

MINUTES BOOKTOWN OF COEYMANS
March 17, 2015 – Town Board Workshop – 6:00pm**

A Town Board Workshop was held Tuesday, March 17, 2015, at 6:00pm at Town Hall, 18 Russell Avenue, Ravena, New York

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

ABSENT: Thomas E. Dolan, Councilman

ALSO PRESENT: Diane L. Millious, Town Clerk
Peter J. McKenna Police Chief
Ralph Mariani, Albany County Sheriff Department
Kevin Demarest, Albany County Sheriff Department

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

AGENDA

- Albany County Sheriff's Department – Dispatch

SUPERVISOR'S OPENING COMMENT

Supervisor Flach stated that they began talking to Albany County in September 2014 and in October the County requested a letter requesting the feasibility of Albany County taking over Dispatch after they met with them. He added that the Board did a motion to do that as a formal request to check on the feasibility, they met with Inspector Ralph Mariani and Emergency Management Personnel and it was realized that it could not be done by January 2015 and in October when he put together his Tentative Budget he included for Albany County to take over Communications. He continued by saying that last year Communications was over budget by \$48,000.00, which didn't necessarily prompt this but it was a fact and there was over \$30,000.00 in equipment that was going to need to be upgraded and paid for. He went on by saying that in November they adopted the Budget that would let Communications run to June of 2015 with a contingency of having enough to go through August. He added that they had one meeting where most of the Police and Telecommunicators showed up and since then they have had numerous meetings including the Budget Hearing and there have only been a few Communication employees that were there and hardly a comment about transferring Dispatch by the general public. He continued by saying that transfer of function is to meet with the County, Chief of Police, Town Board and the Union to discuss full-time employees moving to the County, which is a part of the process, the County is working with Fire Companies regarding 911 grids and radios and the Police operational issues will be worked out with the Board, Chief of Police and Albany County. He went on by saying that they are working on the possibility of possibly creating a Clerk position and/or interior and exterior phone so if the general public needed to come into the Police Department, they can. He continued by saying that they know it is a hot issue with Communication folks and they understand it, they also know that there are jobs at stake but they have tried really hard to make sure that their full-time personnel have what they need if they choose to go to the County and as far as the part-time, the County has said that they will look at part-timers if they put in their applications and he thinks that they have tried to help in that area. He concluded by saying that last week they passed a resolution to begin the process of contracting with the Albany County Sheriff's Department, which is the beginning of the process where they will sit down and negotiate what the County will provide for service and what the Communication full-timers will receive as salaries if and when they go to the County. He then asked if the Board had anything to add.

TOWN BOARD COMMENTS

Councilman Masti stated that he believed that the part-timers leaving the Town would start by being on call and then work up to part-time.

Mr. Ralph Mariani stated that their part-timers are not scheduled and when anything goes to mandatory overtime, this is when they get called off a seniority list, which is an agreement between the Union and the County to let them have part-time, which they didn't have until recently and at times they get a lot of mandatory overtime.

Councilman Burns stated that he has asked the question and gotten as good an answer that he can get for now and added that his concern, and it is a lot of concern from people that he has talked to, is that they are going into a contract for 3 years with the Town's Dispatchers and after the 3 years are up they pay nothing, the County absorbs the whole thing. He continued by saying that he asked if there is any way of getting it in writing that after 3 years they would not get hit with them saying for example they need another \$200,000.00 to keep going and he was assured that they didn't see that happening, it hasn't happened in Cohoes or Watervliet and if something like that did happen, they would have to give 18 months' notice.

Mr. Mariani stated that there is a clause in the current contract for 18 months and there is also a non-appropriations clause, which has to exist in case the Legislature stops funding the Sheriff's Office and every contract that they have has that. He added that in speaking with the Sheriff, he knows that his intention is to not charge anyone and he will bring it back to him, he does not have an issue with that language but he is not in a position to guarantee it right now. He continued by saying that they have no intention of charging after the contract has expired and it has never even been discussed and reiterated that he does not see it as an issue at all.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Supervisor Flach stated that it is a Workshop and normally they don't have public comment but they wanted to hear from the people and some they have already heard from but should feel free to comment again and if the Board can't answer a question, Mr. Mariani should be able to.

Councilman Masti interjected that anyone wishing to speak should state their name.

