

MINUTES BOOKTOWN OF COEYMANS**
September 30, 2014 – Special Town Board Meeting – 7:00pm

A Special Town Board Meeting was held Tuesday, September 30, 2014, at 6:00pm at Town Hall, 18 Russell Avenue, Ravena, New York

TOWN BOARD: Stephen D. Flach, Supervisor
Peter E. Masti, Councilman
George E. Langdon, IV, Councilman
Kenneth A. Burns, Councilman

ABSENT: Thomas E. Dolan, Councilman

VILLAGE BOARD: William Misuraca, Mayor
William Bailey, Trustee
Joel Coye, Trustee

ALSO PRESENT: Diane L. Millious, Town Clerk
Daniel Contento, Interim Police Chief
Larry Conrad, Code Enforcement Officer/Building Inspector
Bill Bruno, Emergency Management Coordinator
Keith Geraldson, WWTP Operator
Henry Traver, Village Highway Superintendent
Virginia Pearson, President - Ravena Rescue Squad
Steven Payne, Coeymans Hollow Fire Company
William Kapusta, Coeymans Hollow Fire Company
Travis Whitbeck, Ravena Fire Company

Supervisor Flach opened the meeting and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA

- Emergency Management

Supervisor Flach asked that Town Clerk Millious read the Notice of Special Board Meeting.

Town Clerk Millious continued by reading the following:

**NOTICE
SPECIAL
TOWN BOARD MEETING**

In compliance with Public Officer's Law, this will inform you that the Town Board of the Town of Coeymans has scheduled an Emergency Management Meeting for Tuesday, September 30, 2014 at 6:00pm at Town Hall, 18 Russell Avenue, Ravena, NY. The purpose of the meeting is that Police Chief Boisvert from the Watervliet Police Department will be speaking in reference to the Albany County 911 Call Center. This meeting is not open to the public, it is emergency personnel only.

SUPERVISOR'S OPENING COMMENT

Supervisor Flach stated that after the meeting that they had a week and a half ago, they went on a fishing expedition to talk about Dispatch with the Sheriff because a week before that they had a meeting with the Sheriff's Deputies, Chief of Police and Senior Telecommunicator and there were some issues with the equipment that they were going to have to come up with money for, which ranged from \$10,000.00 to \$60,000.00. He continued by saying that as they know the Chief of Police has retired and the meeting was for all Emergency Management Personnel in the

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Town and Village and he wanted to get everyone together to talk and express concerns with the possibility of eliminating the Communications Department or letting Communications go to the County. He added that one of the things that were said during the meeting was that the Town does not need the County's equipment and they can do their dispatch without any of their equipment but he does not think that it is right or true in talking to some of the County personnel and it was confirmed to him. He continued by saying that there is a lot about Communications that he does not understand and Village Trustee Bailey had mentioned some things at that meeting that they need to think about as well as there being some other concerns and in turn he invited Ralph Marianni and Kevin Demarest from the County's 911 Dispatch to the meeting to answer questions that they want to understand as a Town Board. He went on by saying that Sergeant Contento is the Senior Officer in the Police Department so he is at the head right now and they are looking for a new Chief and in the interim they as a Board appointed a Police Commission Board until the end of the year and most of the Board agreed that because of the vacancy they wanted to make sure that everything went smoothly with the transition and the three picked were Councilman Masti, Councilman Langdon and Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer Conrad because according to Town Law it had to be 1 or 3 and they chose three. He concluded by say that he would start the meeting with concerns that the Emergency Management Personnel have and invited Bill Bruno, Emergency Management Coordinator to address their concerns.

COMMENTS

Mr. Bill Bruno stated that a lot has gone on in a short period of time and in having some knowledge of it, there are positives and there are concerns in going with the County and continued by stating the following:

- Positive - 911 Will not have to roll-over to the Town of Coeymans, it will be direct to Dispatch.
- Concern – Not knowing the community.
- Concern – 1-2 times a year there is a town-wide incident and they control things without the County because the County serves many other communities as well as Coeymans.
- Concern – The unknown and suddenness of it.
- Positive – 911 will dispatch the fire departments, rescue squad, police, etc., if a seven digit comes in, a Town Dispatcher dispatches.
- Concern – Call volume, large volume of activity not going through 911, which will have to be managed.
- Concern – Cost to transition to the County frequency.

Mr. Bruno stated there are a lot of things that they have to have answers to before they are going to make a decision to go forward.

Mr. Marianni asked if they would like for him to answer some questions.

Supervisor Flach stated that they did and introduced Mr. Ralph Marianni.

Mr. Ralph Marianni stated the following:

- There will not be any cost to transition the Motorola pagers as well as the Motorola radios, any other brands they will have to figure something out; the County puts aside money every year for consolidation and it is money they can put toward reprogramming.
- They are aware of the call volume and looked into it; they will increase their staff by 2 people and have already increased over the past year by 4, which is up 6 since the last consolidation.
- Green Island transition was seamless, Coeymans is a bigger town and there will be more growing pains.
- Not knowing the community is something that they have run into with Watervliet and Cohoes and it is hard but they learn it and they learn it fast because they have to. It will be a lot easier for them to learn the Town of Coeymans than it was to learn two cities.

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Discussion ensued, key concerns were:

- Start-up issues.
- Frequency concerns.
- Volunteer Fire Agency Chief's not getting mobile units.
- A study for weak areas.

