

**COMMITTEE DAY
LAKE PLEASANT, NY
MONDAY
JANUARY 26, 2015**

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

Members present: Rick Wilt, Brian Wells and Clark Seaman

Also present: Bill Farber, Neil McGovern, Bob Edwards, John Frey, Don Purdy, Karl Abrams, Grant Preston and Pete Klein

Mr. Wilt introduced Mr. Grant Preston from Frontier Communications to discuss two different scenarios; we stand alone with the PSAP or partnering with Fulton/Montgomery Counties.

Mr. Preston started with option one; Hamilton County would be a standalone. The solution for 911 is you have an A and B side of this equipment. What Fulton/Montgomery County has decided to do if you partner with them is to have two levels; an A side of this equipment that is in Fulton County and a B side of equipment would be in Hamilton County and a link between the two that provides backup if Fulton County happens to go down all the calls would route to Montgomery County until it is restored. In addition to that Fulton/Montgomery County also has a microwave backup. Hamilton County could do that similarly. If Hamilton County is going to go alone you could have the A and B side within Hamilton County. You can have the A side of the equipment be in Lake Pleasant and the B side in Indian Lake with a point to point connection the same as Fulton County has and this would include your backup and microwave.

Mr. Wilt asked Mr. Preston to explain the A and B sides.

Mr. Preston stated the 911 equipment is basically two computers if one goes down you have the other one as backup.

For option number two Hamilton County would basically tie into the Fulton/Montgomery system. If Hamilton County decided to do this you would basically be a remote off of their equipment. One would be to Fulton and the other to Montgomery County through a point to point network. For example, when you get a call in Hamilton County that will be routed down to Frontier's Gloversville central office to determine where the call is coming from, what is the nature of the call and where does it need to be dispatched from and then the route dials the appropriate county. In that scenario there is a cost savings because Hamilton County doesn't need all of this equipment and you will share with Fulton/Montgomery Counties. Hamilton County would need to work out with Fulton/Montgomery Counties what you would have to pay for use of this equipment. The Chairman asked if other counties could do this. Herkimer County is dispatching Inlet and Essex County is dispatching Long Lake.

Mr. Wilt stated yes, we could reach out. We talked to Warren County but their equipment is Zetron. We went to Fulton/Montgomery because Frontier works with them.

Mr. Frey asked if the grant can be used to buy into the Fulton/Montgomery system. Yes, everyone believes it can be.

Mr. Preston stated the latest numbers that he has gotten if Hamilton County goes alone for equipment would be approximately a little over \$200,000. If you were to go with Fulton/Montgomery Counties you would probably be looking at \$35,000 - \$40,000 less just in equipment. That is not taking into account what Fulton/Montgomery Counties would charge you.

Mr. Farber asked Mr. Preston if he would help them understand why they are struggling to get the numbers nailed down.

Mr. Preston just received his numbers and he would be able to get them to us by tonight if need be. The State is paying for the 911 trunking. The monthly services Hamilton County would be responsible for are the admin lines that you already have. The question becomes what exchanges are involved and that will determine if you need more admin lines coming into 911 to account for what is happening in Essex and Fulton County. Each additional admin line is approximately \$25.00. Then to provide the point to point lines to Fulton/Montgomery Counties that would be approximately \$450.00 per connection per month.

Mr. Preston then explained why things are taking so long, it is due to the complexity of everything.

During the discussion about what exchanges would be in; Mr. Snyder entered.

Mr. Wilt explained what he sees is the people that are not covered will get covered by 911. Can we add the others afterwards?

Mr. Preston stated yes, Mr. Wilt feels it would be easier for us to get it up and running without them and then add them on after the glitches are worked out. Mr. Preston stated in that scenario it is a question of data basing, getting addresses, reprogramming etc.

Mr. Preston reported that Fulton/Montgomery Counties are going to bid in February; they will then have the numbers so they can let us know what they want.

Mr. Wilt asked Mr. Seaman if they are interested in it for Long Lake and Mr. Seaman stated they are just waiting to see what happens. We are happy right now, Raquette Lake is satisfied with what they are getting from Herkimer County. Long Lake is pleased with what Essex has done for us. A discussion continued on repeaters for their area.

The discussion turned back to possibly partnering with Fulton/Montgomery Counties.

Mr. Wilt stated he is all for partnering and the State loves to see shared services and it will save us on personnel.

Mr. Farber feels that we need to partner with someone.