Councilman Burns encouraged people to speak and ask questions because now is the time to do it.

Emergency Management Coordinator Bruno stated that it has been quite some time since the Emergency Response Committee has been together with the Board to discuss this. He added that Chief Telecommunicator Demarest attended a Five Chief's Meeting, which was a great help at the Medway/Grapeville Fire District a while back and some things have changed that he had learned from Mr. Demarest that night that they were unaware of. He continued by asking when the transfer will happen because it sounds like there is no firm date and/or if they are 100% confident that it is going to happen.

Supervisor Flach stated that he feels confident that it is going to happen and they are looking at some time in June, tentatively they were thinking June 1st. He added that during the transition they talked about making sure everything is running smoothly and have someone still at the Police Station in case there was an overlap and it is their plan at this point.

Emergency Management Coordinator Bruno stated that as far as the future of the Town's frequencies, the Town maintains the police frequency, several fire frequencies and the Town's communication frequencies and infrastructure such as repeaters, towers, and a console in the basement and they may want to have some kind of a Dispatch presence in case of a significant incident. He continued by asking if the Town intends to maintain them because they are going to still need the frequencies for a large event or weather event with the entire county active and added that it is important for the first response community to have these frequencies available for the foreseeable future until there is a change of technology and they will no longer be needed.

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Supervisor Flach stated that the answer is absolutely and added that he has spoken with the Chief of Police about the repeater and that kind of thing if they do have a County failure when they will still have to communicate with each other, fire and ambulance and they understand that. He continued by saying that before they change it over they will do whatever they need to do to make sure that it is in place.

Emergency Management Coordinator Bruno stated that when they met in Town Hall, the County was only going to dispatch over a Albany County frequency and at the Medway/Grapeville Meeting he learned from Mr. Demerest that it changed because there are some issues with coverage, particularly east of Rte. 9W and he wants to know if they are still on-line to use both frequencies for simulcast and then asked what their intention is.

Mr. Mariani stated that they would patch together on the local Ravena tower that provides the Town's coverage with the County's so it will go over both channels and that way they won't lose anything that they have now, if anything they will gain from the extra tower sites that the County has in place on Gedney Hill. He added that they are on Gedney Hill as well as the Town so Gedney is not really a necessity but Ravena is and he would encourage them to keep it in place for a foreseeable future so they can use it and he wouldn't want to see a degradation of anyone's pager coverage and until the County can provide the same coverage, that tower needs to stay in place.

Emergency Management Coordinator Bruno asked if they will recognize the reprogramming of pagers.

Mr. Mariani stated that they would, they are going to enhance their pager coverage because they are going to be paged on the County channel as well as the Ravena channel so there will be a total of approximately 7 sites at that point and no matter where they are driving around, their pagers will work a lot better than if they were just off the Ravena tower and Gedney Hill Tower so he would definitely do that and as he said before the County will take care of it with no cost to the Town.

Emergency Management Coordinator Bruno stated that they talked about frequency reprogramming and when they go forward with it he thinks that it is important to start talking to the Fire Departments particularly because logistically they will need some time to make this happen and he is not sure how it will be if they switch too soon and then asked if they will be in position for those units to be on that frequency or not and reiterated that they need to talk about.

Supervisor Flach asked Mr. Mariani if they started reprogramming some things.

Mr. Mariani stated that they hadn't yet and they need to have a meeting sooner than later to start working it out with the Fire Departments and Police Department.

Supervisor Flach asked if it will be Kevin Demarest who gets in touch and meets with the Fire Departments for reprogramming.

Mr. Mariani stated that it will be both of them and they need to know what dates and times work for them and they will make themselves available and will bring the Radio Shop along to answer any type of questions.

Supervisor Flach asked if he needs to advise the Fire Departments that they need to get together with him and Kevin.

Mr. Mariani stated that if they can get together as a group and give some dates and times that they are going to be together it would be what's best or they can do it individually and added that it should be whatever works for them.

Supervisor Flach stated that he doesn't know the Fire Department's schedules.

Emergency Management Coordinator Bruno stated that it has to be between the Fire Chief's and Albany County and the last time they met there was no charge, which was also for the ambulances and ambulance pagers.

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Mr. Mariani stated that they will come to an agreement as to how many days they are going to be here with the Radio Shops and it will be three days free and however many they can get through in those days he is fine with it.

