

COUNTY OF OSWEGO
PUBLIC SAFETY AND EMERGENCY SERVICES COMMITTEE
COUNTY OFFICE, 46 E. BRIDGE STREET, OSWEGO
July 27, 2009 2:00 PM

PRESENT:

Paul Santore, Chair
Linda Lockwood, Vice Chair
Shawn Doyle
Mary Flett
Margaret Kastler
Lee Walker, Jr.

STAFF/GUESTS

Phil Church, County Administrator
Barry Leemann, Legislature Chairman
Pat Egan, Dir. Emergency. Management
Terry Bennett, Emergency Management Office
Fred Maxon, Purchasing Director
John Hinds, Fire Coordinator
Legislators Bob Hayes and Art Gearsbeck
Robert Lighthall, Undersheriff
Mike Allen, E-911 Director
Deborah Meyer, Probation Director
John Kruk, County Treasurer
Ted Jerrett, Clerk of the Legislature
Terry Wilbur, Hannibal

ABSENT:

Legislator Gardner

Committee Chair Santore called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM.

1. **Minutes:** The minutes of June 11th and June 22nd were presented.

Motion to approve: Leg. Walker

Second: Leg. Kastler

Vote: Unanimous

2. **Fire School Update:** Fire Coordinator John Hinds noted that repairs to the Fire Tower would be completed next week and that training in the full tower is already scheduled. Mr. Hinds also presented an update of activities of his office (copy attached).

3. **Probation:**

A. Budget Modification – Domestic Violence

Probation Director Debbie Meyer requested a budget modification accepting and allocating a 100% federally funded \$25,000 Domestic Violence Grant extension (until June 30, 2010).

Motion to approve: Leg. Kastler

Second: Leg. Flett

Vote: Unanimous

B. Organizational Chart

Director Meyer presented and reviewed with the Committee an updated organizational chart of the Probation Department.

4. **E-911:**

A. Contract Extension – Communication System Project Management

911 Director Mike Allen explained that the consultant contract with Charles Gabriel to oversee data collection and coordinate engineering services for the new communications system will expire in July 2009. Mr. Allen requested support for extending Mr. Gabriel's contract to December 31, 2009

Motion to support request: Leg. Kastler

Second: Leg. Mary Flett

Vote: Unanimous

B. 911 ai Contract – Vorstar

Director Mike Allen requested support for a resolution awarding a professional services contract to Vorstar Corporation, Inc. at a cost not to exceed \$9,800. The service would allow subscribers to provide additional personal information to emergency responders. Leg. Chm. Leemann asked how the availability of this service will be made public. Mr. Allen noted that would be the responsibility of Vorstar, which would likely conduct an outreach, informational campaign.

Motion to support request: Leg. Kastler

Second: Leg. Doyle

Vote: Unanimous

C. Resolution-Motorola

Director Mike Allen requested support for a resolution authorizing negotiation with Motorola for development of a final design and detailed costs for the new Emergency Radio Communications System. Leg. Doyle asked “Why Motorola?” Mr. Allen responded that Motorola is already under State Contract and has also been selected through RFP’s by other counties of the consortium.

Leg. Walker moved to amend the resolution to name Leg. Hayes to the negotiation team. Leg. Chm. Leemann suggested that if any legislator is selected to serve on the negotiations team, it should start with Committee Chairman Paul Santore. Leg. Walker’s motion failed for lack of a second.

Motion to support request: Leg. Doyle

Second: Leg. Kastler

Vote: Unanimous

D. Radio Project Update

Director Allen said he expects to have both Motorola’s proposal and the estimated cost for “rebanding” at the August Committee Meeting. This should provide a factual basis for comparison. He added that a current inventory of needs is being compared to a previous inventory. Mr. Allen noted that fire departments are being encouraged to consider a joint funding application to FEMA for some of the anticipated communication system costs. Leg. Flett asked if plans include both cities, Mr. Allen said “yes”. Leg. Kastler asked how many radios would be involved. Mr. Allen said that’s not yet clear. Leg. Walker asked if the towers were painted, yet. Mr. Allen said “yes”. Leg. Gearsbeck asked how much the radios are expected to cost. Mr. Allen said a rough figure would be \$7 million. Administrator Church noted that his office is working with the County Treasurer and our fiscal advisors to explore several funding options.

E. 911 Center Activities

Director Allen provided a monthly summary of activity in the 911 Office (copy attached).

5. **Sheriff’s Office:**

A. Resolution Opposing State Legislation A903 and S3842 - Jail Mandates

Undersheriff Lighthall explained that bills A903 and S3842 have passed their respective State Houses and propose to create an additional oversight for health policies and practices in jails. Mr. Lighthall expressed deep concern that since the Commissioner of Corrections already performs that function; this proposed duplication will provide confusion rather than clarity, unnecessary

expense rather than efficiencies, and impose a new round of unfunded state mandates on local taxpayers.

Motion to send an urgent request to Gov. Paterson to veto A903 and S3842 as unfunded mandates: Leg. Doyle

Second: Leg. Lockwood

Vote: Unanimous

B. Budget Modification – Uniforms/Clothing

Undersheriff Lighthall presented a request for a budget modification transferring \$11,000 from medical fees to the Uniform/Clothing line.