Mr. Preston stated that we need to find out so that we can get the equipment ordered to move forward. What he needs to know is what exchanges Hamilton County is talking about moving forward with so that he can get numbers together.

Mr. Farber stated 315 and Sheriff Abrams stated 648, 924 and 352.

Mr. Frey gave his exchanges as well as Raquette Lake and Long Lakes.

Mr. Preston stated he would get the numbers to Mr. Farber by the end of the day.

Sheriff Abrams wanted to discuss car radios. Under the current communication grant, they contacted us and they want us to start spending some of that money. So with that, Sheriff Abrams reported he needs to buy radios for the new vehicles. With the communication grant he decided to change his radios to motorola. Right now he has a vertex radio in his vehicle and to upgrade to a P35 is costly. The Sheriff explained the new radios and estimated the cost of around \$3,400 per unit. He can get them through Wells Communications and the more he buys the better price he receives. He has the numbers together and would like to buy all the cars new radios, six units and also get The Town of Inlet fitted with new radios. Wells Communication gave him a quote for just the radios and one for radios and labor/install. He has chosen to take each vehicle down to Troy and have them done; it should take around eight hours per vehicle. Sheriff Abrams estimate for all of this approximately \$35,000.00.

Mr. Farber stated they would have to put a resolution in for this and we will have to figure out how to deal with the fact that their proposing a different rate than the State contract rate and labor charge.

Mr. Wilt reported that Blue Wing has found two sites for possible towers.

**INTERNAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
10:00 AM**

Members present: Bob Edwards, John Frey, Neil McGovern and Brian Wells

Also present: Bill Farber, Phil Snyder, Rick Wilt, Clark Seaman, Tish and Ian from Burnham Financial, Kimberly Byrne and Pete Klein

Tish handed out information and stated they are here today to discuss a problem that has come up. When Personnel Officer Byrne was reviewing the Prime Pay balance sheets she noticed a problem in how the HRA was put into place. Basically we have an FSA and HRA and this problem arose because last year with Bouchey and Clarke there was a new rule that the employer cannot put more than \$500.00 into your FSA but told us it doesn't apply to you. Then at the last minute stated that it does apply to us, so we had to come up with a solution of how we are going to handle the buyout. We used two vendors for that, EBS and Prime Pay. Prime Pay did the paper work and did a lousy job of not explaining the material differences during the application process.

Tish's object today is to address this issue. Here is the problem with flexible spending accounts and HRA's. Tish read out loud the issue; unlike FSA, Federal law prohibits HRA's to have a grace period for claims. Grace period claims incurred before 3/15 draws from 2014 unused funds. Run out period participant has until 3/31 to submit for claims incurred in 2014. Prime Pay does not inform the County that HRAs is not to have a grace period. 25 of 37 HRA participants have unused HRA funds from 2014 averaging \$650.00 per account.

Tish suggested a potential solution for 2014 is to make everyone whole with their full \$1,800.00 and then for 2015 we can amend their contract with Prime Pay.

For 2014 we have one option that we can do it's called informal good faith arrangement to remedy impacted participants administered by Burnham. We will identify the participants which is approximately 25 with claims that they are using their HRA funds that have an unused balance for 2014 that their HRA is paying for right now. We are going to keep a list of all those people and their receipts and the County will reimburse them those funds. We will have to wait until April 1st to get the balance on the unused funds to reimburse them.

Then moving forward we can amend our contract with Prime Pay as well as our HRA to allow for a roll-over of any unused funds into next year. When we do this we will need a new account called Roll-Over and an account called Balance of Roll-Over and both account are the board's decision on how much they want to put in. She has someone else that has this Roll-Over and the amount they put in is \$900.00 but the balance account cannot exceed that amount.

In 2016 a lot of counties are just giving a check to the employees that want the buy-out. It is a lot of work for Personnel Officer Byrne to do. So there are some things that the Board should consider.

Mr. Farber asked for a resolution for February 5th so that we can make decisions then on this.

Tish then turned the floor over to Ian to discuss employer reporting requirements under the Affordable Care Act for future discussion.

Ian stated the objective for future discussions is two things;

1. To enforce the Employer Mandate, (eg: FT employee's affordable coverage).
2. To assist in verifying employee eligibility for federal premium subsidy in exchanges.