Councilman Masti asked how it works with calls when they are changing the radio frequencies over.

Emergency Management Coordinator Bruno stated that he thinks it will scan over two frequencies and the Coeymans channel and even though it is scanning, they should get it.

Councilman Masti asked if there will be any time that they wouldn't be able to use it.

Emergency Management Coordinator Bruno stated that he doesn't think so and as far as the radio reprogramming, it's up to the Departments, frequency one, the one that is always on, they may want to be the priority channel, which currently now is Coeymans Fire Patrol and they may want to change frequencies for radio use until the transition is complete.

Councilman Langdon asked Mr. Mariani if it sounds accurate.

Mr. Marini stated that the pagers are faster and easier and a lot of times on the radios, depending on what models they have, they can actually load two different systems into the radio so system 2 could be what they are going to do in the future and system 1 can be what they are doing right now so when they go over, they just switch systems. He added that they did it when they narrow banded a lot of places and ahead of time they changed all those in what's called a system profile and then you just revert, which can be done on the control head if it is built right.

Emergency Management Coordinator Bruno stated as far as the CAD System, there were some meetings with the Chiefs about upgrading the system to reflect the desires of the Chiefs with things that they wanted to be noteworthy as well as the correct territories so the County Dispatcher knows who to dispatch and then asked if they provided everything they need or if they need more.

Mr. Kevin Demerest stated that they have enough to get Dispatch done, Chief Kapusta gave him a lot of data and if the other Chief's want to meet with him more, he could probably get more data but he has enough now to get the job done.

Supervisor Flach stated that if there is anything specific that the Chief's feel like he should know, they need to let him know.

Mr. Mariani interjected that they need a meeting or two more because there is a lot more they can do and they might find things that they have not been able to do in the past and now can and it would be beneficial to sit down with Mr. Demerest. He added that their system can be very basic or it can be very expansive and get into multiple layers of different things, it all depends on what the Fire Department wants.

Supervisor Flach stated that one thing that sticks out in his mind is that the Fire Company will know there is a certain address where there is a person with special needs.

Mr. Mariani stated that it can be anything from a person to a building that is condemned and it may say not to use for instance the rear staircase and it can be that detailed. He continued by saying that it all depends on how much they want to put in the computer and Kevin will put as much as they want and that it is capable of.

Supervisor Flach stated that the Fire Companies need to get in touch with Kevin so they can express their wishes and desires of what they want.

Emergency Management Coordinator Bruno stated that the group met last night and agreed to a March 30th meeting with the hope that the County can attend, it's a Monday evening at 6:00pm and they also feel as though there should be monthly meetings to keep the dialog going and in case new questions arise. He added that it may be brief meetings and it will be a way for the group to be together and hear each other to discuss the progress.

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Councilman Burns asked what time and where the meeting will be.

Emergency Management Coordinator Bruno stated that it will be 6:00pm at the Police Department.

Supervisor Flach asked if it works for the Emergency Management Committee.

Emergency Management Coordinator Bruno stated that it works for them; he is not sure if it works for Albany County and added that they can schedule additional meetings on that night. He continued by saying that his last question, which he knows he has been told, is how many Dispatchers the County has on duty now, will it be increased and what will the staffing be when Coeymans comes on line.

Mr. Mariani stated that currently it is five Dispatchers and a Supervisor and when Coeymans comes on it will be five with a Supervisor and an overlapping shift with the additional two bodies, which will be based on the highest call volume, they do 12 hour shifts and there will be an overlapping person.

Supervisor Flach asked if there were any other comments.

Ravena Fire Chief Travis Whitbeck asked about the progress with the upgrades and if it is pretty much where it was before and added that he knows that it is an evolving process.

Mr. Mariani stated that in the summer of 2016, whether it is July or August, the Valley will be up and the following summer the entire county will be up and maybe this area might come up sooner, it will depend on their coverage as the towers start getting filled in. He added that if they were just worried about Ravena, they could probably come over this summer but they wouldn't want to take them away from the other agencies because it wouldn't work. He added that it is when they get out in Coeymans Hollow, they will need additional tower sites and there are three sites going up out there alone, which will be done by the summer of 2016.