Mr. Marianni addressed the concerns as follows:

- Their hope is to give them better coverage, if they don't, they will make sure that they have the same coverage, they won't lose any coverage, and there are ways to keep it the same.
- The project with the 800 megahertz will put them in good shape with two towers in Coeymans Hollow and one going on top of Lafarge and the coverage will be excellent anywhere in town all the way as far as the Village of Catskill.
- The goal for the system was that hopefully you would never need a mobile radio in your vehicle unless you chose; coverage was built with that in mind.
- The system was not built around mobile radios what-so-ever and the whole system was built on portable radio coverage where they tried to exceed any expectations coverage wise.
- The County has done current studies because they just replaced their VHF and have tested different spots in the Town with a portable and so far they have not seen many coverage gaps with the County's system.

Mr. Travis Whitbeck stated that his policy is that every person should have a portable radio and then asked about money being put aside by the County for consolidation.

Mr. Marianni stated that it is \$25,000.00 to take care of odds and ends.

Discussion ensued regarding the cost for portables.

Mr. Marianni stated that many Fire Departments during the transition have been that all of the Officers have a radio and the fire ground and operations are on the VHS side until they get money to pull everyone over to 800. He added that they will always have VHS married with the 800 system, it will still function and if you are on your VHF radio, you will still have a channel that will tunnel its way into the 800 system and get out to a dispatcher in an emergency or anyone on the scene. He continued by saying that the County cannot support everyone having an 800 system radio, there are grants available and if more funding becomes available in the future they will filter it in that direction.

Village Trustee Bailey asked what the expectation is for the channels that they operate and hone on.

Mr. Marianni stated that dispatch wise, they will dispatch on County channels and there will be some reprogramming and the County channel will become the dispatch point and they will have the capability of talking on them and as far as toning out in dispatch, it will be on the County channel.

Village Trustee Bailey voiced his concerns as follows:

- There have been major County-wide events when the County Dispatch has been swamped while the Town functions quite well because they have their own Dispatch.
- The Town of Coeymans is at the far end of the County and when there is a County-wide event, for the first 3-4 days the County tells them they are on their own, for long-term help they will be here but for short-term, the County can't handle the call volume and dispatching.
- The Town of Coeymans has done well because their Communications has been a part of their Emergency System and he does not see it being any different.

Mr. Marianni reiterated that they have increased staffing and will continue to increase staffing.

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Mr. Demarest interjected that the County has always been taking the Town's 911 calls and are handling the emergency calls and what is happening is that they clean them, wash them, identify locations and then ship it to a dispatcher and that work has always been done.

Discussion ensued, concerns were as follows:

- 911 calls are only 15% of the call volume.
- There are multiple other emergency telephone numbers, which are the ones that local people use.
- The Fire Departments do approximately 450 calls a year, Coeymans Hollow does EMS so it is approximately 600 calls total and in an "event" they may do 150 responses in a day, which does not include the Police Department.
- There is a potential for overload.
- Concern if the 7 digit numbers go away and expected to go to 911 only.

Mr. Marianni pointed out the following:

- The 7 digit numbers would still filter to the County as well as them being able to keep their own channels for tactical communications.
- The County will insure that they can use them and the normal course of business will be on the County channel.
- During a major incident, the County would start using the tactical channel and eliminate the crowding on the main channel, which is the benefit of them keeping their systems and the benefit in the future of going to the 800 system is the multiple talk groups.
- The County recognizes the need for capacity, they recognize it and it is the reason they are building it but in the meantime they have other ways to achieve the same goal and for dispatch purposes, on the main channel they will be able to do that on normal days.
- If there is a large incident, they will have to make adjustments on tactical channels, which they have done in Cohoes and Watervliet when they called in more staff to dispatch on a tactical channel and that is all they do until the incident is over. He added that it is not a normal daily function to have more people but they will bring them in and pay the overtime and will never go cheap on the side of overtime.

Village Trustee Bailey inquired about non-emergency because what he is hearing is that the proposal is for emergency traffic only.

Mr. Marianni stated that if the Town of Coeymans wants to consolidate under the County they will handle all traffic which would be everything.

Village Trustee Bailey asked if they will handle the trouble alarm at the Water Plant where you would have to call the Water Plant Operator and handle when the plow trucks want to run a plate so they can find out who owns a car so they can plow.

Mr. Marianni stated that they do the water alarms and everything for other municipalities and it is not an issue and as far as the plow truck, they are not going to run a plate for a DPW worker because it is illegal but if a Police Officer wants it, they will run the plate for him.

Emergency Management Coordinator Bruno stated that he does not believe they are doing it and it is the Police doing it.

Village Trustee Bailey asked if they will do it for Code Enforcement because they can legally run a plate.

Mr. Marianni stated that they will if they need it and it is what they want. He added that if the Town gets rid of the Dispatch Center and it comes over to the County they will perform the functions that they are performing now, aside from clerical.

Village Trustee Bailey continued by addressing the following:

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- The last time this was proposed, the cost was \$200,000.00 and their own Dispatch costs approximately \$230,000.00.
- He does not believe that the County charges Rensselaer, Westerlo, New Scotland and the other Hilltowns for their dispatch, so why would they charge the Town of Coeymans.

Mr. Marianni stated that it is because they are answering the 7 digit lines, running plates, calling Code Enforcement and if they want them to be responsible for just 911 calls; they are bound by law to do it and can't charge for it. He added that they don't have 7 digit lines and they don't do the other functions for them and added that if the Town wants it, it has to be paid for and it is only done for paying municipalities.