Employer Mandate for a group your size is in effect as we speak. Under Health Care Reform, the Government is saying you just have to offer affordable health insurance to anyone who works 30 hours per week or more. Working with Personnel Officer Byrne we have identified those employees and they are being offered affordable insurance and the Governments definition of affordable insurance is no employee who is averaging 30 hours per week can pay more than 9.5% of their W-2 income towards the lowest cost single plan being offered. This will start January 2015 and this will be verified through something else that is new called Employer Reporting Requirements. This new form should be coming out anytime.

What we need to start doing is submitting more information to the IRS. The first submission is not going to be until the first quarter of 2016 for the 2015 plan year. We will be confirming that as an

employer group that we are offering all full-time employees health insurance and at an affordable rate. We will also have to report which of these full-time employees are being offered coverage.

The second part of this is we will also have to submit a form to the employees called a 1095-C and this determines whether or not this employee is eligible for any premium tax subsidies. There is a third form called 1095-B, your health insurance carrier who is MVP will be submitting that to your employees. The employees will be using that form for when they file their taxes.

Ian did a short question and answer session and the meeting ended.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
10:40 AM

Members present: Brian Wells, Rick Wilt and Phil Snyder

Also present: Bill Farber, Bob Edwards, Neil McGovern, Clark Seaman, John Frey, Don Wicksell from Kingsboro's Lumber and Pete Klein

Mr. Wicksell introduced himself and Mr. Hobson to review the Scaffold Law. Mr. Hobson handed out information on the law and Mr. Wicksell handed out an adopted resolution from Fulton County Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Hobson introduced himself as a manager of Government Affairs for the Lawsuit Alliance. He works closely with the State Legislature on such things as the Scaffold Law and gave a short description of the Alliance group that he works with.

What they have been working on for several years is the reform of the Scaffold Law, which is a State Labor Law Statute. Basically it proposes absolute liability on property owners and contractors for any gravity related construction injury. If someone falls off the scaffold, in New York they can file a lawsuit and the property owners, contractor and everyone up the ladder on that job is essentially automatically liable in civil court. If there is a violation of the statute no matter how small the percentage of fault is of the defendants they are 100% liable.

If the worker was intoxicated or willfully choose not to wear safety equipment that was available to them or were not following their safety training it doesn't matter in New York it is still going to be 100% liability.

New York is the only state to have such as law, the only other one to have one is Illinois which they repealed in 1995 which left New York State the only one.

Mr. Hobson continued to review the handouts and reported New York is the highest in the nation for Bridge/Elevated Highway Construction ISO Base Loss Costs. This hurts everyone, the small business owners etc., due to having to pay higher insurance rates. After Illinois repealed the law they saw an improvement under work place safety.

New York's public projects cost more than other states. Mr. Hobson explained the top 30 NY Settlements for 2012 and how much it cost the taxpayers.

All and all what they are looking for is to reform the scaffold law. They would like the absolute liability standard to be removed from the law and in place have a standard of comparative negligent every other state does.

**HEALTH COMMITTEE
11:00 AM**

Members present: Clark Seaman, Neil McGovern and Phil Snyder

Also present: Bill Farber, Bob Edwards, Brian Wells, Rick Wilt, Clark Seaman, John Frey, Susan Franko and Pete Klein

Director Franko would like the Board of Supervisors to consider making Hamilton County a smoke and/or tobacco free county.

In Director Franko's handouts she discussed how Hamilton County rates verses other counties.

After a short discussion with the members of the committee it was agreed that they will designate the area around the Public Health Office as smoke free.

**PUBLICITY, TOURISM, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
COMMITTEE
11:20 AM**

Members present: Neil McGovern, Brian Wells, John Frey, and Clark Seaman

Also present: Bill Farber, Phil Snyder, Rick Wilt, Bob Edwards, Bill Osborne and Pete Klein

Director Osborne stated he will be retiring in April and is here inquiring about the future of the Economic Development Office. The primary roll that he serves is the revolving loan program. He feels Ms. Christy Wilt can step up and handle the position with some type of help. A couple of ways to provide this help would be to seek out consulting companies which you may need two or three to cover the expertise needed. The other option is a relationship with another county that has the level of expertise needed. They could provide a more hands-on relationship with Ms. Wilt and that would diminish over time once Ms. Wilt gets more experience. He is going to ask Ms. Wilt to attend the Economic Development Council's course.

After some discussion the committee agreed to move forward with contracting with someone to help Ms. Wilt.

The discussion then turned to IDA funding.

Director Osborne asked for a closed session to discuss specific personal matters. Ms. Wilt and Mr. Klein left at this time.

Meeting ended as there was no further business.