

**COUNTY OF OSWEGO
PUBLIC SAFETY AND EMERGENCY SERVICES COMMITTEE
COUNTY OFFICE, 46 E. BRIDGE STREET, OSWEGO
February 23, 2009 2:00 PM**

PRESENT:

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

STAFF/GUESTS

Leg. Chm. Leemann and Legs. Potter, Gearsbeck, Proud
Administrator Phil Church
Ted Jerrett, Clerk of the Legislature
Pat Egan, Dir. Emergency Management
Terry Bennett, Emergency Management
Barbara Schuler, Probation Director
Deborah Meyer-Weller, Probation Supervisor
John Hinds, Fire Coordinator
Reuel Todd, Sheriff / Bob Lighthall Undersheriff
Dpty. Sheriff John Verdoliva
Mike Allen, Dir. E-911
Fred Maxon, Purchasing Director
Jeff Grimshaw, SUNY Oswego/Pete Cullinan, Entergy
Ms. Sue Pringle, Dan Allen - citizens

MEDIA:

Aaron Curtis, Pall Times

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

Minutes: The minutes of January 26, 2009 were presented.

Motion to approve: Legislator Walker

Second: Legislator Doyle

Vote: All in favor.

Recognition Photos:

The Committee offered recognition to Dpty. John Verdoliva for 20 years of service and to Entergy, represented by Pete Cullinan, for a donation of \$2,000 for communication tower upgrades.

Emergency Management:

Director Egan requested support to enter into an professional services contract with Barton and Loguidice, PC of Syracuse, NY for a Multi-Jurisdictional All Hazard Mitigation Plan at the quoted price of \$99,500. Such a plan is required to meet the requirements of the federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000.

Motion to approve: Legislator Doyle

Second: Legislator Flett

Vote: Unanimous

E-911:

Director Mike Allen provided the E-911 January 2009 monthly report (copy attached). Director Allen presented the Committee with copies of the "Draft Conceptual Design Report" regarding the proposed upgrade of the County's Emergency Communications System. In summary, Director Allen noted in the report that:

- the existing radio network and many of the subscriber radios are no longer supported by the manufacturer
- the existing microwave system connecting sites is in need of an upgrade and reconfiguration.
- areas still exist in Oswego County where pagers and radios do not work
- existing pager and radio equipment are not compatible with FCC mandates for 2013
- there is no current capability to provide mobile data to emergency responders and other field staff
- the County will encounter disruptions during the reconfiguration of the FCC mandated "rebanding"

And that draft recommendations included:

- more radio sites
- Upgrade and reconfiguration of microwave radio system
- Network monitoring
- Simulcast techniques
- Migration from 800 MHz to 450 MHz

Mr. Allen also noted the proposed system will be able to stand alone but have the ability to cross-communicate with neighboring counties. Also, whichever vendor is ultimately chosen will have to guarantee coverage and identify suitable sites. The multi-county approach to this upgrade has greatly improved its chances for federal funding.

Leg. Santore asked if full coverage will depend on mobile repeaters. Mr. Allen said, "no", that mobile repeaters could be added if desired but would not be necessary. Leg. Kastler asked if there has been any interest shown by Jefferson County to join. Director Allen replied that, to date, Jefferson, Oneida, and Lewis Counties have not expressed an interest. County Administrator Church noted that the availability of any federal stimulus funds could affect completion target dates.

Motion to proceed with plan to upgrade Emergency Communications System: Legislator Doyle

Second: Legislator Kastler

Vote: Unanimous

Sheriff's Department:

Undersheriff Lighthall reported that the Department is currently down 15 patrol officers due to transfers, retirements and injuries.

Probation:

Director Schuler noted her plans to retire this year and introduced Probation Supervisor Deborah Meyer-Weller.

Fire Coordinator:

Fire Coordinator John Hinds noted that bad weather issues on Interstate 81 has a profound affect on emergency response services and that NY State has agreed to provide specific training to local fire departments to deal with that issue.

Fire Training Center Update: Fire Coordinator Hinds reported that renovations continue, but through recent inspections, much more extensive and expensive repairs will be needed for the fire tower (\$200,000) to meet required specs for training. He emphasized the importance of a quality, long-term facility in attracting important industrial users like Constellation, Entergy and Novelis. Leg. Doyle noted that the tower is exceptionally well designed for training of industry users.

Administrator Church asked about a time frame for repairs. Mr. Hinds said that the original contractor estimated about 1 month. Mr. Church said the County has enough funds available if the Committee is supportive of the repairs.

Leg. Walker asked if this is expected to become a "money pit". Coordinator Hinds stated that he does not anticipate any further "big ticket" items, except gas jets. He went on to give examples of the benefit of different fire departments training together.

Motion to solicit bids for repairs to the fire tower: Legislator Walker

Second: Legislator Doyle

Vote: Unanimous

Legislator Gardner agreed with the value of good fire training but cautioned that we must be vigilant over the cost. He inquired as to how marketing is being done. Mr. Hinds said "through the Fire Chiefs Association".