Discussion ensued questions and concerns raised were as follows:

- Approximate charge and savings.
- Number of dispatchers.
- Ravena Rescue Squad contract with Town of New Baltimore.
- Dispatching a non-governmental agency.
- Cost to the Village.
- How the cost is determined, i.e. population or call formula.
- Having the County handle 911 calls only and the logistics.
- Re-programming their pagers to scan.
- Frequency issues with the towers.
- The Town maintaining their current infrastructure for events such as an ice storm.
- Cost increases to the Fire Departments, etc. to buy new radios with no savings to the taxpayer.
- Number of off-dispatch channels or fire-ground channels that are non-repeated that the County has access to now.
- Dispatching through 911 and then switching over to another channel.
- Policy and Procedure for dispatching, mutual aid, etc.
- Monthly reports.
- How long the Town of Coeymans would have to pay and if it eventually goes away.
- Line charges for 7 digit numbers.
- EMS Reports.
- Policies and Procedures for Fire Companies.
- Fees for false alarms, school alarms.
- Multiple fire alarms and residential alarms.
- Responsibility for calling people for the multiple alarms.
- Getting snapped by dispatch and told to get off the air.
- Concern with not having radio access during an event in the northern part of the County.
- Number of channels with 800 System and frequencies available.
- Total number of agencies that are dispatched by Albany County.
- Number of dispatchers dedicated to each agency.
- Rolling over to another 911 Center for a mass casualty.
- County of Albany taking \$60,000.00 worth of equipment from the Town's Dispatch Center because they are a secondary PSAP.
- The Sheriff making pledges when the Town had a 911 system and at the time they became a secondary, they were told that they would always be encompassed in this and the calls would be rolled over from 911 to the Town's Dispatcher and now being told that the County will not supply the equipment.
- They are saying the charge will go away but a new Sheriff might change that.
- Period of the Contract.
- A commitment from the County to attend Rural Chief Meetings every month.
- Benefits to rolling into the County system.
- Cohoes does not like the County dispatch, they want their own.
- What the problems are with Cohoes.
- Cost for maintaining additional 800 towers.
- Rumors that there is not enough money right now to maintain the towers that they have.
- Getting dispatched from a 911 rollover if the Center gets overwhelmed.
- Lack of CAD's in police vehicles.

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Mr. Marianni and Mr. Demarest responded to the issues raised as follows.

- They do not determine the cost; it will be between the Supervisor and Sheriff.
- There would be 2 Dispatchers added to the 2015 Budget and they had previously added 2, their staff would increase by 4.
- Ravena Rescue Squad would not be an issue; it is part of what their operations are.
- Dispatching for a non-governmental agency would not be a problem, they dispatch for Mohawk Ambulance and others who operate for profit.
- Any cost to the Village will be determined by the Town, Village residents already have a responsibility because they pay Town taxes.
- There is no formula they do not know where the numbers came from.
- For 911 calls the town would need to listen to the County channel, they will poll the police cars like they do the State Police now and the Fire Departments will be dispatched on the County Fire Control Channel.
- If the Town reprograms their pagers and the County does only 911, the County would not track and of their times or anything, it would be very basic service and if they don't get the dispatch they have no recourse with the County.
- The County experienced frequency issues for 7 years and ended up throwing everything in the garbage and starting over. They went from 2 tower sites to 6 and are planning on 7 and they are pushing toward completing the 800 system because VHS is not practical.
- The County is maintaining the Gedney Hill tower and will continue to do so and can only maintain what he is told about.
- They would encourage the Town to keep their current local infrastructure until they make a decision to convert to an 800 mega-hertz system in the future, where there are plenty of spectrums for everyone to use where there are multiple channels and by doing so the Town could save on infrastructure costs.
- Initially there would be a cost increase to the Fire Departments, etc. until everyone has the 800 frequency and when they have it, the 3 County VHF channels will be dedicated solely for fire service.
- The County does not have access to any non-repeated channels; they could talk on the repeated channels.
- The County would be available to the Fire Companies for what they might need and would have times, etc. for their records and are currently trying to put a CAD terminal in every station.
- Mr. Demarest will meet with every Fire Chief and EMS person that is in charge and they would tell him what they want and he will build it into the CAD System exactly as they want and it would be a unit based system that the dispatcher would automatically follow.
- Monthly reports are done on a monthly basis and given to everyone, which is an example of what they would get as opposed to them having just 911 as well as the seven digits.
- The fee to the Town definitely goes away; the term is between the Supervisor and the Sheriff.
- The line charge for 7 digit numbers are not absorbed by the County but there are ways to do it that can be cost effective but it would have to be investigated.
- EMS reports can be pulled up on a tablet by connecting to an EMS charts terminal and the information is there as soon as they clear the calls.
- They will have to look at how Fire Companies do business to determine Policy and Procedures.
- There is no fee for false alarms, school alarms would be a number dedicated to only them.
- Multiple alarms would be left as they have in place for now but initially they would like to set it up so they are specific.
- The County dispatchers will be calling for the multiple alarms and it is done for agencies that pay them and they try to match the services that are already in place.
- If you are in an emergency, you will not be told to get off the air; the purpose is to give the service to the person that needs it the most.
- During an event in the northern part of the County, the Town would maintain access because they would request them to go to a secondary channel to conduct their business and they would be on a different frequency.

