

**COMMITTEE DAY
LAKE PLEASANT, NY
MONDAY
SEPTEMBER 24, 2012**

**CENTRAL GOVERNMENT
COMMITTEE
10:30 AM**

Present: Ermina Pincombe and Bob Edwards

Also present: Bill Farber, Brian Towers, Neil McGovern, Clark Seaman, Brian Wells, Don Purdy and Pete Klein, Press

Bill stated the last time we were together we were unsure of when we would have word on the grant. Don reported that there hasn't been any word on the grant as of yet.

Bill stated that there may be questions or people may want to know what was included in the grant. The last time we met as a group there was an upcoming Regional EMS meeting that may shed some light on the training or how the Region was going to deal with that.

Ermina stated she feels there is a more immediate need to discuss the ambulance corps.

Don stated there is definitely an ongoing need, he has been contacting people. The AREMS meeting last week did not shed any light on the future except that the State is going ahead with the national standards. This Wednesday or Thursday night there is going to be a webinar for ambulance corp. directors to explain the new national standards.

Bill asked Don if Gary is publicizing this. Don replied that he received this notice from Phil Mulleedy and he is not sure if Gary even knows.

The next AREMS meeting will be October 18th and they will be discussing training.

Bill asked at the last AREMS meeting where the training was discussed, what was the conversation? Don stated the only conversation that took place was that at this point in time we really don't know what is going to happen until we receive word from the State of New York.

Bill asked aren't the classes that are taking place now subject to the new testing. Don stated yes, the current classes for basic EMT. If completed by December 20th then it will be under the old standards.

Bill stated that most classes start in the fall and test out later than December; the class curriculum would have to take in account the new standard so that those people can successfully test out. Don replied yes, it would, but what he understands at this time is that those new standards have not been given to the instructors yet.

Don stated at this point in time Hamilton County is not affected by this because we do not have a class going on.

Neil stated regardless these new regulations will make it even more difficult to get anyone to sign up for the next class.

Don reported that he was told that they are going to be adding 20 to 30 more hours for the classes.

Bill stated Rick had told him that he had heard that last week that 190 hours is not fixed as of yet, they are still working on it. The change in the curriculum was that people are now going to be tested on these items as well. It wasn't guaranteed that they are going to 190 hours and that seems consistent with what Don has just told us.

Don stated the fact that it is between x number hours and x number of hours basically depends on the ability of the student who is taking the class as well as the instructor who is teaching them. Don believes it will go up 20 to 30 hours more than it is now.

Brian stated at the end of the day what it really comes down to is finding instructors who are willing to continue on with any expanded course.

After speaking with Joyce, Don stated that she and Virginia are tired of teaching. Allen Dunham is only doing Re-Cert.

Neil stated at the last discussion it was mentioned that the instructors have to create their own curriculum. Don stated he was told that for every hour that you teach in class it takes the average instructor 3-4 hours to prepare that. Yes, Don stated that the national standard says what you will cover and it is up to the instructor on how they will teach it. So the instructor gets paid for an hour of class room time, but on their own they are putting in 2-3 hours to prepare.

Discussion continued regarding more hours and instructors.

Don reported that the EMS Council will meet next week for the new standards. One of the reasons they are meeting is because they are getting tension back against the new standards. The tension is coming from the Colleges because now they are stating that they have this curriculum setup for 3 hours and now with the additional hours they can't do that.

Don reported that yes, we have an EMS crisis and we are not the only ones; it is all over the Country. There aren't any answers because all the questions haven't been asked and the decisions have not been made as to where we are going.

Brian Towers stated he doesn't feel we can tie our problems with state wide; we have a shortage of young people who would take the course.

Neil feels we need to start pressuring the higher ups.

Don would like to see how we can get new instructors. Bill stated we have always had this problem with instructors. He too feels that we are on the border of a crisis; it is on a much broader span.

Don then went on to report on his grant.

Don stated we still haven't heard on the grant, but the purpose of this grant is to replace the VHF high-band stations, replace low-band stations, replace antennas, two desk consoles, new air-link, new mobile & portables for sheriff department, and a new gate-way into the consortium.

Brian Towers asked how this will affect the communications with the fire departments. Don stated they all have to be on narrow band which is not included in this grant. That will be up to each agency to get narrow band before January 1st of 2013.

Clark asked if the County will meet that dead line at the County level. Don stated yes, Karl is ready to go and everything is in place so that the County will be narrow banded in all of its high band equipment.

Bill questioned Don that didn't he take inventory from all the ambulance and fire squads serial numbers for Chuck for data of who was already narrow band compliant and to give the departments some guidance about equipment that was and wasn't narrow band compatible. Don stated that he has not yet received that information back from Chuck. Bill feels that transfer of information is critical because of the deadline. He thinks squads, fire departments etc., because that data was collected they thought they were going to get feedback. If the squads, fire departments have not heard back about the narrow band compatibility of their equipment and where they stand individually, it seems that is information we owe them. We may not have said it, but we gave them the impression that it was going to be a two-way communication.

Don stated Morehouse has the licensing for narrow band; Wells is narrow band but not running yet. Speculator has now gone narrow band, Piseco is ready to do it, Indian Lake is done, Long Lake is in the process, Inlet he doesn't know and Raquette Lake is done. Don stated that narrow banding cuts range down.