Ravena Fire Chief Whitbeck asked if part of the process is still on par with giving mobiles to each apparatus and added that he is not a radio expert and he won't ever claim to be one and then asked if the portables that they have right now are going to be capable of being operated with the system.

Mr. Mariani stated that they won't, it is an 800 megahertz system so they will need new radios to operate on the system and some people have opted to do different things, some departments that have money and choose to spend, outfit every fireman with an 800 megahertz radio, which is fine if they want to do that. He added that if they want to conduct the fire grounds on the VHF or UHF they are free to do that as well and they will always have the County's main channels up on those frequencies should there be an emergency and they want to revert the radio to a specific channel, it will still get to them and it will depend on how they want to conduct those operations.

Ravena Fire Chief Whitbeck asked if they are talking about a mobile for each apparatus.

Mr. Ralph Mariani stated that they are.

Ravena Fire Chief Whitbeck asked how many portable for each.

Mr. Mariani stated that it will be three for each Fire House and a mobile for every piece of apparatus. He added that if anyone wants to budget for portables, for the life of the project and one year after, the discount is considerable and he can give them the price list if it is something that they are going to do and want, and now is the time to start working on it. He continued by saying that the transfer is definitely going to happen and it's going to be here, there is no doubt about that at this point in time and the coverage in the Town is going to be excellent and there are no questions anymore on sites or capabilities, it is all solid. He reiterated that if they want to go over to that system fully, now is the time to start adding it into their budget little by little and if there is money at the end of the project, they may allocate extra radios. He added that right now they are saying that there are three portables, the mobiles are set but if he gets to the end and money is left over, that money is going back to hand out more portables.

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Ravena Fire Chief Whitbeck stated that he said one mobile per apparatus and then asked if the Chief's vehicle is included.

Mr. Mariani stated that it would not be for a Chief's vehicle unless it is an actual piece of apparatus owned by the Town.

Ravena Fire Chief Whitbeck asked about a ball park figure of what a mobile would cost.

Mr. Mariani stated that roughly it is \$2,000.00 to \$3,000.00 depending on the options and how much they want to get with it. He added that they can get lower with the portables but they become pretty basic and they can get into the \$1,500.00 range, which is about the lowest. He continued by saying that with the system being built, there really shouldn't be a need for a mobile, you should be fine with a portable whether you are in your car or out of it and if you're not, something has to be done with the system. He added that the system was designed to run portable coverage not mobile and they don't plan on even putting mobiles in their unmarked cars or anything like that, which will save them cost.

Emergency Management Coordinator Bruno asked if there is a breakdown of what they consider to be an apparatus.

Mr. Demerest stated that it would be trucks, pumpers, tankers and any utility vehicles that have radios in them now.

Ravena Fire Chief Whitbeck asked if there is a Municipal Chief Vehicle, like in the well-to-do areas who would get a mobile for that vehicle.

Mr. Mariani stated that he has to go back and look for the answer, he thinks that they did but he doesn't know for sure and reiterated that if in the end there is more money after they outfit everyone, they will be giving more equipment.

Ravena Fire Chief Whitbeck stated that he understands that and it's great but in the meantime, until they get to that point, they are in a position where they have to start making plans for what they are telling them now and not what they are hoping to do next year.

Mr. Mariani stated that by the 30th, when they meet again, he can definitely tell him yes or no.

Emergency Management Coordinator Bruno asked the cost of portables.

Mr. Mariani stated that it would be around the same price and it depends on the what they get and the options that they put on and added that for the basic options he believes it is \$2,021.00 but there is a lot more than what they have now, there is GPS so it's mapped, and you can receive data and texts. He reiterated that there is a lot more with 800 megahertz than there is with the conventional UHF or VHS.

Ravena Fire Chief Whitbeck stated that he is not saying that he wants to issue every fire fighter a portable radio but when it comes to a natural fire scene, giving everyone that is part of the response the ability to have that communications with incident commander, they will now have to carry around two portables and will be able to communicate with the incident commander as long as he has the same portable.

Emergency Management Coordinator Bruno stated that as far as the 800 megahertz, when it is online, you would expect to communicate with the emergency response people in the field.