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- The County is slotted for approximately 25 additional talk channels with half going to fire and half going to the police, there is a third frequency for a big incident.
- They are dispatching for Green Island Police, on the Sheriff's channel, the Sheriff Department and State Police for emergency calls, Watervliet Police, Cohoes Police, Watervliet Fire, Watervliet Arsenal, Green Island Fire with Watervliet on the same frequency, and Cohoes Fire on its own frequency.
- They have six dispatchers on duty with 1 supervisor, 1 dispatcher dedicated to the fire channel and 1 dedicated to the paid fire channels, 2 phone call takers and 2 police dispatchers with one monitoring the Sheriffs and Watervliet and the other monitors Cohoes and the 800 airport unit. When there is a major incident, one Dispatcher takes the incident and the other backs them up and if there is an influx of 911 calls, the operators answering phones rolls it to a fire dispatcher and then the next fire dispatcher, then to the police dispatchers and ultimately to the Supervisor and if they get a mass casualty incident where they get 20-40 calls coming in the 911 system rolls over to the next 911 Center.
- When a roll-over is necessary, there are multiple ways through the Verizon CO and AT & Associates that calls are routed to various locations, wireless calls go to the State Police and hard lines go to Colonie and beyond Colonie, they go to Schenectady County.
- The County would be taking \$60,000.00 worth of equipment because they have to answer the Town's 911 calls now and they aren't going to invest in the infrastructure in the future if they are doing the work now and the seven digit numbers are the Town's responsibility.
- The County does roll over the 911 calls and a lot of it comes from prior to wireless 911 being pushed into next generation 911 and the funding being cut from the State drastically and they can't afford to supply everyone with the equipment.
- A new Sheriff could not change it because it is in a Contract.
- The Contract says that it covers for 5 years of services and after that it says that they will never pay again and it becomes a County Resolution or County Law.
- The County would commit to having someone at each monthly Rural Chief's Meeting.
- Benefits to rolling into the County system are quicker times, increase of services to Fire Departments, fire and EMS services get more of a fair shake in everything.
- Cohoes is not willing to do anything that the other agencies are doing, the County has done everything that they can to do as much as they can without degrading service to someone else and it is all they can do. There is not anything that the Town will need that he won't be able to do; Cohoes has some very odd things that they want.
- The biggest problem is that Cohoes wanted the County to fill out their Incident Reports for them and another issue was the radio system, which they keep putting back and there are problems that they can't correct and other things that they request, the County does not do and he tells people up-front what they will or won't do.
- The cost for maintaining additional 800 towers will be from the 911 surcharge along with the City of Albany and Town of Colonie, it is split three ways.
- There are not any budgetary issues with the towers or communication system, they Bonded 37 million dollars and there are ten-year maintenance agreements on the towers and they have paid for 10 years of service and when the service is turned on in 2016, for ten years they don't pay another dime for anything that is wrong with it. After that the County, City of Albany and Town of Colonie are going to take what they are paying now to maintain their systems and put it into an account and in ten years they are going to be able to build up that money, which is roughly 10.3 million dollars so their account is started at the 10-year mark so when they have to start paying for things, they have 10 million dollars in reserve. In ten years, the way the maintenance plan works, that system is as new as it was the day it was installed because it's not just maintenance, it is also upgrades, everything gets replaced on the 10th year from the transmitters to the antennas, microwave, batteries, etc.
- For 911 rollovers, they will push it back through the CAD and it alleviates the dispatcher from taking the call but can see it on the CAD screen and put the call out and it is something that generally does not happen during the regular course of business. When the 800 megahertz system is in effect and the other two counties join in, their plan is that when Albany County is inundated, they want to shift the County away but they don't have the technology right now to do that and it is what they are building now. There is no reason if the technology is in place that a connecting County couldn't dispatch the Town

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if they have the proper mapping and radio system it does not matter where the call comes from as long as they get you to the right location.

- The County can help with a lot of things, they cannot provide the internet access that they need but they can probably provide a great deal of equipment to install the CAD's in the cars.

Supervisor Flach asked if there were any other questions or comments.

Mr. Mark Deyo asked where they are in the process, if they are just fact finding or further along in the process and if there is a timeframe for making a decision.

Supervisor Flach stated that his budget is out and part of the problem that he had with the budget is that he didn't have a Police or Dispatch Budget. He continued by saying that it is a Tentative Budget and they are probably going to make some changes but basically what he did is, he did the Police Budget for a little less because they talked about 2-2-1 and a shift in between and they had some issues with Officer's going off to different things that the Town paid for and for the Dispatch part of it, he reduced it thinking that they will have a daytime and evening person with part-time people to cover the weekends and as far as a midnight shift, they were not sure.

Mr. Deyo inquired about the timeframe and asked if he is looking to do this within the Town's fiscal constraint for the calendar year.

Supervisor Flach stated that there are three months before the beginning of the year.

Mr. Deyo asked if he is looking to make a decision within three months.

Village Trustee Bailey interjected that he has to make a decision in a month and a half.

Supervisor Flach stated that they have to make a decision on what they are going to do, whether they are going to cut Dispatch in half, get rid of the midnight shift, or go all the way with the County. He added that he didn't want to go with the County without having an Emergency Management Meeting and in the meantime they have seen that the local numbers are important to a lot of people and they are trying to figure it out but right now he does not have an answer and they are going to have to do some serious considerations.

Village Trustee Bailey stated that what he is proposing so far would be for part-time to cover the weekends during the evening and not have a nighttime shift but the problem would be during the daytime, someone would be here to handle the seven digits and then no one at night.

