

ERIE COUNTY, NEW YORK

Date: March 18, 2008 – 7:00PM
Location: Erie County Emergency Operation Center – 3359 Broadway –
Cheektowaga, NY 14227 – Room 113
Meeting: Public Safety Communication Committee Meeting

Attendees:

Amherst Fire Control-	
Angola Fire Chief's Association-	Bill Hamm
Boston, Colden, Eden Fire Chiefs-	Chris Muraco, Frank Yandura
Buffalo Fire Department-	Michael Lombardo
Chiefs of Police-	Christine Ziemba
City of Tonawanda Fire-	Dave Marohn
East Aurora PD-	John MacIver, Ron Krowka
East Aurora Fire Control-	Chuck Thum, Randy Taylor
East Aurora-	Dave Monroe
Erie County Central Police Services-	Marlaine Hoffman
EC District Officers/Fireman's Assc.	
Erie County DPW-	Mark Leffler
Erie County Emergency Services-	Melissa Calhoun, Kevin Hughes, Tiger Schmittendorf, Greg Skibitsky, Greg Stroh, Jerry Whittington Jr.
Erie County Fire Advisory Board-	Robert Mathewson, Jerry Whittington Sr., John Wicka
Erie County Fire Chief's-	
Erie County Health Department-	John Adolf, Dan Neaverth
Erie County Sheriff's Office-	Thomas Flaherty
Hamburg Fire Chief's Assoc.-	Jeremy Manning
Helmuth Fire Control-	Frank Kusiowski Jr. Pete Loretto
L.R. Kimball & Associates-	Michael Harper, Kevin Karn, Steve Zak
Town of Cheektowaga PD-	Paul Hockwater
Town of Evans PD-	
Town of Grand Island-	Peter McMahon
Town of Hamburg PD-	
Town of Lancaster PD-	
Town of Amherst PD-	Steve Piotrowski
Town of West Seneca PD-	Dwayne Lang

Purpose:

To update the Pubic Safety Communications Committee on the status of the project.

MINUTES

Introductions

Reminded everyone about the County Plan-

There will be 2 digital simulcast channels for the Erie County Sheriff's Office. At the same time there will be a migration of the low band fire radio system to simulcast UHF system. The plan also calls for a single UHF channel for Countywide Mutual Aid Fire Simulcast, a single UHF channel for Law Enforcement and a single channel for Emergency Services.

Discussed the meeting schedule. It was decided that instead of holding monthly meeting the group will conduct bi monthly meetings. To keep the group informed there will be bi weekly updates from Kimball that Melissa will distribute to the group via email.

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Foxridge Firm-Kimball recommends them to get the frequencies needed. Last month Kimball met with them to discuss a scope of work. The owner of the firm is the former chairman of the FCC. Kimball wrote a scope of work and they will come back with a proposal in the next week to 10 days. Niagara County frequencies are still being looked at to identify what frequencies will be available.

Skywave-Met with Ellison two weeks ago, that went extremely well. They are much in line to help the County develop the system. He worked in NYC, Boston and LA. The County will supply him with information on what the county is looking for. Kimball will create the scope of work based on that information.

Propagation Study-Motorola has run 2-3 maps. Kimball has also run a propagation study for P25 compliance with portables. Kimball is also working on the propagation studies for mobiles. Kimball engineers will look at the holes and then use a survey that was done earlier to try to fill the holes with towers. If you need to acquire land you will have to deal with the DEC and possibly the FAA. If those need to be done it will take longer than what the timeline shows in the presentation. Also, structural engineers will need to look at the towers/shelters before they can be used. Emergency Services will be working with DPW on this. Kimball can also assist the structural engineer when looking at these towers.

Microwave-A few years ago Kimball was required to put an RFP out to upgrade the microwave. At that time, it would cost about \$1.4 million to upgrade. Recently there was an auction by the FCC for the microwave at ECMC. T-Mobile won the auction. T-Mobile has approached the county to negotiate upgrading the microwave. This will save a lot of money for the county and will benefit the county when it is upgraded.

Preliminary Project Plan-preliminary milestones and timeline. Some are dependent upon others so the timeline may change.

EC Radio Project-

T Mobile negotiations-T Mobile would like to be online by the 4th quarter of the year.

Frequency work-16-18 months for completion.

Frequency acquisition-getting SWN frequencies back.

Niagara frequency-work on to determine which ones are viable.

Frequency work completed-know what frequencies we will have by mid to late summer.

System Design-

Site selection-update in two weeks

Preliminary propagation studies-Skywave-in a short period of time Ellison will be able to design system, possibly will take about a month. Show 11-13 additional sites may be needed and their viability may be in question. These towers that have been identified are already owned by the County and can be utilized.

Customer approval-The 400Mhz committee will approve the work Ellison is doing.

Site Work-

Tower/Shelters/Grounding-SWN offered up their tower sites.

Site improvement-will work on with the engineer to determine what each site may need.

Seeker Studies-Full environmental impact study could take a long time.

Site Work Complete-In the beginning of the 3rd quarter this year.

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Procurement-Can start ordering equipment right now

These are the milestones that Kimball is working on and working from.

Foxridge is looking at around 18-22 pairs without looking at Niagara County's frequencies. Kevin Karn reminded the group that all may not be available. Foxridge is on state contract so they will not have to go through an RFP process.

The presentation will go out with the minutes.

Greg told the group that even though Emergency Services is listed as the lead agency, Emergency Services is working closely with DISS, Central Police Services, and DPW. Emergency Services was picked as the lead because they are managing the funds to pay for these projects.

Next Steps-

- Continue negotiations with T-Mobile
- Continue to work on the frequencies
- Kimball will continue to look at narrow banding existing UHF frequencies on behalf of the county.
- County will investigate additional sites based on the results of the available coverage maps.
- Finalize agreement with Skywave
- Finalize agreement with Foxridge

Funding-\$10 million over the next 3 years

- Homeland Security funds, UASI 06 & 07 funds
- Will be getting the UASI 05 20% holdback around \$400,000
- put in for the Port Security Grant
- PSIC Grant-they won't make the announcement till June. What the County has heard from reviewers is that they are in the top 3.
- The first \$1.5 million is ready to start spending down.

The List of end user equipment when out. Please let Jerry or Kevin know if you haven't received it.

Future Meeting Date-Will be 5/20/08 at 6pm for technical committee and 7pm for general meeting.