Ms. Daly said she believes that co-habiting on a tower could be very beneficial to the county; however, she would like to see the fee schedule presented to the committee. She stated that the committee may want to look at a better rate for a rural area and the possibility with some flexibility with the fees.

Mr. Lent said he will do some research and give some specific sites and rates paid. Mr. Lent said that the town of Ballston has one of the more populated cellular sites on Route 50.

Mrs. Southworth said the fee schedules were pretty accurate based on her review. The problem is that many of them are on private sites and property owners are often reluctant to divulge the information. She cautioned on the longevity of the contracts. The contracts in Ballston were for five years with the opt to re-up every five years for a total of 25 years. In that process the escalations were already set into those contracts and are definitely falling behind on what would be considered the average rate currently to lease tower space. Secondly, make sure that someone is doing site plan review to be sure that the position and placement is not going to interfere with anyone else.

Mr. Lent said he would recommend a non-refundable application cost to get on county towers, which would offset the review that Mrs. Southworth talked about. The county should be held harmless through the entire process. The county should not incur any costs related to processing or handling any of the applications.

Ms. Daly said in going forward with this, lets try and maximize the opportunity and encourage carriers to locate where there is a need in the county.

Mr. Lent distributed the Saratoga County Public Safety Radio Project status report to all committee members for their review. He said the project is on schedule and all equipment has been installed at all of the sites.

Work is about 60% complete for installation work at the back up communications center at the County Complex. A tentative meeting has been scheduled with Motorola to go over the coverage test plans and begin the acceptance process. We are currently on time and on budget, he said.

Mrs. Wormuth asked where we stood for the construction bids for Clifton Park and the Halfmoon Ambulance Corps site. Mr. Lent said the Ambulance Corp attorney requested that some changes be made in the easement. A review of the changes has been made and sent back and the bids are waiting for the conclusion of the easement process.

Mr. Tremblay reviewed the monthly Fire Training Report as follows: There was one reported incident on August 11<sup>th</sup> with the Wilton Fire Department responding to a Structure Fire at Adirondack Circle.

Mr. Tremblay requested a resolution authorizing the Chairman to sign and accept the 2009 Homeland Security Grant in the amount of \$286,733. This Grant will be used to replace/upgrade some of the current equipment and for training exercises.

**A motion was made by Mrs. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Veitch to approve a resolution to authorize the Chairman to sign and accept the 2009 Homeland Security Grant in the amount of \$286,733 and to amend the budget. Unanimous.**

Mrs. Wormuth requested that Mr. Tremblay compile and forward to her a list of safety issues that need to be addressed at the Fire Training Center, and explain how and where money could be found to address those issues.

Mr. Veitch updated the committee on the reverse 911 bidding process as follows: In May a subcommittee was formed to interview the bidders for the 911 system. The three lowest bidders were interviewed. Early on in the process it was discovered that things were not quite working out as far as what the county's needs were now and what the bidders were presenting. Times have changed since the last contract, he said. The committee was interested in email, cell phone, text message services, as many people do not have a landline and in order to get to all residents you need to have all included. The

committee decided not to accept any of the bids and to re-bid the system, changing the bid specs to match what the county staff needs and also what the county residents need.

**On a motion made by Mr. Veitch, seconded by Mr. Barrett the meeting was adjourned.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Chris Sansom