

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES

NOVEMBER 8, 2006 – 10:00 A.M.

Present: Chairman Lawler; Supervisors Grattidge, Janik, M. Johnson, Trottier, Gutheil, and Thompson; Spencer Hellwig, Mgmt. Analyst; Mark Schachner, County Special Counsel; Stuart Mesiger, Chazen Companies; Lou Pasquarell, Clifton Park Safety Officer; Paul Parker, Dep. Fire Coordinator; Ed Tremblay, Emergency Services; Jim Bowen, Sheriff; Dan Butler, Animal Shelter; Paul Lent, Emergency Services; Press.

Chairman Lawler 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 October 4, 2006 meeting were approved unanimously.

Mr. Lawler requested adjourning the meeting to Executive Session for the purpose of discussing strategies regarding the pending application for the Adirondack Park Agency to install the necessary radio communications commitment in the park.

On a motion made by Mr. Lawler, seconded by Mr. Grattidge the meeting was adjourned to Executive Session for the purpose of Negotiations. Unanimous.

A motion was made by Mr. Trottier, seconded by Mr. Grattidge to return to open session. Unanimous.

Mr. Lent distributed copies of his monthly report from the Office of Emergency Services to all committee members for their review.

Mr. Lent said there has been significant progress made on Spruce Mountain. The County DPW assigned a crew for a couple of weeks working on the interior of the building and on major road work to bring the road back into a reasonable working condition, saving the county considerable money.

Three quotations were received pertaining to electrical work that needs to be done in the building ranging from a high bid of \$26,000 to a low bid of \$11,000.

Mr. Lent requested a resolution authorizing the chairman to enter into a contract with Crawford Electric for \$11,000.

A motion was made by Mr. Grattidge, seconded by Mr. Trottier to approve a resolution authorizing the chairman to enter into a contract with Crawford Electric to install a new 200 amp service in the building on Spruce Mountain along with generator connections for a cost not to exceed \$11,000. Unanimous.

Mr. Lent said he has been notified that the County and Plug Power were awarded the demonstration grant by the Governor's office. Emergency Services has been allocated four emergency fuel cells, which are hydrogen powered. With approval of the committee Plug Power will, at their cost, install them and they will be able to be used at the communications facility. That is the demonstration that they want to show, that they can be fuel tested for emergency communication use, he said. The only cost to the county would be the use of the fuel and the cost of the hydrogen tanks, which is \$16 each.

Mr. Lent said the technology is proven, but the application in which Emergency Services is going to use it, is new.

The following should be noted:

1. The size has come down dramatically
2. They make very little noise
3. An outside cabinet has been developed that is more environmentally safe from the environment.

Mr. Lawler asked, if there should be a failure in the application, would it impact the system?

Mr. Lent said, no.

Mr. Grattidge asked what the cost would be to purchase additional fuel cells?

Mr. Lent said, \$35,000 each.

Mr. Lent requested approval of a demonstration grant from the Governor's office, which would allow the county to acquire four fuel cells from Plug Power.

Mr. Lent said the ongoing costs to the county would be approximately \$300/yr.

A motion was made by Mrs. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Trottier to approve a resolution authorizing the chairman to accept a demonstration grant from the Governor's office to acquire four fuel cells from Plug Power. Unanimous.

Mr. Lent said revenues have come up over last month and are approximately \$6,777 ahead of last year at this time.

Mr. Lent said there were nine responses received to the RFP, and the proposals are currently under review.

Mr. Lawler said it was the consensus of the committee to make a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors at the December meeting.

Mr. Tremblay distributed the Fire Services Report for the month of October 2006 and highlighted the following:

Firefighter 1 Course

The 26 unit, 78-hour course held at the Quaker Springs Fire Station finished with 17 firefighters attending. Another course started at the Union Fire Station in Ballston Spa with 22 firefighters attending.

The County Fire Investigation Unit conducted seven fire investigations.

The footing and foundation construction at the Fire Training Center has been completed and the electrical work will begin soon.

The manufacturing of the units has begun with completion of all the units by January.

There was a power outage on Spruce Mountain where the battery failed on the generator.

Mr. Lawler said the county signed a three-year contract for preventive maintenance and a monitoring program. It is disappointing to see that the three-year-old battery has failed.

Mr. Lawler said he would like a written protocol of how the equipment is tested, when it is tested and who is responsible for ensuring that the test is done and that they are done satisfactorily. If problems come up, who is responsible for fixing them? He requested that Mr. Tremblay pursue this and report back to the committee.

Mr. Lawler said he received a copy of a letter that was addressed to Mr. Atwell from Mr. Parker with regard to recruitment and retention as follows:

Members of the Albany County Recruitment Task Force conducted a presentation for the Saratoga County Fire Association at their October meeting held at the Hill Crest Fire Station. As a result of this meeting, I would like to arrange a meeting between a representative of the Albany County Task Force along with Supervisor Lawler and yourself; to begin a partnership with the FAB and the Saratoga County Board of Supervisors, to initiate a program to mirror the Albany County program that has proven so successful.

Mr. Lawler said recruitment and retention has been the biggest single potential threat to the Emergency Services System in Saratoga County and most other counties that rely on volunteer services. Recruitment and retention should be the highest priority that next years committee deals with, he said. This is going to require a proactive effort on the County to be involved. There are a number of ideas being discussed, which the committee should look at to come up with a proactive plan that will communicate to the residents of Saratoga County the importance and the rewards that can come from volunteering to serve communities and emergency services.

Mr. Grattidge said a lot of the rural communities are having more and more trouble with recruitment. The training requirements for retention are becoming overwhelming. We need to begin looking at ways to help this effort out, he said.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Sansom