Supervisor Flach stated that he has talked to Albany County about the possibility of doing just a midnight shift, the call volume during that time is pretty low and they have talked about it for a few years. He continued by saying that this is what he was thinking when he put his Budget out and he discussed it with a couple of Board Members and after the Preliminary Budget comes out, they are going to maybe have to do some changes and this is why there is a Tentative Budget.

Village Trustee Bailey asked how much he put in the budget to cover from 7-11.

Supervisor Flach stated that he put full-time for what they would need.

Village Trustee Bailey stated that last year it was approximately \$230,000.00 and then asked what his guess would be.

Supervisor Flach stated that the Communications Budget will show \$88,000.00 with keeping in mind that Dawne is in the Police Budget and not in the Telecommunicator's Budget, which is how it has always been. He added that he can sit down with him and discuss the numbers because he was not sure of the numbers and reiterated that it is his Tentative Budget and what he personally thought they should do.

Village Trustee Bailey asked if he had the cost in the Budget for the County next year.

Supervisor Flach stated that he didn't go all County in his budget and he has not had conversation with them on just doing the midnight part of it.

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Councilman Burns stated that the Emergency Personnel are the experts and they as a Board are trying to absorb as much as they can so they can make a good decision and their top priority is safety and they have heard a lot of positive things by going to the County with their second top priority being money and it is their obligation to save the taxpayers as much money as possible while giving them the best possible service. He then asked the Emergency Personnel how they feel about it.

Mr. Steven Payne stated that he has said from the start that he is all for positive change and he does not believe that they can make the right decisions in a month and a half, they don't even know how the system is going to work, if it's going to work and it would be nice to see the maps of what the radio coverage is. He continued by saying that maybe they could program a few pagers in each department and get on a trial basis and see how and where it works because they have had many issues.

Councilman Burns asked how they would start doing it and putting it in place.

Emergency Management Coordinator Bruno interjected that they said they have a map and it is done by a radio company and it will tell you where the coverage will be.

Mr. Payne suggested that they come up with a plan but he does not think that it can be done correctly by January 1st and if they want to put it in for the following year's budget they can start working on it now and get the bugs worked out of it. He added that hopefully by then they will know what it is going to cost to switch numbers, maintain towers, etc.

Councilman Burns stated that they all will have to make it a top priority and do some investigation so next year they can make a good decision on what is best.

Mr. Payne stated that he can only speak for himself but he thinks that everyone wants something that is going to work better than what they have but it can't be figured out in a month and a half.

Mr. Deyo stated that he is in the same boat and he is representing Coeymans Fire Department and he does not make those decisions, their Chief and Board of Commissioners do and he would hope that as they continue and meetings happen with the Fire Chiefs and Marvin from the Rescue Squad so the decisions makers are on the upper level. He added that he will relay everything that they talked about but he can't tell them to go ahead and hopefully going forward, it is another part of the process and the meeting has been very informational. He concluded by saying that he can only speak for himself right now and he is not in a position to tell them one way or the other how Coeymans Fire stands on it.

Mr. Payne reiterated that in a month and a half before the Final Budget has to be in, there is no way that they can do it or tell them that the pagers are going to work.

Emergency Management Coordinator Bruno stated that because the County captures the 911 calls, maybe there is a way to put them on the CAD for 911 and give each agency an extra pager with the scanning option, which might be some work on the County's part because they would have to write them in as a tentative player but it would give them some idea time wise when the County dispatches them to an accident when they are dispatched on the County channel and what it is vs. the Town channel as well as how good the reception is. He added that this way they would have some field diagnostics on their side of the equation and it would be a really good idea if it is doable.

Village Trustee Bailey stated that hopefully they would save some money but they are going to lose the local feel when someone calls a dispatcher where it means something to the dispatcher and will not mean anything to a County dispatcher because it gets very impersonal when you deal with the County. He added that there is personal knowledge of who they are dealing with and they are going to lose it and it has to be weighed against monetary and operational benefits.

Mr. Payne stated that they thought the Town antenna on Gedney Hill was going to be the greatest thing ever and they tested it and it worked real good in Coeymans Hollow but they found a lot of spots that it didn't work and then there were costs when they had to buy boosters for home alerts for people in certain areas because there is no way they can hear either tower but they get the County perfect. He continued by saying that by doing a test, it will give each department an idea

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of the cost to modify their pagers and whatever they have to do because it is going to have to be written in each department's budget to reprogram pagers and reiterated that in a month and a half they can't do it.

Supervisor Flach stated that they need to get the cost from each department for the radios.

Emergency Management Coordinator Bruno stated that if they are Motorola pagers, it won't cost anything to convert them and as far as the radios he does not know.

Mr. Payne stated that they program their own and if it is Motorola they are good with that too but he does not know about the older pagers.

Mr. Marianni stated that he can cover any pager reprogramming in the service contracts.

Emergency Management Coordinator Bruno asked Mr. Marianni what he thinks about a study where they put some pagers on to see firsthand what they are going to get.

Mr. Marianni stated that as far as adding extra tone-outs to their consoles right now, he does not want to put that procedure in place and as far as reprogramming some of the pagers to try them he would say yes. He added that his advice would be to listen to where the tones are going off on a daily basis and they have volume on there and he will put the County's frequency on anyone's pager because it is a benefit to them whether they come over or not and it is a benefit to the agency whether they come over or not because if they lose a channel, they can borrow one of the County's, which is a positive thing to get it into their radios. He continued by saying that if they do it or not, he is all for helping them get those channels in their radios as a back-up but as far as testing the pagers, he would say get it in as many radios as possible and have them monitor where they are and aren't going off and there should be enough volume to test it like that.

