

*ONONDAGA COUNTY INTEROPERABILITY COMMUNICATIONS  
SYSTEM  
MEETING – MARCH 10, 2005  
17:00 HOURS  
@ THE 9-1-1 CENTER*

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Those in Attendance were:

James A. Albanese, Stephen J. Wisely, Lori Hable for Kathy Hanna, Charlie Gabriel, Bill Bleyle, Dave Cowburn, Dave Johnson, Al Kalfass, Sgt. Ed Foster, Rustan Petrela, Pete Small, Sean Sparks, Mike Huppmann, Joe Rinefierd, Tony DiGregorio, Ed Wright, Mark Zoanetti, Jeff Daly, Norm Doyle

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**Opening Comments by Jim Albanese**

Jim Albanese provided all committee members with a copy of “The State of the County Message” by the County Executive. On page 10 is a description of what this project is all about. This project is real and is moving forward.

Questions from Last Weeks Meeting

Jim Albanese asked the group if they had any questions from the last meeting. None.

Jim Albanese said that Bob Warner, who chairs the Public Safety Committee, asked when this group would present/introduce this project to the County Legislature? Jim told Bob Warner that he would wait until the Fall when the committee has more information and answers to questions. Jim has now decided that an update should be provided sooner and will be arranging that for either April or May. This committee is still in the early stages of the project.

Suggestions on Additional Presentations

Jim Albanese asked if anyone felt it was appropriate to have any other presentations, as Dave Stevenson attended the last meeting at Solvay FD and discussed digital trunked systems. Joe Rinefierd stated that Rockland County has a trunked system with a contractual agreement with their cell phone people. They generated enough money for bonding. Jim Albanese stated that it might be worthwhile to have someone from Rockland County attend the next meeting to explain how they accomplished this task. Joe Rinefierd said his contact is the Fire Coordinator and he will provide Jim with his name and phone number. Joe stated he also has a copy of the Rockland County’s contract and will

provide a copy for Charlie Gabriel to review. Commissioner Wisely said he met with Albany County on their radio system last week.

Status on SOW (Statement of Work)

The RFP for a consultant was mailed out yesterday. Responses are due back by March 28<sup>th</sup>. The funding process for the consultant is approved.

Fire MDT Grant

Charlie Gabriel said that a MDT grant has been identified in the fire world for replacements. Jim Albanese said to please give Gabe a call if you know of any other opportunities. Discussion on this grant will be presented at a meeting tomorrow, March 11<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 at the 911Center with the MCT/MST Committee.

**Commissioner Wisely and Charlie Gabriel**

Status On MOU/LOC

Charlie Gabriel stated that he has received the signed LOC's and MOU's from Syracuse Police Department, Syracuse Housing, Village of East Syracuse and the Town of Onondaga. After speaking with our Consultant Emil Vogel, it was decided that we will not wait for the other letters to come in, and will start the FCC Coordination process with the signed letters he has received. An amendment to the FCC can be filed once all the letters are received. The process to date is moving very well.

Power Point Presentation – Executive and Technical (see attached)

The first power point (Technical Team) presents “Establishing and Managing Talk Groups”. The group needs to capture operational requirements, review systems capabilities, establish the talk group plan and then manage talk groups.

A sample of police operational channel assignment was presented for administrative channel, Data channel, Tactical channel, East Zone channel 3, West Zone channel 4 and South Zone channel 5.

We need to create an organizational Matrix, which will define how the users need to communicate when performing normal operations.

We need to establish the talk group plan and the operational Matrix. By creating emergency scenarios we can determine why we need the ability to talk with each other, complete a breakdown by agency, then by interoperability talk groups; standard or permanent patches etc. and the interoperable operation, goals and training with the user community etc. This technical group will be involved in creating these plans.

The next Power Point presents Trunking and First Responders. Why do we need a communications system? Our current microwave system was installed in the 1970's. The Center has completed some updates to a few sites but for the most part, this system is old.

