

Public Safety Committee
March 7, 2006
5:15 p.m.
Courthouse Conference Room

Approved 4-8-06

Present: L. McBean-Clairborne, M. Koplinka-Loehr, M. Hattery, M. Robertson, R. Booth
Staff: S. Whicher, County Administrator; L. Shurtleff, Director of Emergency Response; M. Pottorff,
Legislature Office

Called to Order

Mrs. McBean-Clairborne called the meeting to order at 5:20 p.m.

**RESOLUTON NO. - REQUESTING FEDERAL AND STATE ASSISTANCE FOR THE
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM**

It was MOVED by Mr. Koplinka-Loehr, seconded by Ms. Robertson, and unanimously adopted by voice vote, to approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the age, condition, and technological obsolescence of Tompkins County's Public Safety Communications System (PSCS) has required the County to pursue a total system replacement, as recommended through independent evaluations, and

WHEREAS, the County did institute a long-term Capital Project in 1998; completed Phase I construction of an Emergency Response Center in 2004, thereby establishing a preliminary network headquarters; and, further, negotiated a contract for system replacement in 2005, and

WHEREAS, system construction and implementation will begin in 2006 with completion anticipated mid-2007, representing a commitment of over \$15 million in local funding, and

WHEREAS, replacement of mobile and handheld radios, mobile data equipment, pagers, and other subscriber equipment used by emergency responders must also be replaced to ensure full system functionality and communication interoperability between public safety agencies and other emergency management partners, and

WHEREAS, the cost of subscriber equipment is estimated at \$4 million and will place additional and significant financial burden upon the County, local governments, and approximately forty volunteer and career response organizations, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Public Safety Committee, That the Tompkins County Legislature hereby establishes the timely completion of the PSCS as the County's top priority for receiving additional State and Federal funding and requests the assistance of our Federal and State legislators to identify and secure any funding sources available to fulfill this critical public safety need,

RESOLVED, further, That the County Administrator is hereby directed to communicate this message of priority and need to County departments,

RESOLVED, further, That this message of priority, need, and request be immediately communicated to Tompkins County's Federal and State Legislators by County Administration and the Department of Emergency Response.

SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-20

Emergency Communications Review and Oversight Committee

The approval of bylaws for the Emergency Communications Review and Oversight Committee were previously approved by this Committee; however, they were withdrawn at the Legislature meeting as Legislator Kiefer had questions. The Committee was informed of the non-substantive changes made to the bylaws since that time and agreed that they would move forward to the Legislature this evening for final approval.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Michelle Pottorff, TC Legislature Office