Emergency Management Coordinator Bruno asked if he will put the toner codes in the system for them.

Mr. Marianni stated that he would and it is easy enough to do but he does not want to add the extra step of dispatching calls.

Emergency Management Coordinator Bruno asked if it is a possibility if they say that they only want 911 services and then asked how they would manage it.

Mr. Marianni stated that they really don't have a choice to say no and they would put the codes in the County consoles.

Highway Superintendent Searles asked if the County can do anything for Highway Departments.

Mr. Marianni stated that they don't answer for any Highway Departments other than the County.

Councilman Langdon asked Mr. Marianni in his experience what the turn-around time would be to do it as well as what the process is.

Mr. Marianni stated that personally he would not want to do anything in a month in a half and he does not think that the Sheriff would go for it and it is going to take a little work to go over what everyone has and once they can identify the differences from what they do now, they can identify the adjustment time but he would not encourage a month and a half. He added that he can do something for him in a month and a half but he is not going to tell them that it works perfectly.

Sr. Communicator Dawne LaMountain stated that with State Telephone for a roll-over it is \$200.00 a month and \$250.00 a line for however many line they roll-over and they said that there are two ways that they can do it, they can put it into an account where every phone call with State Telephone that is a long-distance charge they can put in an account for the Town to pay or it can get kicked back each taxpayer. She continued by saying that she heard earlier that they have lines to State Telephone and then asked if it is something that would be set up that they would get lines directly from State Telephone that they wouldn't be rolled-over.

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Mr. Marianni stated that this is one of the things that he doesn't know and he thinks there is a way to avoid all those charges completely and he will do everything he can to do that and he is fairly confident that they can do that but he does not want to say yes to have to come back later and say no and he will need a day to figure it out and he will let her know.

Interim Chief Contento stated that he said something about putting CAD in the Fire Departments and then asked about the Police Department and whether or not they are going to lose their system.

Mr. Marianni stated that they will keep one screen and even if the County took all of their equipment, that wasn't the equipment they were taking from them.

Interim Chief Contento stated that the equipment belongs to the City of Albany.

Mr. Marianna stated that the County buys it for them and the County owns the license but the City of Albany maintains it and the County owns all CAD licensing and equipment and they will leave the license in place regardless. He added that the web version is not licensed and you can put it on any computer that touches the County network, which is anything in the Police Department.

Interim Chief Contento stated that what he is curious about is when they need numbers from previous history for reporting, will they have to call the County every time.

Mr. Marianni stated that they can log on to any of their computers and look once he installs it and the web version is free and there is a lighter version that will do anything most Officers will want to do, which can be put on any one of their computers as well as mobile versions being available and there are other new things that he doesn't think anyone is aware of.

Councilman Langdon stated that at the last meeting they asked for numbers, which they have now and there are a lot of 7 digit numbers that are used a lot, which immediately raised a red flag to them and this is why they are doing an investigation and one of the things that he is curious about and interested in feedback from them is, from what he understands the 7 digit number doesn't have locator or anything like that connected to it.

Emergency Management Coordinator Bruno stated that the 7 digit number system they all had when they built the Dispatch Center, which was a part-time center and then it became a full-time center as well as 911 with the Town of Coeymans being the first community in the County to be on 911 and they had it for years and they were never a primary PSAP, they were secondary. He added that when they first put 911 on-line there was no such thing as emergency medical dispatch, the County was supposed to take the call and then transfer the call to a Town of Coeymans Dispatcher but when emergency medical dispatch came along, which is a good program and helps with diagnostics as well as helping the person calling to do some things, it delayed the call and people who regularly use the 911 System know it will take longer to get help and it is built in their culture that the 7 digit number is the better way to go. He then asked if Watervliet or Cohoes had a 7 digit system or whether they relied on 911.

Mr. Marianni stated that they were pretty heavy on the 911 and the heavy 7 digit was the Village of Green Island and what they did is they took 2 months and had meetings with the public and pushed them towards 911. He added that it used to be that there was a limited number of 911 circuits coming into the building and if there were 4 circuits, they would not be able to answer a 5th call but it does not work that way anymore, there are unlimited circuits and what they do no matter what you need, ambulance, fire truck or police, call 911, they capture the data and process it faster. He continued by saying that it was a big adjustment in Green Island, they used to call the desk at the Fire Department and wake the guys for a fire directly and it was that way for 30-40 years, which was big to overcome.

Councilman Langdon stated that he has lived here for 30 years and he didn't know there were 7 digit numbers but obviously a lot of people do and if the people are using it, they need it, which is how he is looking at it.

Emergency Management Coordinator Bruno stated that it is a quicker service dialing 7 digit and if you call a Coeymans Dispatcher, if you are having a heart attack on Main Street Ravena, an ambulance will be dispatched and they will call for a County paramedic and if you call 911 they

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will EMD it and turn it over to Coeymans and they will ask the same questions and then dispatch it.

Councilman Langdon stated that in the event that the 911 was not pushed down here, it sounds like when there is a phone call they already have an address and location and they are just looking for the nature of the call and dispatching directly and then asked why it is not quicker.

Emergency Management Coordinator Bruno stated that it is not quicker because the County isn't dispatching the Town.

Councilman Langdon stated that in the event that they give them the 911, they would be dispatching and he has to know if it is the best thing for the community or not.