Leg. Kastler asked if there is a county diving team. Mr. Hinds responded, "Yes", but only about 12 members county wide and insurance precludes any volunteers (non sheriff or professional fireman) from serving. any funding for generators for handicapped who require electricity. Ms. Egan noted that generators are not funded by the State or Feds and that most often, the handicapped are safer being relocated to congregate sites rather than be put at risk of unsafe use of a home generator.

Adjournment: 3:37 P.M.

Motion to adjourn: Leg. Walker

Second: Leg. Doyle

Vote: All in favor.

9-1-1 Center - January, 2009

Center Activity

2,160 9-1-1 calls answered
2,811 W9-1-1 calls answered
2,494 7-Digit Emerg. calls answered
6,457 Admin. / Non Emerg. Calls answered
4,162 Outgoing Admin. calls made

2,223 Fire / EMS calls dispatched
7,004 Law calls dispatched

6895 (92.36 %) Emergency Calls answered within 10 seconds

Requests for information

16 Requests for recorded audio files
4 Requests for statistical reports

Management activity

Tele-conference with 911 Coordinators

Travel to Albany to attend UASI Grant Workshop

Met with Assemblyman Townsend and Barclay to discuss funding opportunities for our improved Communications System

Tele-conference with member Counties of Interoperable Communications Consortium

Attended UASI workgroup Chairs meeting in Onondaga

Met with Radio Service to discuss maintenance contract issues

Interviewed by Post Standard Reporter on impact of Lee Memorial closure to 911 Center

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

FIRE TOWER REPAIR ISSUES

February 20, 2009



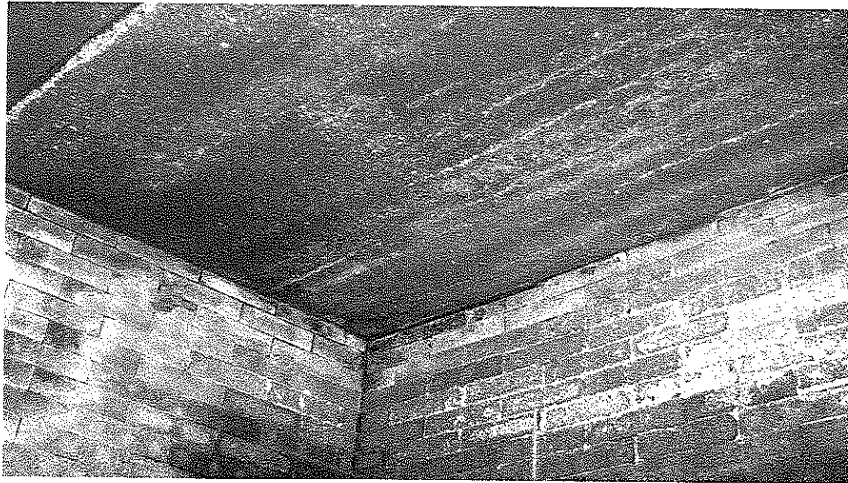
The fire tower at the training center has been inspected by ELM Engineering Associates of Virginia, as required by the New York State Office of Fire Prevention & Control. The inspection process involved an on site visit & engineering study during November. We received the draft report just days before Christmas. After evaluating the report within the Fire Advisory Department, Diment Construction (contractor that constructed the tower in the early nineties) was contacted for their input at no cost or obligation.

The recommendations of the report from ELM for **REPAIRS** are summarized as follows:

- Replace six of the ten concrete roof planks.
- Replace two, possibly three 2nd floor planks.
- Re-point/repair /replace fire brick in specified areas.
- Replace concrete lintels over doors where specified.
- Repair Steel Doors as needed.
- Install fire proof caulk/weather stripping throughout.
- Repair/replace/re pour concrete caps where indicated.

Diment Construction additionally recommends replacing all ten roof planks and applying a fire resistive sealing caulk & finish on the entire roof to protect the tower from rain & snow melt penetration that have substantially contributed to the present deterioration of concrete surfaces.

Additionally, the report outlines **UPDATES** to the tower for protection of the structure itself from fire & heat damage. This system is commonly referred to as "pagenite lining" in the fire service industry. This system would be installed below the ceiling areas noted below.



The estimated cost for these **repairs and updates** is in the range of \$200,000.00. It may sound like a huge investment at this point in time, but there are several comparative factors to consider:

- It can be assumed that with proper repairs at this time, coupled with yearly maintenance and care, that the tower will be useful for ten to fifteen more years.
- The majority of chargeable fire training services to industry, private fire brigades, and fire service from outside Oswego County require a fire tower.
- A replacement (new) fire tower would cost well over \$500,000.00 for a single burn room tower, in comparison the present tower has four burn rooms on two levels with a total of five burn props.

I have prepared a power point presentation for the committee today, to better explain the repairs needed. Should any committee members wish to inspect the proposed work themselves, I would be more than happy to arrange a site visit.

At this time, I would suggest we research moving forward with the repairs if at all financially possible. The fire training season will be starting in April for both the volunteer departments and local industry.

Sincerely,

John R. Hinds

Oswego County Fire Coordinator