

**MINUTES  
SPECIAL MEETING  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE  
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2010, 6:30 PM  
160 GENESEE ST, 6<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR, CHAMBERS, AUBURN, NY 13021**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Hon. Peter Tortorici, Chairman, at 6:28PM.

**ROLL CALL:** Mary Jones, Clerk of the Legislature, all Legislators present, except excused Fearon and Mitchell.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

**MOMENT OF PRAYER:**

**TOPIC: WORK SESSION ON CAYUGA COUNTY RADIO SYSTEM**

**PRESENTATION'S:**

1. Denise Stayton, 911 Administrator and Jeff Willis: Power Point Presentation, handout attached to original minutes.
2. Jim Lee, Wayne County: Wayne County E-911 Radio System Upgrade, handout attached to original minutes.
3. Charlie McCann, Seneca County, Radio System, written, attached to original minutes.

**Questions: #1**

Denise Stayton, the price is high, Motorola is working on lowering cost for just what we need now, 15 sites to 9 sites.

Lattimore, approximately 133,000 calls come into the 911 center, do we lose any calls?

Denise Stayton, no, separate issue, calls coming in radio going out.

Jeff Willis, phones come in, dispatch it to Sheriff, fire, ext., has it gone down, yes.

Denise Stayton, 2007 was the last time with no radio communications throughout county. We had one last night at Cato site.

Pinckney, what's the coverage now?

Stayton, we are asked that a lot, I couldn't guess.

Pinckney, new system would have 97% coverage?

Jeff Willis, yes.

Stayton, there are numerous times you have to ask an officer to key over and over again, or ask for a land line because they are scratchy.

Mills, remove options, reduction in cost?

Stayton, they will give us a new proposal maybe by the end of the month.

Mills, then we choose?

Denise Stayton, yes, 41/2 million for equipment is a grant, but we would have to pay maintenance fees through consortium (share the cost).

Chapman, 15 to 9 sites, we will still have 97% coverage?

Denise Stayton, no.

Chapman, we need a new RFP?

Denise Stayton, the Legislature will have to make that decision.

Chapman, has any research been for on leasing space for tower sites?

Denise Stayton, yes.

Mahunik, how about the Onondaga sites.

Denise, we have talked about that, but can't get specific, MOU's have not been drawn up.

Lattimore, why did we only get one bid back?

Denise Stayton, complexity of the system.

Lattimore, my concern is public safety.

Petrus, we need to move forward, where improvements can be made, then present them to us. We are in a consortium with the city, what effect would that time have regarding our part in the consortium?

Mike Hammond, Auburn Fire Chief, \$64,000 question, reality if a site is built, all the people can use it. We have to reband, the whole idea was we would be turning in used equipment for new.

Questions: #2

Tortorici, construction site cost?

Jim Lee, we took down 2 towers and replaced one tower, bought a pre-fab shelter, \$154,000.

Lattimore, what's the square mileage?

Jim Lee, 610 square miles.

Questions: #3

Cuddeback, UHF, is it conventional.

McCann, yes.

Cuddeback, UHF, conventional, can we purchase a trunk system.

Jeff Willis, yes, you can reprogram later.

Cuddeback, is that open to all vendors or just Motorola?

Jeff Willis, all vendors'.

Tortorici, we need to be on the same system UHF conventional system, what can you do for us. Build for Cayuga County and expand.

Jeff Willis, the city is trunked, I do not see why we can't build out of the trunked system for the county, then build out the UHF.

Tortorici, what would coverage be, conventional, not trunked?

Jeff Willis, coverage won't change unless you add or remove sites. The city has more users so trunk system works better, county conventional, and upgrade in the future.

Chapman, coverage won't change?

Jeff Willis, correct, key all repeaters, add receiver sites, portables.

Chapman, like Wayne County.

Jeff Willis, yes.

Pinckney, in discussion, county looking for 2 more towers.

Jeff Willis, yes, we have some dead spots, Summerhill and Sterling.

Mills, can we go higher with the towers?

Jeff Willis, sometimes.

Tortorici, we can use the Ovid tower.

Jeff Willis, yes and Seneca County would like to use some of your towers.

Aikman, Langone, do we have the UHF frequencies?

Denise Stayton, no, not until the licensing go through, may take a year.

Aikman, are radios ever leased?

Jeff Willis, sure.

Aikman, is that an option?

Tortorici, or be able to reprogram as technology goes up.

Jeff Willis, 3 tiers, can drop back to lower cost radio. Motorola is working on a new proposal and putting in the lower cost radio.

Tortorici, frequencies are a big problem, changes time frame for UHF.

Jeff Willis, not sure, Onondaga has license for these, Canada is the problem, we can't interfere with them. The process has started with Langone (chick) probably be 8 months to 1 year.

Tortorici, familiar with proposal, 450 UHF conventional system.

Cuddeback, on our proposal, towers to add same as what we have.

Denise Stayton, height of towers not added in.

Cuddeback, was that cost added in.

Denise Stayton, no, radios only.

Lattimore, city mutual aid, is it working.

Mike Hammond, Auburn Fire Chief, set up a patch, carry highband.

Tortorici, the funding that your using for your frequencies now, can you use for the UHF system, take that money and purchase equipment, use for UHF instead of 800 system?

Mike Hammond, Auburn Fire Chief, Sprint and Nextel didn't care, al long as we get off their system, they already have 5 other frequencies.