Emergency Management Coordinator Bruno stated that it is and as far as the 7 digit, that is what the culture is today and as was previously mentioned, if they were going to go with the County, there needs to be a massive educational blitz to call 911 because the 7 digit is no longer the quick way.

Officer John Myers stated that they gets calls for domestic violence and when they get there the suspect is not there and they get asked what they should do if he come back and the Officer gives their card with the 7 digit number because it gets them there faster.

Councilman Langdon said what he is asking is in the big picture, long term if it would be quicker with a call 911 and they dispatch directly to a car, because it seems to him that it should be quicker and a better system.

Emergency Management Coordinator Bruno stated that it should be quicker.

Trustee Bailey stated that a fire call, a 911 to the County or a 7 digit would be the same amount of time.

Councilman Masti interjected that one thing that they would have with 911, is you would have someone on the other end to help you on the airway.

Officer John Myers stated that to get the community used to it, it will take a long time because it is built into the culture of the community that when you have a problem you call 2059 or 2033, you don't call 911 and it is how the people in the community think.

Emergency Management Coordinator Bruno stated that he is a responder and when he has made the call, he has never called 911 because he is knowledgeable of the system and if you want quicker response you call the 7 digit number.

Officer John Myers stated that in Columbia County it is the same way and their 911 and Sheriff's Dispatch are in the same room but are two different entities and it takes longer if you dial 911 and hardly anyone in the County uses 911 because it takes so long.

Councilman Langdon stated that he has ascertained and it seems to him that if the County does the 911 and dispatches directly from the Sheriff's Department, he thinks it would be good to keep people downstairs answering the 7 digits, which could also dispatch directly to their cars. He added that they could pick up both frequencies in the cars and maybe save some of the costs of them doing all the other things and instead of paying it there they can pay dispatchers if they keep it downstairs for a while.

Emergency Management Coordinator Bruno stated that if they put scanning pagers in the Fire Department and ambulances he does not know how they would dispatch 911 calls to the Police and they could dispatch 911 on their frequency and the County could dispatch them on their channel.

Interim Chief Contento stated that he is assuming that the Police would be dispatched on the home channel.

Mr. Marianni stated that was correct.

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Interim Chief Contento asked if they would have to incur some kind of a cost for a repeater to hit the County or will they be able to hit off their tower.

Mr. Marianni stated that they should be able to use the County's channel right now if they are programmed correctly and he does not know if it has been updated since they changed things so he will have to see their program and it should not be an issue.

Interim Chief Contento stated that he wanted to make sure that there would not be some kind of a cost for a repeater system in the cars or towers.

Mr. Marianni stated that with the radios in the car, he knows that there is no issue and with the portable there are probably going to be some spots that are weaker than others but he has not found anything that is unusable or any issues if they are used in the right way and they will definitely get a better signal in the Hollow with the County's channel.

Councilman Masti asked if ultimately it will be the 800 megahertz system that will take over within the next few years.

Emergency Management Coordinator Bruno stated that there has been a survey and meetings and the rural Chiefs are writing a grant that they have been asked to be a part of and there is a lot going on to ramp up the 800 but when they are actually going to be there he doesn't know.

Mr. Marianni stated that it will be the summer of 2016.

Emergency Management Coordinator Bruno stated that they are going to take whatever equipment they can get, mobile units for their apparatus, portables for the Chiefs and they will keep the portables and apparatus that they have now to use on VHF.

Councilman Masti interjected that this is something that the Fire Departments are going to be budgeted for within the next two years.

Emergency Management Coordinator Bruno stated that at \$5,000.00 a radio, they will have to come up with a plan on how they want to address it.

Mr. Travis Whitbeck interjected that there is more than start-up costs, there will be sustainability costs because eventually they are going to break something.

Emergency Management Coordinator Bruno stated that he thinks the 800 is a separate discussion unless they are going to dispatch on VHF and then asked if the County is still going to dispatch on VHF.

Mr. Marianni stated that they are going to dispatch on VHF and they won't be using 800 until 2015-2016.

Interim Chief Contento stated that 2015 is only three months away.

Mr. Marianni stated that it is not for the Town of Coeymans, it is for the city and town of Colonie, Watervliet, Cohoes and Green Island because the radio system is built in two coverage areas, a metro area and county-wide area so the two systems don't interfere with one another. He added that the metro area will be finished prior to the county area because all of their sites exist and in the county they have to construct from the ground up in the middle of the woods.

Interim Chief Contento stated that as far as equipment, he talks about the County bearing some of the cost for the Fire Departments for mobile units and portables and then asked about the Police Department.

Mr. Marianni stated that the Police Department made out much better than the Fire Departments.

Emergency Management Coordinator Bruno interjected that the Firemen aren't too happy about the Police Department making out better.

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Mr. Marianni stated that the project came in stages and the original plan was to cut the Police over first because the Fire Departments that they dispatch for were happy with what they had and then they got extra money and put it out to those who wanted to be part of it. He continued by saying that the first plan was to satisfy Coeymans, Watervliet and Green Island Fire and PD's and get them off and on a signal channel as opposed to using all different frequencies.

Emergency Management Bruno stated that in fast-forwarding to 2016 with the 800 megahertz he still has a beeper on his side and then asked if they are going to dispatch over VHF.

Mr. Marianni stated that paging will remain VHF.

Emergency Management Bruno stated that it will not have any effect on dispatching but will be for two-way communications.

Mr. Marianni stated that was true and they just released an 800 megahertz pager last month and they don't even know if it works.

