



# ONONDAGA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS

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**County Executive**  
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**John M. Balloni**  
**Commissioner**  
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Onondaga County Department of Emergency Communications  
OCICS  
and  
SWN Meeting  
January 31, 2008  
10:30 a.m.

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**In attendance were:**

John M. Balloni, Commissioner, 911 Center  
Lori Hable, Secretary to the Commissioner, 911 Center  
David A. Stevenson, 911 & DHTA, Inc., OCICS Consultant  
Sean Sparks, Supervisor of Dispatch Operations, 911 Technical Support, OCICS  
Charles Gabriel, 911 Center, OCICS Consultant  
Chick Langone, Langone & Associates, 911 OCICS Consultant  
Thomas J. Roche, Project Coordinator, SWN

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Commissioner Balloni introduced Tom Roche, Project Coordinator for SWN (Statewide Wireless Network). Tom Roche asked what exactly is the mission being presented to him today.

**Mission:** To be informed of what Onondaga County's concept is for their OCICS Radio Project and if SWN can commit to working together with Onondaga County.

Commissioner Balloni said he attended a meeting last evening with Plainville FD and their Fire Commissioners to discuss placing a new tower at or near their fire department location. Onondaga County is in the process of implementing their new radio system project and is looking to build three (3) new towers. Lysander is one of the locations a tower needs to be placed. Onondaga County is in a three-year slow build out and our new radio system needs to be operational by the end of this year as this is our third year. Onondaga County needs to see if the State, will work jointly with us and if so what is in it for Onondaga County. We both need tower sites, why not jointly work this out.

Dave Stevenson asked Tom Roche if he was familiar with the western build out. Tom Roche responded "no". Onondaga County currently has a level two participation agreement with SWN. The Level two (2) agreement involves operation of an interface or gateway between the partner and SWN. Tom Roche stated that General Dynamic has the contract. Tom Roche asked what answers Onondaga County needs from the State and what our time frame is.

Charlie Gabriel asked if SWN is ready to do something in this region. Tom Roche stated at this time SWN is 99% working in the PRB in the Buffalo area.

Dave Stevenson said that Onondaga County is interested in sharing tower space in the Western area. Onondaga County is ready to begin building three (3) new towers. **Tom Roche asked Dave Stevenson to provide him with a list of where your locations are that you are looking at to build the three new sites on. Dave Stevenson said he would provide that information but that Onondaga County needs an answer back from SWN within the next 30 days on the concept and if they can commit to work with us between now and the end of the year. Tom Roche said he would take all the information back to the State and present it.** He is concerned though with the period Onondaga County set for the State to respond back.

Commissioner Balloni said that it makes good sense to work together on this project. We are all trying to achieve the same interoperability between emergency service providers.

Onondaga County's time line is the first of April 2008: Onondaga County plans to start building the three new towers. Onondaga County has to proceed through a bid process etc., which takes time and has the funding that has to be spent within a certain time frame. Onondaga County currently has 15 tower sites and is building three new sites. Onondaga County has been the trendsetter for surrounding counties. Other counties may determine that if SWN does not want to participate with Onondaga County other counties may want to go their own way and not join SWN. If SWN agrees to work with Onondaga County, the other counties may change their mind.

Commissioner Balloni explained the urgency to move this project along due to the FCC three year slow build out and that Onondaga County stands a chance to lose frequencies if it is not built out by November of 2008.

The Central New York Interoperable Communications Consortium (CNYICC) includes five (5) regional counties, Onondaga County, Madison, Oswego, Cayuga and Cortland. All five legislative bodies in our regional counties must agree to a MOU, which represents our plan to move forward.

Tom Roche then discussed a non-disclosure agreement, which is a requirement if the State agrees to work with the County. The County will have to sign it.

Commissioner Balloni said the non-disclosure documents have already been reviewed and the county is prepared to sign if the State is willing to work with us. He also stated that he would prepare a letter to the director of OFT from the County Executive Joanne M. Mahoney with Onondaga County's request to work together with SWN.