

Emergency Response Oversight Committee

August 18, 2021 (Zoom)

Meeting Minutes

Facilitator: Jessica Verfuss, Deputy Director, Department of Emergency Response

Notetaker: Geri Lockwood, Department of Emergency Response

Virtual Attendees: Michael Stitley, TC Department of Emergency Response (DOER)
Greg Potter, TC Information & Technology Services (IT)
Jerry Wright, Cayuga Heights Police Department (CHPD)/Village Police Chiefs
Chris Jordan, Volunteer Fire/EMS
Tim Bangs, Commercial Ambulance Service, Bangs Ambulance
Henry Granison, TC Public Safety Committee
Jenn Olin, Tompkins County Sheriff's Office
Jessica Verfuss, TC Department of Emergency Response
Brian Wilbur, TC Department of Emergency Response
Geoff Dunn, TC Department of Emergency Response
Justin Vann, TC Department of Emergency Response
Dan Maas, Cornell EOM
Tom Dunn, Ithaca College
Mark Bell, Volunteer Fire/EMS
Matt Van Houten, TC District Attorney
Mark Conrad, Cornell University (CU)
Aaron Forbes, NYS Police
John Malysa, NYS Parks Police
Vince Monticello, City of Ithaca Police
Kobe Brooks, Cayuga Medical Center
Scott Goldsmith, Cayuga Medical Center

Call to Order: Jessica Verfuss called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and introduced Mike Stitley, DOER Director.

Changes to Agenda (if necessary): No changes.

Old Business:

- a. Towing Policy:
 - Jessica announced that a meeting was held (John Halaychik, Jessica Verfuss, Mike Stitley, Julie Holcomb, and Geri Lockwood) with Val-U Auto (Lacey and Matt) regarding issues with tow call responses. Val-U appreciated the issues being brought to their attention, and they are working to resolve them.
- b. New Call Feature:
 - Jenn Olin stated that it's working well and believes the small issues have been resolved. There have not been complaints from the Dispatchers.
- c. COVID-19 – Status, enforcement:
 - Jessica reported that the Delta variant is creating an uptick in positive cases in Tompkins County (TC), resulting in mask-wearing mandates in TC buildings. A push to vaccinate is ongoing, with clinics continuing to be scheduled. There have not been any enforcement issues.
 - There was a discussion at the Legislator's Meeting last night, but there is currently no executive order, so there is nothing to enforce at this time, per Jenn.
 - Jessica mentioned that the State of Emergency expired when the NYS one did, but businesses may choose to require masks. Henry added that there is not State of Emergency yet, but TC is mandating that TC employees either be vaccinated or test regularly (NOTE: this mandate takes effect October 1st). He also stated that the EOC is going to be meeting in person again, and Geoff Dunn added that this will be at the downtown offices at this time, not at DOER.

d. Reimagining Public Safety:

- Jessica reported that there will be a meeting next week on Motorola's Enterprise Solution for Community Engagement. Greg Potter added that not all parties involved in EROC are part of the reimagining project with the City and TC, but they're moving forward and have included the Villages. It's up to them, if they're interested in sitting through the demo. Henry Granison stated that there wasn't time at the Legislator's Meeting last night to discuss the reimagining but announced that the hiring process for the Director for JDC and Data Analyst are going on, and that the resumes are "light", but they're moving forward. Anyone interested in the information on the demo should e-mail her, and she'll forward the e-mail from Kim Moore (TC ITS).

New Business:

a. Policy Updates:

- Jessica stated that she has sent the Policies to the Executive Committee (EC). Once reviewed by EC, they'll be provided to EROC. The main change was changing "LETSS" to "EROC". She also mentioned that the Agreements created with EROC will expire December 2022, and renewals will be circulated early 2022 for signatures and to make any necessary changes.

Standing Sub-Committee Reports (Members):

a. Law Enforcement (LE):

- Jenn provided the following information from the July 22nd Meeting:
 - Joan Oldroyd, DEC/Forest Ranger, held a presentation on Missing Person/Search and Rescue Operations.
 - Deanna Carrithers, TC Chief Diversity Equity Officer, provided a recommendation update on Reimagining Public Safety, and it might affect some of the data that will be collected.
 - The Flex Spillman Patch on August 3rd provided dashboard demo/traffic stop data collection.
- She also announced that Crisis Intervention Team (CIT)/CNT Training will be hosted by the TSCO in September and will be offered to all Law Enforcement (LE) Agencies in the County.

b. Fire and EMS:

- Chris Jordan had nothing to report that pertained to this group.

c. Dispatch:

- Due to being at a Conference in Texas, John Halaychik was not available.

d. Training:

- Jessica has sent Jeremy Zigenfus some State level training information, and she'll send that out to the EROC Team.

e. Information Technology Administration:

- Greg Potter announced that the Patch went well, and ITS is working on a Spillman Touch issue, which has been fixed.

f. Executive:

- Jessica asked everyone to review the by-laws.
- Geri Lockwood reminded those who haven't signed the Oath Card to please be sure to do that.

Announcements (Personnel, Events, Projects, etc.):

- a. Scene Safety – A discussion was held regarding scene safety for EMS and LE role with reimagining.
- b. Flagging – A discussion/debate took place regarding flagging – individuals and addresses? One or both? Which would be better? Whatever method is used it needs to be consistent.

Adjourn:

- Next meeting scheduled for November 17, 2021, 10:00 a.m. (Executive Committee TBD), Department of Emergency Response Large Conference Room or Zoom – TBD. Hopefully in-person – watch for the e-mail calendar invite.
- Jessica adjourned the meeting at 10:45 a.m.