

**COMMITTEE MEETING
LAKE PLEASANT, NY
THURSDAY
FEBRUARY 5, 2015**

**EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS/EMERGENCY RESPONSE
9:00 AM**

Members present: Rick Wilt, Brian Towers, and Clark Seaman

Also present: Bill Farber, Bob Edwards, John Frey, Phil Snyder, Don Purdy, and Mark Hoppe from Blue Wing

Mr. Wilt introduced Mr. Mark Hoppe from Blue Wing to give an update as to where we are with the communications grant.

Mr. Hoppe stated one of the goals of the grant was to connect Oak Mt. into the Adirondack Consortium. Herkimer County is planning to bring the wide band microwave into Dairy Hill. There is a path up to Blue Mountain that Essex County has currently put in. Originally it was planned to go through Pillsbury to Blue Mountain but after a study of that area it was not feasible.

What they came up with is going from Lake Pleasant to Oak Mountain and then back to Arietta and then to a site on the back side of Morehouse. They worked with a land use group to stay off of any State owned land which they succeeded and it is all on private land. The Arietta property owners are willing to give easements as well as the Morehouse property owners.

Mr. Hoppe then explained the next step will be to have the sites surveyed. On the power point Mr. Hoppe pointed out they put everything on a 125 foot dish due to 110 foot trees. A 110 foot tree is the tallest that they have found in the Adirondack area. This survey will tell the height of the tallest trees around that area among points of interception. This is critical because the APA wants the lowest tower as possible.

Mr. Hoppe recommends the next step is getting the APA involved and getting the land owners signatures.

The discussion then turned to the operational portion. Mr. Hoppe showed the profile path from Morehouse to Dairy Hill which shows very few 110 foot trees in its path with the dish set at 125 feet.

Today they have a meeting in Blue Mountain Lake with DEC and the State Police regarding that tower. DEC's building is in much better shape than ours and we would like to propose putting our equipment with theirs. Mr. Hoppe feels that there is enough room in that building for DEC and us.

Mr. Hoppe explained they looked at the sites we have and the signal is fragmented right now due the different radio locations. Most counties are moving to what they call simulcast, a signal that is

a continuous flow. Discussion continued on frequencies. Places where there isn't connectivity they will use the microwave. Mr. Hoppe then discussed coverage areas. They are shooting for 95% mobile coverage in areas suggested by the Sheriff and Mr. Purdy. Inlet is defiantly an issue because there is no site. Herkimer is dispatching for them and they need to know what their future plan for dispatching is.

Mr. Frey stated that they are in the process of trying to get their own tower up.

Mr. Farber suggested one thing that may have some potential to assist with this is the announcement that was made with respect to the \$500 million dollars for broadband. This is in part to induce towers and part of the thinking was putting state dollars and state resources into cellular towers, if so, one of the conditions might be that they allow space for Fire, EMS, DEC, and State Police on the towers. That might be another avenue for us to get free or reduced cost space and maybe get the cellular providers more involved and engaged.

Mr. Farber stated if there is a draft lease out there that works this would be a good time to get a copy of that. Mr. Hoppe agreed to get Mr. Farber a copy of a lease.

Mr. Farber asked Mr. Frey where they see the Town of Inlet with dispatching in the future because it will make a difference in the planning stages.

Mr. Frey stated that his Board and Chief of Police are taking a wait and see stance, to see what shakes out with the dispatching down here; what they have now works.

Mr. Farber stated Mr. Frey has to understand the problem with let's wait and see is that it forces them to look at prioritization in a way that we need to optimize the coverage with those people that we know we have to dispatch.

Mr. Frey stated that he has a little bit of a problem with that because he doesn't care where it's dispatched from, he feels they need the coverage and somehow we need to blend that in. Mr. Farber asked him if Inlet would be comfortable having Hamilton County own the tower. Mr. Frey stated yes.

Mr. Frey wants coverage for the Town of Inlet as well as Mr. Seaman for the Town of Long Lake and Raquette Lake.

Discussion in different site coverages turned to tower heights.

Mr. Hoppe asked if anyone was familiar with P25 and Mr. Purdy stated yes. Mr. Hoppe explained it is basically digital standard over analog. Digital coverage is slightly better over analog, the radios are three to four times more expensive and a lot of grant funding is based on digital radios. The big advantage of a P25 is that law enforcement can have encrypted calls with digital. He feels the law enforcement channel should be a P25 so that they have the ability to encrypt.

Mr. Purdy stated that the Sheriff has recommended P25 radios.

Mr. McGovern entered at this time.

Mr. Hoppe continued to discuss P25 radios. The problem with P25's is that there is a system ID in every radio and for some reason they base this on your FCC licensing as opposed to pre-determining the system ID's. Long story short you could end up with a lot of re-programming.

Mr. Hoppe wanted to let the members know that when they go to interoperability one of issues is National Interoperability Channels. VHF channels cannot be used because of the border and some of Hamilton County is affected by this. There is a group that has been working with FCC and the FCC of Canada because St. Lawrence County is really bad being so close to the border.

Mr. Wilt stated one of his concerns is if we are going after more frequencies and need a license then we should be applying now.

Mr. Hoppe stated they have come up with three pairs in St. Lawrence County and they are advising them to apply for the licensing now. They will put together the package that goes to the Coordinator and then the County pays the Coordinator fees. So if we use four or five sites in Hamilton County it will be approximately four to five thousand dollars in coordination fees. With Alcatel usually it is a four thousand immobilization fee plus three thousand dollars per link which you can buy off of state contract.

Mr. Wilt asked if they recommend someone and Mr. Hoppe stated they are all pretty much the same.

Mr. Hoppe left at this time.

Mr. Farber wanted to report on a couple of things. He has been in contact with our State Legislators and we have our renewal of our mortgage recording tax and our sales tax coming up this year. He will be working with the legislators on these.

Under the HOME grant program there has been some gaps in communication with Mr. Jim Thatcher during this transition period we are going through. We received a time line from Mr. Phil Smith explaining that Avalon will not be the administrator of the records affectively January 25, 2015 and that Mr. Thatcher will be. He indicated a willingness to do that by resolution to authorize him to sign the paperwork. The issue is Mr. Thatcher is now going to work for C.T. Male effective this week so there is a desire to transfer the records to C.T. Male. Mr. Farber feels for finishing up the current grant he doesn't have a problem with it but he feels it reinforces the need to have a parallel strategy specific to the last resolution and Mr. McGovern's request. Mr. Alan Hipps is going to be here to give us a presentation on his company.

The committee agreed for Mr. Farber to go ahead with a standard resolution for him to be able to continue to move forward with the HOME grant.