

Public Safety Committee Minutes  
August 9, 2011 – 3:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Wormuth; Supervisors Grattidge, Hargrave, Jenkins, Kinowski, Collyer, and Southworth; Spencer Hellwig, Administrator; Ryan Moore, Mgmt. Analyst; Jennifer VanOrt, Publication Specialist; Paul Lent, Ed Tremblay, Paul Parker, Emergency Services; James Bowen, Michael Woodcock, Sheriff's Office; Dan Butler, Animal Shelter; Helen Cranshaw, League of Women Voters; Press.

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

**On a motion made by Mr. Hargrave, seconded by Mr. Kinowski the minutes of the July 12, 2011 meeting were approved unanimously.**

Sheriff Bowen said the State of New York has cut the Wireless 911 grant money from \$103,608 to \$102,471. This money is used to for the communications center at the Sheriff's office to train people and buy equipment to keep up with computer dispatching, he said.

**A motion was made by Mr. Jenkins, seconded by Mr. Hargrave to amend the budget and accept a New York State Wireless 911 grant in the amount of \$102,471. Unanimous.**

Mr. Butler gave a brief overview of the monthly Animal Shelter report as follows: It was another busy month with 16 bats being sent to the rabies lab for testing with no positive results. There were 115 animals spayed and neutered for the month of July.

Mr. Butler said the Animal Shelter would be part of an event on August 24<sup>th</sup> at the Town of Halfmoon Town Park between 6:00 – 8:30 p.m. where dogs and cats will be brought for adoption. The Friends of the Shelter will also be there to run the concession stand.

Mr. Lent gave a brief over of the monthly Radio System report as follows:

- County Fire agencies were cut over to the new 800 system on July 18<sup>th</sup>, and the installation of fire mobile radios continues.
- As part of the APA permit the top of Spruce Mountain will have to be reclaimed where the fire tower is. This will include taking all of the improvements down that the county has done over the years and try to bring it back to a natural state. The bids were sent out and are due back by August 15<sup>th</sup>. It is anticipated that the work will be completed by the fall of this year.

- A meeting with ADT took place to go over security arrangements, due to continued theft at some of the sites very close by.

Mr. Grattidge asked if the county is covered by insurance for that type of incidence? He said if we aren't then we should look at that.

- The Department of Environmental Conservation has decided that all dam owners in the State of New York must rework their emergency operations. For the last couple of years now Emergency Services has been working with a consultant on a natural hazardous mitigation plan. A consultant was hired, going through a number of reviews on the plan by FEMA, and notification has been received that the plan was passed.
- A five-year agreement with Verizon expires next month and will need to be renewed for another five years. This provides technology refresh, 24/7, 365 days a year maintenance for the current dispatch center and the backup dispatch center over a five-year period. With that we are allowed to spread that cost over the five-year period on the monthly phone bill, he said. This will increase the current 911-phone bill that is in the budget by approximately \$6,100/mo. In the past this was paid for in cash, but can now be paid for over a period of time, he said.

Mr. Grattidge asked if this agreement locked the county into the five years? Mr. Lent said no; it is a five-year agreement. If circumstances change in two or three years we can re-look at it.

Mr. Hellwig said there are two contracts, one is with Verizon New York and the other is with Verizon Select Services. The resolution would authorize an agreement with those entities at a monthly cost not to exceed \$6,176.

**A motion was made by Mr. Grattidge, seconded by Mr. Kinowski to authorize a five-year agreement with Verizon New York and Verizon Select Services for a monthly cost not to exceed \$6,176. Unanimous.**

Mr. Tremblay gave a brief update on the Fire Training Report for July 2011 as follows:

- The firefighter 1 course that was put on was a unique class that was held over a two-week period at the fire-training center where people who were students took the class Monday through Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 or 4:00 p.m. This was a very intense course for two weeks, and was a multi-county course, so the hours were split between the other counties. Instruction time was based on the number of students, which Saratoga County had 17 students. There were students from Schenectady, Albany and Rensselaer counties as well.

- The Smiths Detection Gas ID that was purchased through a Homeland Security Grant was put in service.
- Training sessions were conducted with the Round Lake Fire Department and the Global Foundries Emergency Response Team.

Mr. Hargrave thanked Mr. Tremblay and Mr. Lent for their help in obtaining a fire report for a resident on Rt. 29.

Mr. Grattidge asked for an update on the progress with regard to the burn building. Mr. Tremblay said he has met with several contractors to review to work that needs to be done to the building with regard to the steelwork.

Mrs. Wormuth said that she and Mr. Lent have met with the County Administrator about putting the whole file back together and not only just looking at the steelwork that needs to be done, but the electrical work as well. A status report will be ready by the September Public Safety Meeting, she said.

Mr. Grattidge said he has received communications from two schools, Ballston and Charlton with regard to the DARE Program, requesting an inquiry as to whether the program could be reconsidered. Mr. Grattidge asked if there was a way that a school could contract with Sheriff's department to be able to continue the program.

Sheriff Bowen said the program is a countywide program, so when the program stops everyone stops to be fair, he said. There were two DARE officers that were assigned to the program, and due to manpower throughout the county and the budget problems, it was the Sheriff's decision to get out of the DARE program. Sheriff Bowen said there was no way that the schools would be able to contract for the program.

**On a motion made by Mr. Hargrave, seconded by Mr. Grattidge the meeting was adjourned.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Chris Sansom