

**COUNTY OF OSWEGO
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

January 25, 2010 – 2:00
County Office Building, Oswego, NY
4th Floor Conference Room “E”

PRESENT:

Leg. Lockwood, Chair
Leg. Gardner
Leg. Flett
Leg. Kastler
Leg. Tresidder

STAFF/GUESTS:

Barry Leemann Leg. Chair
Legs. Mulcahey, Wilbur, Brown, Sakonyi, Hayes, Potter, LeClair
Phil Church, Co. Administrator
Patricia Egan, Dir. Emergency Management
Terry Bennett, Emergency Services Program Coordinator
Mike Allen, Director of E-911
Reuel Todd, Sheriff
Debbie Meyer, Director of Probation
John Hinds, Fire Services Coordinator
Ted Jerrett, Clerk of the Legislature
Paul Santore, past legislator
Ralph Larkin and John Steinbarger-Coast Guard Auxiliary
Myron and Sue Pringle

EXCUSED:

Leg. Martino
Leg. Sorbello

MEDIA:

Aaron Curtis-Pall Times

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

1. Minutes of November 23, 2009:

Motion to approve as drafted: Legislator Kastler

Second: Legislator Flett

Vote: Unanimous

2. Employee Recognition:

At 2:04, the Committee recessed to the Legislative Chambers to present a recognition to Emergency Services Program Coordinator Terry Bennett for 15 years of outstanding service to Oswego County. The Committee returned from recess at 2:10.

3. Sheriff's Department:

A. Budget Modification – Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) Grant

Sheriff Todd requested permission to accept a \$15,500 STEP Grant and to transfer the funds into Overtime Expenditure Account to cover the time expended on the STEP Initiative.

Motion to support request: Legislator Kastler

Second: Legislator Flett

Vote: Unanimous

B. “Stone Garden” Grant Application

Sheriff Todd requested permission to apply for a Federal “Stone Garden” Grant that provides funds for enforcement of border control.

Motion to support application: Legislator Flett

Second: Legislator Gardner

Vote: Unanimous

Leg. Kastler asked if there is any progress with the Video Arraignment Program. Sheriff Todd noted that support is growing for a change in the law to require persons arrested to accept video arraignment. He added that he has long supported such a change as it would encourage video arraignment of prisoners and dramatically reduce the many hours deputies spend transporting

prisoners to local town courts and save taxpayers many thousands of dollars annually. It would also help in the retention of deputies as several who have left have noted the amount of time spent transporting prisoners as a factor.

4. Fire Coordinator:

A. Resolution Appointing Members to the Fire Advisory Board

Fire Coordinator John Hinds presented a resolution appointing members to the Fire Advisory Board and asked for the Committee's support.

Motion to support request: Legislator Gardner

Second: Legislator Flett

Vote: Unanimous

B. Notice of Intent to Retire

Fire Coordinator Hinds noted that he has enjoyed serving as Oswego County Fire Service Coordinator for many years, but now plans to retire in June of 2010.

5. Probation:

A. Resolution Authorizing Application for Alternatives to Incarceration Funds

The request would be for a maximum of \$30,000.

Motion to support request: Legislator Gardner

Second: Legislator Flett

Vote: Unanimous

6. Emergency Management:

A. All-Hazard Mitigation Plan Update

Emergency Services Program Coordinator Terry Bennett reported that progress on the All-Hazard Mitigation Plan is continuing nicely. This grant-funded initiative is designed to identify and plan for potential disasters with the goal of mitigating both the likelihood of such emergencies and the severity of those that occur. Regional meetings inviting all Oswego County municipalities were held throughout April and May of 2009 with all but 4 attending. Presentations to the public were held throughout the County in October and November. The draft plan will be going to the Executive Committee this week and subsequently to the full Steering Committee. Intentions are to present it also on the County Web Site for further public review. Final adoption of the Plan will require formal acceptance by each of the participating municipalities.

B. Municipal Tabletop Exercises

Emergency Management Director Pat Egan reported that a December 1st Tabletop exercise in Pulaski addressing emergency preparedness was very useful and that the planned January 27th municipality tabletop exercise includes the Town of Hastings/ Village of Central Square, Town of Hannibal/Village of Hannibal and Town of Schroepel/Village of Phoenix.

C. Local Emergency Management Performance Grant

Director Pat Egan reported that her office received word they have been awarded a \$45,000 Local Emergency Management Performance Grant from the State Office of Emergency Management.

7. E-911:

A. Radio system update:

E-911 Director Mike Allen reported that:

- his office is now holding weekly internal update meetings
- A project schedule is being developed and Team Leaders are being identified.
- The Fulton tower site has been transferred to the County and ground clearing is underway

Director Allen announced plans for a late February/early March kick-off ceremony for the Motorola portion of the Radio Upgrade Project. All legislators are invited. Details will follow.

Director Allen also reported that Oswego County's request for \$200,000 through U.S. Senator Gillibrand has been approved. He added that he believes Governor Paterson's proposals to create a State Wide Coordinator of 911 Services and to free up 911 surcharge funds for use on radio system upgrades would both be very beneficial to counties.

Leg. Kastler asked if the county was still planning to rent tower space to cell phone companies. Mr. Allen offered that once the tower locations are finalized, cell phone companies will be approached to gauge their interest.

B. Monthly Report:

Director Allen distributed copies of the 911 Center's most recent report of activities noting that the percentage of 911 calls coming in from cell phones is continuing to grow.

8. Coast Guard Auxiliary Presentation:

Chairperson Lockwood offered the floor to Coast Guard Auxiliary Members Ralph Larkin and John Steinbarg. Members Larkin and Steinbarg commended E-911 Director Allen and his office for a history of professionalism and effectiveness. They went on to explain that the Coast Guard Auxiliary does everything the Coast Guard does except law enforcement. The Auxiliary is heavily involved in boater training and safety and noted that safety is a particular concern in areas of the county where water recreation is popular but cell phone reception is difficult or non-existent. Mr. Larkin displayed several pieces of boating safety educational literature distributed by the Auxiliary and thanked the Committee for the opportunity to present to them.

Leg. Kastler urged that the County continue to pursue a surcharge on wireless phones comparable to the one on hard lines so that revenues would be available to keep emergency response radio systems properly upgraded.

Motion to Adjourn at 3:00: Legislator Gardner

Second: Legislator Flett

Vote: Unanimous