Mr. Mariani stated that there are multiple towns on the 800 and it's still in the works and when it comes down to time for them to do it, everyone is going to have some input as to how they are going to do it and it has to be somewhat standardized across the County and not that everyone is going to have a crazy, unique thing. He added that normally what would happen is the channel you dispatched on, is not where you are going to conduct your operations, there are 16-17 extra talk groups so if you get dispatched on one channel, so that channel never gets tied up, you will have an operational channel to go to, which can be pre-designated or assigned at the time of the call; different agencies do it different ways and they have not worked it out yet. He continued by saying that the main channel, for quite a while will be tied with the VHF channel until everyone

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gets over, they can patch them together and Saratoga did it for several years before they got everyone covered.

Councilman Burns asked Dispatcher VonSchenk what he thought of it.

Dispatcher VonSchenk stated that he is just listening.

Councilman Burns stated that now is the time to speak and he does not want people to get mad, walk out and voice their opinions outside because right now is the time to speak.

Dispatch VonSchenk stated that most of his questions have been answered regarding the frequency and questions about portables and pagers not being able to pick up the County by utilizing the two different towers. He added that he went to the County and observed dispatching during a shift, they do a great job and they are not going to do what the Town Dispatchers do for the Police Department because they can't, they are too busy with multiple agencies. He continued by saying that he is concerned with some minor things such as the Dispatchers knowing the area and being able to talk someone turn by turn to get somewhere but you should not expect that. He concluded by saying that County Dispatch is very busy, busier than the Town would ever be.

Councilman Burns reiterated that from what he has seen, as long as they get all the addresses right on the map in the Town and Village the way it is supposed to be, there shouldn't be any glitches at all, they should be able to direct responders to go anywhere and put them at the exact location and then asked if he is seeing something wrong.

Dispatcher VonSchenk stated that for the most part the mapping system works fairly well but the 911 cell phones sometimes don't put them anywhere near where they are.

Councilman Burns stated that it's all in the mapping and if there is something wrong in the mapping.

Dispatcher VonSchenk stated that it is because of where the cell phone bounces off the tower.

Councilman Langdon stated that you are going to have problems regardless of what system they are on, whether it is County or Town.

Councilman Masti interjected that it depends on what cell tower it goes to.

Councilman Burns asked how the Town's Dispatch corrects that.

Dispatcher VonSchenk stated that they ask questions about the location.

Ravena Fire Chief Whitbeck stated that what Dispatcher VonSchenk is saying is more of a perk and he doesn't expect that he would get the same sort of directions as he would from someone like Mike VonSchenk who knows landmarks such as log cabin hill or the "S" turns. He continued by saying that he can't expect that from Albany County Dispatch and reiterated that it is a nice perk for them because he knows the area.

Councilman Burns stated that as far as running numbers & background checks, they were told that the Police Department will be getting computers in the patrol cars so the Officers can do that right at the scene.

Chief of Police McKenna stated that his understanding is that in order to reduce radio traffic, quite frequently for low priority calls, the Dispatcher doesn't actually communicate directly with the patrol car but rather sends a call to the mobile data terminal and if there is no response from the Officer they will transmit to check their call screen. He continued by saying that he is not familiar with what the County has but he is assuming it is the same that he had in Albany.

Mr. Mariani stated that there will be an air card in every vehicle so they can have as much or as little access as they want to give the Officers but if they want to get into E-Justice, SJS or any other web based applications, they will be able to do that from the car as long as the department gives them access. He added that he wants to be clear and he's not going to tell them that they

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are going to have all the same services that they do now, because they won't and he is not going to tell anyone that they are going to because it is different and they don't do as much. He continued by saying that when you are in the field and can't get back to the station, they better do whatever is asked of them and if they have a problem with it they can come and see him afterwards but if someone is in the field and needs something/anything, it should be done.

Chief of Police McKenna asked who is going to be on the same frequencies as the Coeymans Police Department for dispatching calls.

Mr. Mariani stated that for right now it will be Albany County Sheriffs, Green Island and themselves and when it goes to the 800, Green Island will be added to the frequency.

Chief of Police McKenna stated that he had mentioned multiple channel uses for dispatching and for the most part frequency usage would be restricted and the plan is to stay on one frequency on and day to day daily basis.

Mr. Mariani stated that the Police will have their own channels with car to car if they want and it will be up to them if they want something to go back and forth with freely.

Chief of Police McKenna stated that he mentioned CAD and there is a ton of capability with the CAD System and then asked if the County or the City of Albany enter the data.

Mr. Mariani stated that the County does it.

