

**PUBLIC SAFETY AND EMERGENCY SERVICES
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

Date: Monday, Sept. 24, 2007
Time: Called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Chairman Bullard.
Location: Oswego County Building

1. Attendance:

Present: Chairman Thomas Bullard, Vice Chairman Milferd Potter, Legislators James Bryant, Barbara Brown, Kevin Gardner, Leonard Ponzi, Paul Santore
Also present: Legislator Arthur Gearsbeck

Staff/Others: **Probation:** Director Barbara Schuler
Emergency Management: Director Patricia Egan, Terry Bennett
Sheriff's: Sheriff Reuel Todd
E-911: Director Michael Allen
County Administrator: Phil Church

Guests: Tom Niziol and Judy Levan, National Weather Service – Buffalo Forecast Office; and John Darling, Brien and Nellie Mathews, and Bob and Judy LaMay, members of Oswego County Emergency Communicators

2. Minutes:

Motion: To accept the minutes of the Aug. 27, 2007 Public Safety and Emergency Services Legislative Committee Meeting.

Made by: Legislator Santore

Seconded by: Legislator Brown

Vote: **All in favor. The minutes were approved as presented**

3. Emergency Management *(presented by Director Egan)*

a. StormReady Status Presentation

Director Egan introduced Tom Niziol, Meteorologist-in-Charge, and Judy Levan, Warning Coordination Meteorologist, of the National Weather Service – Buffalo Forecast Office. Mr. Niziol and Ms. Levan presented the committee with the county's recertification certificate as a StormReady Community, which acknowledges the county's proactive approach to improving hazardous weather operations and public awareness. Egan also introduced members of the Oswego County Emergency Communicators, amateur radio operators who work closely with EMO and the NWS in monitoring severe weather and were instrumental in the county's application for StormReady status.

4. Sheriff's Department *(presented by Sheriff Todd)*

a. Budget Request – County Automobile

Motion: To authorize expenditure of \$330,000 from Capital Reserve No. 146 – Highway & Automotive Equipment to Capital Project No. 137 – Sheriff's Department Vehicles.

Made by: Legislator Santore

Seconded by: Legislator Brown

Discussion: Sheriff Todd said the request is to replace 15 Crown Victoria cars for the Sheriff's Department fleet, and noted he provided the documentation requested by the committee. Replacement of the vehicles will not only ensure the safety of the officers operating the vehicles, but it will ensure protection and safety of the citizens of Oswego County by allowing the officers to respond in a timely manner.

Legislator Bryant asked if 15 cars are enough. Sheriff Todd replied that it is. Legislator Gearsbeck said the county does not need the cars, and said he would vote against the motion on the floor of the legislature. Legislator Ponzi said the cars are needed.

Vote: Ayes: 5 (Legislators Brown, Bryant, Bullard, Ponzi, Santore)

Nos: 2 (Legislators Gardner, Potter)

Motion carried.

b. Budget Modification – Unanticipated Overtime

Motion: To transfer \$35,000 from the Oswego County Sheriff's Budget Road Patrol Division, expenditure line 3110.5110 – Salaries & Wages – Regular to expenditure line 3110.5120 – Overtime Payments to cover unanticipated overtime expenses.

Moved by: Legislator Potter

Seconded by: Legislator Santore

Discussion: Sheriff Todd said the transfer is being requested based on additional overtime scheduled to cover contractual law enforcement details in the towns and villages, which is projected to generate more than \$22,000 in additional revenue. In addition, he said, overtime funds for shift staffing in 2007 have exceeded expenses in 2006. The increase is partially based on the departure of patrol officers who have left the department for more lucrative salary and benefits at other law enforcement agencies.

Vote: All in favor. Motion carried.

4. E-911 *(presented by Director Allen)*

a. Interoperable Communications MOU

Motion: To authorize the Chairman of the Oswego County Legislature to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding for the Creation of the Central New York Interoperable Communication Consortium with Cayuga, Cortland, Onondaga and Madison Counties.

Made by: Legislator Brown

Seconded by: Legislator Santore

Discussion: Director Allen explained that the counties that agreed to seek a COPS grant to develop an interoperable communications system - Oswego, Onondaga, and Madison – recently learned the application was denied. The counties are looking to other grant opportunities, and would like to have another MOU ready. The original grant could not include Cortland and Cayuga counties, but the feeling is the five counties would provide a better regionalized approach.

Vote: All in favor. Motion carried.

b. Statewide Radio System Agreement

Motion: To authorize the Chairman of the Legislature to sign an agreement for the county to enter into a Level 2 Partnership in the Preliminary Planning Agreement with the New York State Office for Technology for creation of a Statewide Radio System (SWN).

Made by: Legislator Brown

Seconded by: Legislator Santore

Discussion: Director Allen reported that a Level 2 (gateway) Partnership will allow the county to maintain full control of its own communications system and network, and will allow access to the SWN when it is built in our area as well as interoperability with other participating municipalities and the ability to share data. The SWN is still being built in Western New York and near New York City, and is expected to be tested soon, but the project won't come to Oswego County for five to seven years. He stressed that he believes improvements to the county system should be made before the SWN arrives here. Director Allen said he would work with the county attorney on the final agreement to be signed by the chairman of the legislature. Committee Chairman Bullard asked that changes be mailed to committee members prior to the legislature's vote on the resolution.

Vote: All in favor. Motion carried.

c. Status of Viking Portables

Director Allen shared with the committee correspondence from EF Johnson that indicates the company is discontinuing the 800 MHz Viking Portable radios used in the county and will no longer make new parts. United Radio Communications Division, which repairs the county's portables, will stockpile as many parts for the Viking Portables as possible. Director Allen noted that it is important for the committee to understand the county is near the end of the useful life of the radio system in the county. The radios were purchased in 1995 and 1996, and by 1996 1,100 Viking Portables were in use by emergency response agencies in the county. The county is directly responsible for 300 of them. The cost of a portable is \$3,200.

Committee Chairman Bullard asked if the re-banding project would have an impact on the replacement. Director Allen noted that the re-banding is not going as fast as the federal government expected, and will probably be pushed further into the future. Legislator Santore noted that several things occurring at the same time play a major role in the county's communications, and the county should be doing something now to get it right. Director Allen said believes the county is at a crossroads where we should move ahead with improvements to

the radio system. Committee Chairman Bullard noted the regionalization efforts may provide answers.

7. Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn: 2:41 p.m.

Made by: Legislator Santore

Seconded by: Legislator Brown

Vote: **All in favor. Motion carried.**

Prepared by:

Terry Bennett, Emergency Services Program Coordinator

Reviewed by:

Michael Allen, E-911 Director

Patricia Egan, Emergency Management Director

Reuel Todd, Sheriff

Accepted as written:

Chairman

Date