

Public Safety Committee Minutes

August 7, 2007 – 4:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Trottier; Supervisors Connors, Grattidge, A. Johnson, M. Johnson, and Lawler; Spencer Hellwig, Mgmt. Analyst; Dan Butler, Animal Shelter; Paul Lent, Emergency Services; Paul Parker, Dep. Fire Coordinator; John Mazur, Fire Advisory Board; Ed Tremblay, Emergency Services; Jim Bowen, Sheriff; Bob Murphy STOP DWI; Jim Murphy, District Attorney; Dennis Ross, Katrina Pacheco, David Pacheco, Pacheco Ross Architects, P.C.; Press.

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

On a motion made by Mr. Grattidge, seconded by Mrs. Johnson the minutes of the July 10, 2007 meeting were approved unanimously.

Mr. Bowen distributed handouts to all committee members of the monthly report from the Sheriff's office for review.

Mr. Murphy said his office is implementing a new initiative called the "Alcohol EDU Program". This has been used successfully in other counties in New York State as well as Vermont and Ohio, and is another tool for judges and prosecutors to use to combat underage drinking and driving. This is a computer program that the defendant is ordered to take, at a cost of \$45, payable by the defendant. In order to successfully complete the test you must have a passing score of at least 75%.

Mr. Butler distributed his monthly report from the Animal Shelter and gave a brief summary as follows: There were thirty-seven animals submitted to the rabies lab, of which twenty-four of them were bats. One bat and one raccoon tested positive.

There were 125 animals adopted. A total of 126 animals were vaccinated for rabies at the Shelter, and 215 animals were vaccinated at the rabies clinic.

Mr. Butler asked for approval of the 2008 Shelter contracts. Mr. Lawler asked for clarification on specific costs to the county. Mr. Butler said he would report back to the committee at the next Public Safety Meeting.

Mr. Butler said donations in the amount of \$924 were collected at the Animal Shelter booth at the County Fair and approximately 5 animals were adopted.

August 12th will be the first informational dog walking class to be held at the Fire Training Center from 12:00p.m. to 3:00p.m.

A couple of volunteers have arranged for a dinner at the Inn In Saratoga every Thursday night from 5:00p.m. to 8:00p.m., where owners may bring their pets. Meals are provided for the animals by Sloppy Kisses.

Mr. Butler said the second conceptual design for the Animal Shelter has been received and is currently under review.

Mr. Lent distributed the monthly report from the Office of Emergency Services and gave a brief summary as follows: Saratoga County has been awarded a \$225,000 Hazard Mitigation grant from the State Emergency Management Office. The grant requires a county match of \$56,250, which can be found within the approved budget of the Office of Emergency Services. The grant program will allow the county to identify and explore areas and methods to possibly reduce the impact of natural disasters. The majority of the funding within the grant is to pay for a professional consultant to assist the county through the planning process.

A motion was made by Mrs. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Grattidge to accept a Hazard Mitigation Grant from the State Emergency Management Office in the amount of \$225,000. Unanimous.

Mr. Lent said resolutions have been received from ten towns and five villages with regard to the Reverse 911 System. More training is scheduled for August and will be ongoing. The Emergency Services office has been reaching out to municipalities who are seeking more information about the system.

Mr. Lent said with regard to the New Radio System, progress has been made with regard to the construction of two new towers. During July, geo-technical drilling was done on soil samples in two locations, with the engineer's report due Friday, August 10th. When the reports are submitted then the project will move into the construction phase.

Work continues in obtaining the necessary VHF-high band frequencies. To date, two of the required four new frequencies have been secured. It is anticipated that the final designs will be done on the types of shelters needed at each site by the end of August. Once final design is completed, bids will be sought from various shelter manufacturers.

Approval has been received from the FAA to use their tower at the old Air Force radar station in Stillwater. The county will have to enter into an "agreement of expense" with FAA. A structural report is required to make sure that the tower will accommodate the load. When any equipment is installed or work is done on the tower it will require an FAA representative to be on site at a cost of \$26,312. A draft agreement has been received for use of the site.

There is a bid specification in the Office of General Services to be sent out to vendors to do the antenna relocation on Spruce Mountain at the National Grid Tower. It is anticipated that bids will be out in a few weeks and back prior to the September Public Safety Committee meeting.

Mr. Tremblay distributed the July Fire Services report to all committee members and gave a brief summary of the months activity.

Mr. Pacheco from Pacheco Ross Architects gave a brief PowerPoint presentation on their feasibility study with regard to the Public Safety Facility.

A motion was made by Mr. Lawler, seconded by Mr. Connors to move the feasibility study for the Public Safety Building on to the Buildings and Grounds Committee for their review and consideration. Unanimous.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Sansom