Chief of Police McKenna stated that they had mentioned a special needs situation, which would fall back on the agency who knows the location because you are only putting in what's being told.

Mr. Mariani stated that when they get closer to the transfer date he will meet with Senior Communicator LaMountain and get every bit of data she can give him, which would include someone with special needs, two car responses and anything else that is locally known such as roads that have nicknames. He added that as long as they know things prior, they can build it as advanced as they want and they are not going to be able to figure out everything right away but the more they put into it, the better the quality is going to be. He continued by saying that there is always going to be an error, that can't be avoided totally, it would be impossible but the more data that they put into it and the more that they pay attention to it, the better it is going to be. He went on by saying that the more information and detail that you put into a map, the better it is and it is the same with the CAD.

Emergency Management Coordinator Bruno stated that the Village Department of Public Works has access to communications and he thinks it's going to go away and added that it is something that they have to have for stormy weather, floods, winter months, fires, etc. and he is not sure of the mechanism but they need a way to communicate.

Supervisor Flach asked that Highway Superintendent Searles speak to that.

Highway Superintendent Searles stated that for the Highway's radios, they can have them reprogrammed, they will probably have to upgrade but there should not be a problem.

Emergency Management Coordinator Bruno stated that they would give the information to the County so if for example there is a fire in the middle of the night, when you would not normally be out but your assistance is needed when not on duty.

Highway Superintendent Searles stated that he is not sure how it would be handled if Emergency Management called Albany County requesting to get in touch with the Highway Department and if it is something that they do or not.

Mr. Mariani stated that they do that for everyone and as long as the radio systems that they have now stay in place, they can talk the way that they have always talked as long as they keep their radio systems up. He added that when the new system comes over, if the Town chooses to bring DPW over to 800 megahertz, they are more than welcome to because the system is being built not just for public safety but for public works, the school system and bus garages as well, there is

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enough capacity for that. He continued by saying that if DPW wants radios in their trucks for that capability, they can have it and will have their own municipal frequency and reiterated that it should not change from what they have as long as they don't take the system out.

Councilman Masti asked if they know what it will take to maintain the Town Police Department console downstairs for dispatching.

Chief of Police McKenna stated that he believes the console would be removed.

Mr. Mariani stated that it would be completely up to the Town.

Emergency Management Coordinator Bruno stated that there were times when there was a significant event and they have sat downstairs and managed the emergency with people in the field. He added that 800 megahertz will come with the technology shift and eventually it may make their console obsolete but if the console is down there and functioning, they should not dispose of it, they may not have Dispatchers any longer but there may be people who could step in. He continued by saying that they could have direct communication from the Emergency Operation Center to the field and various others like the Department of Public Works and other agencies.

Councilman Masti asked if once they go to the 800 megahertz, whether they will still have capability off that console if something happened to the 800 and they were not getting a signal because of a disaster and if the old console would be able to reach the cars.

Mr. Mariani stated that it can if it was built that way, which can be done and they can make it backwards compatible. He continued by saying that it won't have all the features as a 800 system but you will be able to run the channels off of it if they choose but it might be cheaper to buy a desktop radio to sit there with a microphone on it rather than maintain the whole console system, which might not be worth it.

Councilman Masti asked what they have for back-ups so they are all safe.

Chief of Police McKenna asked if he was asking about a communications failure.

Councilman Masti stated that he was.

Mr. Mariani stated that the way it is designed is basically there are four sites within the County that are on opposite sides of the County and each one of them would have to be demolished to bring the system down, there are four layers of redundancy within the system.

Councilman Masti stated that if 3 of the 4 went down, 1 of the 4 would keep them going and added that he works in a hospital and stranger things have happened.

Mr. Mariani interjected that it would take quite an event for all 4 to go down.

Councilman Masti stated that he hopes they never see it.

Chief of Police McKenna stated that he does not know if the Sheriff's do this or not and right now when someone calls in for the B line and they are not going to make it in, because they don't have a Supervisor on every shift, normally Dispatch would be notified and then the Supervisor would be notified by Dispatch and then asked if this is something that Dispatch does or will be doing.

Mr. Mariani stated that they will not get involved in anyone's overtime.

Chief of Police McKenna stated that it is something that they will have to look into for when someone calls in sick and then asked who the County Officers call now.

