

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES

MARCH 14, 2006 – 3:00 P.M.

Present: Chairman Lawler, Barrett, Connors, Grattidge, Janik, M. Johnson, Trottier, Thompson, Yepsen, and Wood; Spencer Hellwig, Mgmt. Analyst; Mark Rider, County Attorney; Mike Hill, MMSH – Special Counsel; Andy Maxymillian, Mark Hoppe, Blue Wing Services; Mark Schachner, Special Legal Counsel; Lou Pasquarell, Safety Officer, Clifton Park; John Mazur, Fire Advisory Board; Scott Leonard, Geoff Plante, Don Vaughan, NYSTEC; Ed Tremblay, Paul Lent, Office of Emergency Services; Press.

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

A motion was made by Mr. Connors, seconded by Mr. Grattidge to move into Executive Session for the purpose of discussion with consultants with regard to the APA application. Unanimous.

A motion was made by Mr. Grattidge, seconded by Mr. Barrett to reopen to regular session. Unanimous.

On a motion made by Mr. Connors, seconded by Mr. Trottier the minutes of the February 14, meeting were approved unanimously.

Mr. Murphy requested a resolution to establish April 23rd – April 29th as National Crime Victims Rights Week. A handout of the agenda was distributed. Saratoga County is proud to host the first event of the week, on April 23rd, which is the Candlelight Vigil at 2:00 p.m. at the Presbyterian New England Congregational Church in Saratoga Springs.

A motion was made by Mrs. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Trottier establishing April 23 to April 29, 2006 as National Crime Victims Rights Week in Saratoga County. Unanimous.

Mr. Murphy requested a resolution to accept a \$30,000 legislative grant from Senator Bruno for the purchase of a vehicle and computer hardware and software.

A motion was made by Mr. Connors, seconded by Mr. Trottier authorizing the acceptance of a \$30,000 grant from Senator Bruno for the purchase of a vehicle and computer hardware and software. Unanimous.

Mr. Lent distributed copies of the March 2006 monthly report from the Office of Emergency Services along with a copy of the NYSTEC Summary Report with regard to the Saratoga County Public Safety Radio System.

Mr. Plante said there are two major goals and objectives of the project. One, is that the county continue to seek and address problems with the current VHF Low Band and VHF High Band public safety radio and paging systems while continuing to pursue the acquisition of a new 800 MHC radio system. The goal is to make the current system work better and to try to make it work at least as good as it did three to five years ago when there weren't as many problems.

Mr. Leonard said on October 27, 2005 a kick-off meeting was conducted followed by a series of meetings with the County, EMS, and Fire Officials to gather information. Surveys were collected at the meeting with County Personnel, along with follow-up interviews conducted to obtain answers to the surveys.

Mr. Vaughan reviewed the recommendations for the Microwave system as follows:

1. Upgrade the Maintenance Contract
2. Ensure that the levels of voltages are stable and record all the readings.
3. Consider replacement of the microwave hop between Milton, Sheriff and Spruce Mountain.
4. Take a full-scale signal strength baseline measurement out on the street to tell how much power is actually getting out to the radios, providing a baseline.
5. Remove the old radio base stations from Spruce Mountain.
6. Reword the LMR system:
 - A. Replacing the current intermittent duty bay stations, with full duty base stations.
 - B. Re-tension the guyed wires.
 - C. Reground the lighting to protect the sites.
 - D. Change the Paging systems out to a new system.
 - E. Bring the Alternate Communications Center at McMaster Street up to full capacity.
 - F. Split the county into Northern and Southern Zones for the Fire Department and EMS.
 - G. Include new telephone line connections to various EMS and Fire Department Station Radios as a supplement to the County Sites to extend coverage.

Mr. Lawler commented on a job well done by NYSTEC in analyzing the problems and giving recommendations on what direction the county should take.

Mr. Lent distributed a copy of the monthly report from the Office of Emergency Services. Proposals were sent to three vendors with two responding; Mid State Communications and Patriot Towers. The low respondent was Patriot Towers for \$25,900, which includes replacing guys as required, retentioning, grounding, and removing of excess antennas.

A motion was made by Mr. Connors, seconded by Mr. Barrett to approve a resolution declaring an emergency situation and award contracts based on the agreed repairs of an emergency nature. Unanimous.

Mr. Barrett commended the committee for staying steadfast and focused on the improvements that need to be made. After meeting with NYSTEC last year, some very aggressive timetables were set, with every timetable met so far.

Mrs. Johnson asked if there was a time frame for the project. Mr. Lent said the tower work is anticipated to take approximately one week to finish. The other improvements, relative to the purchase of equipment will be done as quickly as possible.

Mr. Lent said the voting system at the Sheriff's Department failed to the point where it could not be repaired. Upon contact with both the County Attorney and the County Administrator action was taken quickly to locate parts and get the system up and running.

Mr. Lent requested a resolution to ratify the emergency purchase of communications equipment for the Sheriff's Department in the amount of \$20,625.

A motion was made by Mr. Barrett, seconded by Mr. Trottier to approve a resolution to ratify the emergency purchase of communications equipment for the Sheriff's Department in the amount of \$20,625. Unanimous.

Mr. Lawler said the county currently has a contract with Blue Wing to have done some analysis of the county application before the Adirondack Park Agency. As a result of that analysis, Blue Wing has discussed some potential enhancements to the application that will strengthen the application, and at the same time address the concerns that the Adirondack Park Agency has put forth that the county should consider. The county thinks that they can consider some of the issues with an amendment to the existing application. The hearing has been adjourned, which will give opportunity to enhance the application, he said.

A motion was made by Mrs. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Barrett to approve a resolution to amend the existing contract with Blue Wing Services providing enhanced recommendations to the Adirondack Park Agency in furtherance of the pending application before them. Unanimous.

Mr. Lawler requested a resolution authorizing an additional \$150,000 in radio system funding. He said the \$150,000 would be provided for Blue Wing Services, Patriot Towers and NYSTEC on behalf of improving the county radio system.

A motion was made by Mr. Barrett, seconded by Mr. Trottier to approve a resolution authorizing an additional \$150,000 for services provided by Blue Wing Services, Patriot Towers and NYSTEC for improvements to the county radio system. Unanimous.

Mr. Lent said he and the Chairman of the BOS attended a meeting at the DEC regional headquarters last week. It was hosted by Assemblywoman Sayward and Senator Little. Representatives of National Grid were there along with many municipalities that were affected by the windstorm. A round table discussion took place on what went well and where some improvements could be made.

Mr. Lawler requested distribution of copies of the summary of the meeting held at the DEC regional headquarters to all committee members for their review.

Mr. Barrett said this investment will improve the system in the short term, but there is more important work that needs to be done, one being a formalized maintenance schedule on the system. He requested that Mr. Lent along with Mr. Tremblay work at putting that schedule together for committee review.

Mr. Tremblay distributed the monthly Fire Services Report for the month of February and gave a brief overview. He said bids have gone out for construction of a new burn building at the Fire Training Center. The return date for the bids is April 23, 2006.

On a motion made by Mrs. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Barrett the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Sansom