The project time line is:

3 years from the start – 01/05 thru 11/07.

FCC licensing issue process – 01/05 thru 02/06

Requirements and Design – 03/05 thru 11/05

Procurement Cycle – Bid/Award – 11/05 thru 11/06

System Installation and testing – 11/06 thru 11/07

System Acceptance – 03/07 thru 11/07

The first priority is the change out of the microwave system.

The difference between conventional and trunked system is the network load capacity for large multi user systems. Trunked system allows a system to serve more users with the same amount of spectrum or less.

Captain Bleyle said he would like to take this power point presentation to the County Chiefs meeting for better understanding of what is involved in this project. Charlie said he would provide him with a copy of the PowerPoint.

Collected Information to Date & Discussion on Project Deliverables

Charlie Gabriel asked for a status report from the police community. Captain Bleyle stated his report is complete. He has received input from agencies. The County Chiefs meeting is the last week in March and Captain Bleyle will do the power point presentation for better understanding purpose. Pete Small, SPD, said he reviewed the report that Captain Bleyle put together and added a couple things pertaining to the City.

Charlie Gabriel told the police people present to direct their updates to Bill Bleyle and this includes NYSP. Norm Doyle stated OCSO made some changes but are on board and he will forward them to Bill Bleyle. Bill Bleyle will prepare the final product. **Charlie asked for a deadline of March 17<sup>th</sup> to have it completed.** Bill Bleyle said he is still waiting for County Parks information. He will contact Howard Grant again for this.

Charlie Gabriel asked for a status report from the fire community. Joe Rinefierd stated that 28 departments responded back on the survey that was sent. Charlie stated that all fire information should be directed

to Mike Huppmann. **Charlie asked Mike to make sure he has all the components done and complete by the end of the month.** Joe Rinefierd stated that someone is personally making contact with each fire department.

Syracuse Fire Department, Chief Johnson stated the document is prepared but needs the document reviewed by Chief Cowin prior to submitting it. As for the gap analysis, Chief Johnson does not feel he is qualified to review the technical portion. Commissioner Wisely stated that he would schedule some time with him to review it.

EMS – Mike Huppmann said the material was sent out and he is awaiting the responses. Some of the ambulances are associated with the fire department, and some are independent; this then requires 2 different responses. **All responses should go back to Mike Huppmann with the same deadline as fire.**

Charlie Gabriel then discussed the MDT Grant for fire services. Fire is eligible for funding up to \$1.7 million. The grant opens 03/07/05 and closes 04/10/05. More discussion will follow at the scheduled MDT Meeting 3/11/05. All information will be verified on every agency that we list to qualify. Hank Vercillo is working on the demographical data. Moyers Corners FD is the Host Agency co-hosting the grant. The county cannot apply for the grant. Joe Rinefierd added that each agency needs a Federal Tax ID # to apply. Charlie Gabriel said that the EMS grant is only allowing for applications for ambulances (vehicles).

Ed Wright asked if the RF engineer bid was generic? Commissioner Wisely stated it was sent out to 6 different individuals that are equipped to do that specific work.

Jim Albanese added that these meeting notifications will be distributed to the PROC members also letting them know that they are invited to attend if they would like.

Jim Albanese requested that fire/EMS departments that have not responded back to date will be issued a letter from the County Executives Office in an attempt to insure support.

Sean Sparks added that the EOC and 911 portions would be complete by the end of the month. Jim Albanese asked if the back-up site is being taken into account? Sean stated, “yes”, and that he would have more information next week.

Jim Albanese said that this group is now at a juncture where we can add some space between meetings and that the next meeting should be moved out 4 weeks.

**The next meeting is scheduled for  
Wednesday, April 6, 2005  
@ 17:00 hours  
@ The 911 Center.**

*\*(The meetings that were scheduled for March 17 and 31 are cancelled.)*

The meeting adjourned.