Emergency Management Bruno stated that their dispatching aspect, other than the County acknowledging on the radio, will not change with the 800 system because they are going to keep their VHF system and have dual systems with 800 radios in their apparatus and their own system with pagers on their sides.

Councilman Masti stated that he does not want to see the Town investing thousands of dollars on upgrading it and then in two years having to spend thousands more for the 800 system and if they can invest in getting their pagers upgraded and it will last for 10 years, it would be good and they could eventually start working on getting the other system.

Emergency Management Bruno stated that if they keep the system that they have and the Town runs it, his suspicion is that they will put the 800 radios in their apparatus for free and they will collect dust because they will stay on the VHF system.

Mr. Marianni interjected that if they don't get the 800 system, they won't get any radios from the County and the Sheriff is very clear on that.

Emergency Management Bruno stated that they would take the equipment and use it and the County will have to maintain their VHF system.

Councilman Masti asked if the mobile units will go in the trucks and if they will keep their pagers and portable radios.

Mr. Marianni stated that the pagers always stay.

Mr. Steven Payne stated that the pagers will stay and over time, everything will go to 800.

Emergency Management Bruno stated that they will have to upgrade the system with 800 equipment for them to use the 800 system.

Councilman Masti asked how long are they looking before they have to do that and how long do they have to get it done.

Village Trustee Bailey stated that they don't have to do it.

Emergency Management Coordinator Bruno stated that if they are going to use the 800 system and get the equipment, the Dispatch Center will have to upgrade.

Mr. Marianni stated that if they have four channels, they would have to buy four extra mobile radios to run the console.

Emergency Management Coordinator Bruno stated that it would not be a big expense for the Town to go to the 800 system.

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Mr. Marianni stated that it would be \$3,000.00 to \$4,000.00 and the mobile radios they can get a very cheap version to work with the console.

Village Trustee Bailey interjected that moving to 800 is optional.

Emergency Management Coordinator Bruno stated that they will all have initial tie-in costs and they will all be given equipment but if they want more, they will have to pay for it.

Mr. Steven Payne stated that if they go all 800, they won't have to maintain the towers because the towers would go away and the radio equipment cost will go away.

Mr. Marianni stated that there will be a trade-off in cost for the towers to buy the new equipment.

Mr. Steven Payne stated that there would be some savings, but there is going to be some cost.

Councilman Masti interjected that he does not want them to invest in something that is going to be obsolete in two years.

Mr. Steven Payne stated that neither does any of the Fire Companies, Rescue Squad or Police Department and no one wants to spend thousands of dollars for equipment that they will have to throw away in two years.

Councilman Masti stated that as long as they are getting a good bang for their buck and keeping everyone on the same channel to talk and continued by saying that through meetings like this, they all need to be on the same channel so they can talk and figure it out over the next 6 months so when they do make the change, it is going to be smooth.

Mr. Steven Payne stated that he thinks there was a lot of good discussion and ideas but there is a lot more that has to be proved and researched.

Supervisor Flach asked when they can meet again as Emergency Management because obviously in a month and a half they can't do it.

Councilman Masti asked that they take it back to their own departments, fire, rescue, police to discuss and hash it out and in turn they can get together to find out what they came up with for their individual departments.

Emergency Management Coordinator Bruno interjected that they have to come up with a plan on how they are going to move forward and they need to document their issues to see if they can work through them or not.

Mr. Steven Payne asked if there was a way to get a County coverage map because it might relieve a lot of people's beliefs of where the radio is or isn't going to work, they are pretty good guides and it's a whole lot easier if you have some proof and evidence.

Mr. Marianni stated that he will forward the maps.

Supervisor Flach stated that he will make sure that everyone gets it and then asked if he can get some numbers for the next time they meet.

Mr. Steven Payne suggested that they get together again in a month and that way he can get some information back for State Telephone, Albany County, etc. because there is no way that they can make a change in a month and a half.

Supervisor Flach asked that the Fire Departments get together their concerns about changing radios, frequencies, etc. and they will have more discussion.

Village Trustee Bailey stated that he thinks the Dispatch Center should keep track of different functions such as communication with the school and school buses, which he does not think that the County will do for them and it is a local aspect of having their local dispatch.

Supervisor Flach interjected that it is one reason that they have to have someone there during the day.

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Mr. Steven Payne stated that even the Highway Department has different needs and at night they are quiet but in a snowstorm or rainstorm when everything gets washed out, they have needs.

Emergency Management Coordinator Bruno stated that they might even need their own person to dispatch and bigger Town Highway Departments have them.

Village Trustee Bailey stated that many times it is the dispatcher that calls out and advises of a report of an icy road and the need for a sander.

Mr. Marianni stated that if someone were to call in and say that a road needed attention, they would contact County Highway for the incident, not by radio but by an on-call number, which is normal and they would do that.

Village Trustee Bailey reiterated that they lose the local aspect and they know who each other is.

Mr. Marianni stated that he gets that and he is not going to say that they are not going to lose it.

Code Enforcement Officer/Building Inspector Conrad interjected that there are sacrifices but there are also benefits that are very promising.

Mr. Steven Payne reiterated that they should schedule another meeting in a month.

Supervisor Flach stated that he would come up with a date for late October and he will e-mail it to everyone to see if it is okay and then thanked everyone for coming out and added that he wishes they had done it sooner.

The Emergency Management Meeting concluded.

Time – 8:03pm

Respectfully Submitted,

APPROVED – As Read November 10, 2014


Diane L. Millious, Town Clerk