Tortorici, I know you wanted the Legislature to make a decision, but if we can go UHF and get the upgrades, everybody on the same system?

Mike Hammond, Auburn Fire Chief, I would like to apologize, we started this 2 years ago, we thought the UHF 450 was the greatest system and moved forward. Now, were not sure if we still can get the frequencies, we need 5 pairs, may be able to get 3, consultant said we need 8 pair. Need a plan to move forward, work with Onondaga with switch, but maintenance fee is high. We have a time line (Tri-band), City needs trunk system, frequency is the question. I don't think the 450 system is going to work.

Lattimore, what system is going to protect the people that protect us.

Mike Hammond, Auburn Fire Chief, I agree, what direction to you want to go, hinges on resolution we pushed you to pass for 450 system.

Tortorici, 450 digital or 450 conventional.

Mike Hammond, Auburn Fire Chief, where to you get the frequencies.

Chapman, we don't have to all have the same equipment, JPS manufacture their own equipment, a phone call to see if they have radios.

Mike Hammond, Auburn Fire Chief, UHF vs. VHF in both counties.

Denise Stayton, what is a better solution?

Mike Hammond, Auburn Fire Chief, Tri-band, come with us, 800 frequency and interface, can't see paying another company, 450 system not expensive.

Denise Stayton, Harris's cost for the 800 system \$17 million.

Tortorici, if the city opts to buy equipment, we would look at more frequencies.

Mike Hammond, Auburn Fire Chief, Harris would not bid the 450 system because frequencies are not available.

Mills, consultant is looking for frequencies, you say are not available.

Mike Hammond,, Auburn Fire Chief, frequency not available unless you share with someone else, but 800 or 700 is available.

Tortorici, 800 system is top of the line.

Cuddeback, when would have the frequency issue have come up with the consultant, after we paid him?

Denise Stayton, he is looking into the frequencies now, I will address it this month with him.

Cuddeback, shouldn't we have done that first?

Lattimore, time-line, when will we get this done?

Tortorici, may change course if new RFP needed.

Fred Westphal, wait for consultant so he can answer that, he's coming in at the end of the month.

Cuddeback, need to decide if we can get the frequencies.

Fred Westphal, we need to hear from the consultant.

Cuddeback, this is a priority.

Axton, I don't think the consultant has been much help, Harris raised a flag, we should have been told.

Lattimore, reach out to other counties for frequencies.

Chapman, Langone did discuss frequencies, had some difficulties reaching out to the others in the consortium.

Petrus, how long has the consultant been working for the County.

Denise Stayton, since August of 2008.

Petrus, please ask him to come front and center by the end of the month and answer these questions.

Tom Bagley, Fire Coordinator North end of County, I'm on the Radio Committee. Fireman issue, Wayne and Seneca County frequencies are a problem. Cayuga County owns 9 VHF frequencies , narrow band, 450 paging is ineffective, paging is the life line. There is an issue with paging with the 450 system, need a cost proposal to use frequency we already own. System does not work, we need a realistic cost analyses of what we need.

Jim Perkins, Fire Coordinator South end of County, I think UHF not VHF is the way to go.

Denise Stayton, VHF for paging.

Cuddeback, lowband.

Ray Dygert, South end paging, we have 5 other frequencies, with people on them. VHF you need to watch for wattage. Can you afford to lose a life? Tompkins County project was \$14 million. The 800 system is going to have problems in the South end because of the valleys it's a safety issue.

Tortorici, maybe you could write Tompkins County and they could come and talk.

Lattimore, North and South ends of the County, need to find answers for coverage issue.

Denise Stayton, you are never going to get everyone to agree on one system.

Jeff Willis, until the Legislature votes to get rid of the RFP, you can't go forward.

Fred Westphal, the Legislature has to decide what to do with the resolution that was passed for VHF.

Tom Clark, Fingerlakes Technology, Low-band is used on the Northeast part of the County because of the topography. We tried the 800 system up North, couldn't talk more than a mile, its better with buildings but not with foliage and trees. With the 800 system you would need more tower sites, good for a small area. UHF is better with distance and building penetration, better for county.

Tortorici, the city is better with the 800 system and we would be better with the UHF system.

**Tom Clark, Fingerlakes Technology, you have 5 pairs of frequencies, 5 people can talk. You have a controller at Osborne St., assign to other uses, frequency doesn't matter, you will be able to talk through switch with any radio. You have an issue with the City time-frame and coverage of the County. Conventional UHF System, City goes trunk, down the road we can connect to that base station.**

**Pinckney, talked with a few Fireman from Aurelius, said they are having trouble with the new BOCES building and coverage.**

**Tom Clark, Fingerlakes Technology, would have to do a test on the building materials.**

**Jeff Willis, you can use a by-directional device.**

**Tom Clark, Fingerlakes Technology, yes.**

**Lattimore, how about satellite?**

**Tom Clark, Fingerlakes Technology, way off, can't be used in buildings, and cell phones don't work everywhere.**

**Chairman Tortorici thanked everyone for their input, will schedule a meeting with Langone Associates before the end of the month.**

**Motion by Petrus, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Pinckney to adjourn at 8:51PM, all in favor.**

**Motion by Lattimore to approve Committee Meeting of the Whole minutes of 2-1-10 on 3-23-10, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Pinckney, all in favor.**