Motion to support request: Leg. Doyle

Second: Leg. Flett

Vote: Unanimous

6. Adjournment: 2:41 PM

Motion to adjourn: Leg. Walker

Second: Leg. Doyle

Vote: Unanimous

INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUM

July 21, 2009

The following is offered to the members of the Emergency Services Committee as an update regarding activities of the County Fire Coordinator's Office.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE TRAINING CENTER (Fire School)

In June our office displayed the newly opened fire training center at the New York State Fire Chiefs Seminar at the Turning Stone Resort in Verona, NY. We staffed a booth at the seminar for the entire three day event, distributing brochures, making some new contacts, and re-acquainting ourselves with many of the customers from past years. We wish to extend our thanks to the County's Tourism Department for their advice and assistance in putting the display together for the event.

The maintenance contract for the props at the ERTC has been awarded to the KIDDE Fire Company. Staff at the ERTC has almost the entire compliment of fire props cleaned and operational for this first maintenance cycle.

The air compressor that refills the breathing air bottles at the facility has successfully been returned to operation after an extensive start up maintenance. The compressor required much TLC and careful handling after being off line for over four years.

The Fire Training Tower Repairs are 99% complete at this time, with final inspection of the work by our staff scheduled for this week. Pending the final inspection, we will once again be utilizing the tower for live fire training in the coming weeks.

Several Fire Training Sessions have been undertaken utilizing the classroom, outdoor fire props, and confined space props. Entergy Nuclear and Novelis Aluminum (formerly Alcan) have returned and trained as industrial customers. We have also successfully negotiated to have the EPZ training return to the facility this year. We are continuing to contact former industrial and commercial customers for future revenue.

Yet another Firefighter One (basic firefighter) class graduated from the training center this spring, with firefighters from across the county taking part. We also graduated a Scene Support Class (fire ground support) this spring, with another similar class underway at the present time for the county volunteer firefighting forces.

Projects still underway at the ERTC include an on site security/observation system with access controls being funded by Homeland Security Funds, continued cleaning and rehabilitation of buildings, and an overall "sprucing up" of the facility.

The ERTC hosted the "summer meeting" of the Oswego County Fire Chiefs Association on July 13th. Chiefs from many departments were on hand, and were given a thorough tour of the facility. Many expressed interest in signing up for a "fire department night" at the Center, which includes live fire

training for their firefighters. The family of Past Chief Les Reed of Hastings Fire Department was also invited to receive a County Proclamation from Legislator Gearsbeck.

We have two extra employees for the summer from the Youth Works Summer Program assisting with cleanup, maintenance, and grounds projects this summer. Our thanks to the Oswego County Workforce for their assistance.

STATE FIRE TRAINING ACTIVITIES

Oswego County annually receives approximately 700 instructional hours of firefighter training from the New York State Office of Fire Prevention and Control. As of this date, we have been allowed to schedule approximately 80% of those allotted hours in the form of training for our volunteer firefighting forces. These courses range from basic firefighting skills to leadership/officer training and specialty courses such as fire investigation and Hazardous Materials intervention. These courses are delivered by our five county assigned State Fire Instructors.

We will once again be hosting a State Fire Academy delivered course to Oswego County this winter. The "Principals of Fire Investigation" course will be delivered by State Fire Academy based personnel at the ERTC in Oswego. This twenty four hour course is specifically designed for fire department personnel, instructing them in the basic skills of fire investigation for their department.

FIRE INVESTIGATION TEAM ACTIVITIES

This specialty team consists of members of the volunteer fire service from across the county, as well as personnel from the Fire Coordinator, Sheriff, and District Attorney's office. The team, formerly known as the "C&O" (Cause & Origin) Team, is in the process of updating by-laws and procedures as required by NYS mandate. In the coming months, we will be asking for committee support in re-writing our "Arson Control Plan", which is the authorizing legislation for the operation of a county-wide fire investigation team.

RETIREMENT ANNOUNCED

Deputy Fire Coordinator Danny Dunn has announced he will be retiring from the position of Deputy Fire Coordinator of Battalion One after ten years of service. Danny will be continuing to assist the fire investigation team as an investigator, as well as deliver classes in Hazardous Materials and Weapons of Mass Destruction for the NYS Office of Fire Prevention and Control.

CAD BASED DISPATCHING

Our office continues to work with local fire departments in updating their mutual aid automatics and target hazard plans at the 911 Center. This includes mapping of response districts and zones with each department, as well as offering guidance when requested. The goal of this program is prompt and effective response to the people who are in need of fire/rescue services.

9-1-1 Center - June, 2009

Center Activity

2,450 9-1-1 calls answered
2,783 W9-1-1 calls answered
2,657 7-Digit Emerg. calls answered
6,125 Admin. / Non Emerg. Calls answered
3,736 Outgoing Admin. calls made

2,105 Fire / EMS calls dispatched
7,337 Law calls dispatched

7890 (91.51 %) Emergency Calls answered within 10 seconds

Requests for information

6 Requests for recorded audio files
12 Requests for statistical reports

Management activity

Met with United Radio to discuss re-banding efforts.

Attended webinar on broadband grant opportunities.

Attended meeting in Fulton EOC for replacement tower information.

Met with CIO/OFT in Albany to discuss broadband and Public/Private Partnership in Oswego County.

Met with Senior Staff members to discuss issues of importance to the Center.

Met with Prospective vendor for enhanced communications project, to review coverage document.