Neil asked what the benefit is, Don stated more channels.

Don reported that the next grant that they will be applying for is PSAP (Public Safety Answering Point) which is 9 million total. 7 million is for new equipment and 2 million is for sustainment if you've already gotten into that. What is eligible is anything with Next Generation 911 technologies.

The interoperable grant is still not completed. The Nursing Service needs to spend their \$5,400 which could possibly be spent on Jill's salary.

Brian Wells left at this time.

Don would like a resolution to join another consortium for Haz-Mat, this will help keep the haz-mat trailer up to date. We would be a participating partner and Warren County would be the submitting partner and they would receive the money. We would need to then go to Warren County for money. The consortium is just a way to funnel funds. Bill asked how the consortium in terms of the participating county matches Homeland Security Regional Boundaries. Don stated the only difference with the interoperability grant our interoperability consortium will basically be region three. Bill asked if they match identically, Don stated yes.

Discussion completed and Don left at this time.

FINANCE COMMITTEE
11:25 AM

Present: Brian Towers and Neil McGovern

Also present: Bill Farber, Ermina Pincombe, Bob Edwards, Clark Seaman and Pete Klein, Press

Bill addressed the Committee on what John stated in his email. John emailed that he is on vacation this week. John did send some data and met with Tracy on his budget, but he hasn't setup any budget meetings with other departments. John did write that his preliminary calculations from the departmental requests were up 5.62% which Bill couldn't make sense of. Tracy's request by himself would push a higher rate than that. When Bill had a chance to figure out how John calculated it, John had generated the percentage by a comparison of gross appropriations without looking at the amount to be raised by taxes.

**HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
COMMITTEE
11:30 AM**

Present: Clark Seaman, Neil McGovern, and Ermina Pincombe

Also present: Bill Farber, Bob Edwards, Roberta Bly and Pete Klein, Press

Roberta addressed the committee that she has only been on the job for 90 days and will be giving a brief review of what has been going on.

She has a monthly meeting with all the staff and she tries to meet with all of them one on one. It gives her an idea of what everyone's goals are and where they are going.

She did change the lunch schedule; they were running the full 8 to 4:30 and everyone took lunch together. She has now changed that so that there is always someone available. She tightened up some confidentiality, they were sharing passwords.

Roberta reported that they implemented a scanning system which is done through the State. The State provides all the scanners. We will now scan client's documents into a case file. This will help when people move from county to county, you don't need to ask for the documentation again you just pull it up on the computer. This will save on copying and time; 98% of all counties are using this scanning program. The State will be in next week for three days to train and make sure everyone is up and running. Anything they scan can be taken to court, used in court. Support collection is not doing it yet, but they can gain access if they need documentation, such as a birth certificate etc. Because we got into it so late in the game the State gave us all the scanners they had left, so each one of her workers received a scanner at their own desks. The State will maintain the scanners for the next two years.

Ms. Bly reported that she did a mandated reporter training in Long Lake that was well received and she will be putting that out to the other school districts as well. She has been finding that a lot of mandated reporters have been calling them and asking what you can report; that is really not the correct way for it to be done, they're suppose to be reporting it.

Stephanie went out on maternity leave so there is no one at the front desk at all times but Roberta didn't feel the need for temporary help and the staff has been great filling in. With the fact that Susie will be retiring in five years she has decided to cross train a little more. So Susie has learned Stephanie's job a little and when Stephanie comes back she will start learning more of Susie's job.

Food stamps will now be known as SNAP. Brian asked what SNAP means, Supplemental Nutritional Aid Program. This is a huge initiative that the Governor has taken on. She took last year's food stamp case load and compared it with this year's case load and it hasn't made a huge

impact doing the on-line applications. Roberta feels that come January or February she will need to give them another report on this.

Regarding the Medicaid take over, Roberta wants to try to keep this as long as possible. It is going to be very difficult for them to service our client's in this area.

Roberta stated as of next month they will be taking over transportation in Medicaid. It doesn't have a huge impact on us even though, a lot of people here are self reliant.

Neil left at this time.

Brian Towers asked when you say take it, we are talking about their taking over the administration aspect as well as any funding, Roberta stated yes. Our administration funds are going to be cut a little at a time. What the State is saying is that we need to start budgeting toward our admin cap, but we are under our admin cap so she feels we are good.

Once the State starts to take over they start cutting the admin cap and then it will be re-certs, then applications etc. Roberta stated it is going to be very difficult to service our area; they are going with managed care organizations. For a nurse to go into a home in Long Lake out of Johnstown will be a full day trip. They are not going to want to do this and we don't have the staff in Public Health to contract. It will be interesting how they plan on doing this.

Roberta continued with her report. Abby and Gail are the Counties domestic violence people and they are asking everyone to wear purple on October 17th for Domestic Violence Day.

HEAP season has started and what they are going to try to do is piggyback it on to the flu clinics. Wherever they are having the flu clinics, Abby will be there also to hand out HEAP applications.

Roberta reported that adult protective on the rise. The Governor wants the institutions to close down and get the people back out in society. Adult protective cases take a lot of their time.

Roberta finished her report and left.