

APPROVED 11-3-05

**Special Meeting
Public Safety Committee
October 18, 2005
4:30 p.m. - Courthouse Conference Room**

Present: L. McBean-Clairborne, G. Totman, M. Robertson, M. Koplinka-Loehr, P. Penniman
Legislators: N. Schuler, R. Booth
Staff: S. Whicher, W. Skinner, County Administration; L. Shurtleff, Department of Emergency Response; J. Jurkowich, Planning Department; M. Pottorff, Legislature Office; J. Wood, County Attorney

Called to Order

Mrs. McBean-Clairborne called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

RESOLUTION NO. 209 - ACCEPTANCE OF THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATION SYSTEM PROJECT FOR PURPOSES OF COMMENCING PUBLIC REVIEW, AND DIRECTING A PUBLIC HEARING PURSUANT TO STATE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY REVIEW

It was MOVED by Mr. Penniman, seconded by Ms. Robertson. Mr. Koplinka-Loehr said a great amount of tribute needs to go to Ms. Jurkowich and staff for the hard work that has gone into the DEIS.

Ms. Jurkowich walked the Committee through the summary and conclusions contained in the report. She referred to the summary of topics that were addressed, the conclusions, and mitigation measures that were taken. She noted a number of areas were looked at that were found to have no impacts including no impact on surface or groundwater, no wetlands were found, and no significant impacts on biological or agricultural resources. Visual impacts were acknowledged; since all of the towers are under 200 feet, they will not require lighting; open lattice-type towers minimize visual impacts. The main impact identified from noise generated by the project will be caused from the emergency generators; however, short-duration testing will take place approximately one time per week. Higher performance noise reduction mufflers have been recommended for three sites. In terms of the public health/safety impacts, safety during construction has been addressed by establishing standards. The impacts of electromagnetic radiation fields generated by the system are not likely to be an issue as the project is well-below the established standards by orders of magnitude by European standards which are much stricter than U.S. standards. She noted this document addresses 9 of the 12 towers. Once approved, the DEIS will be filed in Ithaca City Hall, Ithaca Town Hall, public libraries in Newfield, Groton, Dryden, and the Ithaca. A voice vote resulted as follows: Ayes – 5, Noes – 0. MOTION CARRIED.

WHEREAS, this Legislature as lead agency by Resolution No. 307 of 2000, dated December 19, 2000, authorized the filing of a "Positive Declaration" for the Tompkins County Public Safety Communications System Project pursuant to 6 NYCRR Section 617.7, and

WHEREAS, the preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement included utilization of public scoping of said document, and

WHEREAS, the Final Scoping Document for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement was completed on December 12, 2001, and

WHEREAS, the Tompkins County Public Safety Committee has reviewed the Draft Environmental Impact Statement prepared pursuant to the direction of the aforementioned Final Scoping

Document and has by resolution dated October 18, 2005, recommended that this Legislature accept said Draft Environmental Impact Statement including those reports and documents incorporated by reference as complete with respect to its scope, content, and adequacy for purposes of commencing public review pursuant to 6 NYCRR Section 617.9, and

WHEREAS, this Legislature as lead agency has considered the following pursuant to 6 NYCRR Section 617.9:

whether there is substantial interest on the part of the public in the proposal, and
whether substantive or significant environmental issues have been raised, and
the adequacy of the mitigation measures proposed and the consideration of alternatives, and
the extent to which a public hearing can aid the County of Tompkins in its decision making as lead agency, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Public Safety Committee, That the Draft Environmental Impact Statement dated October 2005, including those reports and documents incorporated by reference, is hereby found acceptable pursuant to 6 NYCRR Section 617.9 for purpose of public review,

RESOLVED, further, That the Draft Environmental Impact Statement be filed and distributed according to law and made available for a thirty-day period for public review commencing on October 19, 2005,

RESOLVED, further, That a public hearing shall be held concerning said Draft Environmental Impact Statement according to law on November 3, 2005,

RESOLVED, further, That a Notice of Completion of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Notice of the State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) Hearing shall be filed and published according to law,

RESOLVED, further, That comments shall be received by the County of Tompkins regarding the Draft Environmental Impact Statement until November 18, 2005, in accordance with 6 NYCRR Section 617.9, and said comments shall be directed to the Department of Planning.

SEQR ACTION: TYPE I

(Full EAF on file with Clerk)

Discussion - Subscriber Equipment

Mr. Whicher asked that this item be held for discussion as the Emergency Communications Review and Oversight Committee is meeting tomorrow and he would like to allow subscribers time to provide input before proceeding. *Mr. Shurtleff agreed to provide the Committee with minutes of the ECROC meeting.*

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Michelle Pottorff, TC Legislature Office.