Mr. Mariani stated that when someone calls in sick, they will notify the Sheriff. He added that there are a couple different ways to go about it and added that if there is an emergency and something going on, there is a disaster list and they want everyone's phone numbers and as long as no one cares about what order it is in they will always do that and he doesn't know how the

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Town calls, whether it is top down or how it works and they also have the system that the City of Albany uses that is automated and preprogrammed.

Chief of Police McKenna stated that for the basic daily functions if the Supervisor isn't there, person A calls in because they can't make it in, there would be an on-call list of the Supervisor's so the Dispatcher would know who to contact.

Mr. Mariani stated that what many are doing is they are having them call their Supervisor's directly and added that they can call in to Dispatch, they will take the call and notify someone.

Emergency Management Coordinator Bruno stated that a text messaging capability was mentioned and then asked if it is done regularly or if it is something that has to be requested.

Mr. Mariani stated that they could do it for now if they want them to.

Emergency Management Coordinator Bruno asked if they currently do it for anyone.

Mr. Mariani stated that they do it for almost everyone on the hill and what it requires is a control station for every radio frequency that they use, which is basically a mobile radio and as long as they are getting simulcast over County Fire and Ravena, it is going to always pick up and send the message. He added that someone will have to provide him a control station for Coeymans Fire Dispatch and then they would just put it in, it is there now and they are welcome to it at any point in time.

Emergency Management Coordinator Bruno stated that they are Coeymans Fire Control and he lost him when he said Ravena and continued by asking if he meant Ravena tower.

Mr. Mariani stated that whatever frequency he is using, he needs a separate radio to feed it into a computer so if he wants to do that he has to give him a radio that will pick up that frequency and he will put it in the rack and it will be interfaced with the computer and it will work.

Emergency Management Coordinator Bruno asked if there is a fire in for instance Westerlo and it's dispatched over the fire pager, will it also go out as a text as well.

Mr. Mariani stated that it will be either a text or e-mail.

Ravena Fire Chief Whitbeck asked if there is an administrative function where he can send text messages to his members.

Mr. Mariani stated that it does not have that capability but there are other functions like he told Chief McKenna like building a list of the members and send a text or leave a message and it will call everyone. He added that if they want to use that system, they encourage them to do so.

Village Highway Superintendent Traver stated that they will have a list for him with the water and sewer alarms and who to contact.

Mr. Mariani stated that as long as the people they are calling for the alarms are responsive to them because they had people who would not answer their phones and it wound up tying a whole bunch of trunks coming into the 911 Center. He continued by saying that as long as the people who are being called are responsive they will answer the calls.

Village Highway Superintendent Traver stated that with the water alarm, it goes to the Chief Operator and then the 2nd Operator and then to dispatch so the alarms actually go to the Operators first and then dispatch is the last resort.

Mr. Mariani stated that if he gives them a list of whole departments, they can push that call out to everyone and it depends on how they want to set it up.

Village Highway Superintendent Traver stated that the Village Mayor had said that they will be getting more information to them by the end of the month.

Supervisor Flach asked if there were any other comments.

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Coeymans Fire Chief Ken Dottino stated that he and Supervisor Flach had discussions in the past and he's not really for it and he reiterated to him a couple of times that they should keep it in house and run it more efficiently, effectively and cost efficient. He added that in working with the Police Chief, he is a great administrator and they as a Board are missing an opportunity to keep it in house and run the program efficiently in-house. He continued by saying that he has no qualms with what they are going to do, it is good service and it's the tip of the iceberg, they have done it as a cost cutting measure and the next to go to follow suit will be other emergency services, rescue squad and police. He went on by saying that he is on the front line of it, he is the guy that is going to be dealing with all the issues coming up and they can kid themselves and say that it is going to go flawless, the maps are going to be correct and they aren't going to have any issues and if they do believe that, they are living in la la land because it's not going to be that way. He added that there are going to be issues, they might not pop up for six months, they might pop up at three months and he is sure that the County will be very dedicated to getting their problems fixed, he has no qualms about that as well, but if they think it will be a smooth transition that will happen on June 1st when they throw the switch, it's not, it is a lot of work on their end with a lot of effort and changes. He reiterated that he thinks they are missing an opportunity with the Chief of Police in keeping it here and keeping those opportunities here and it isn't about saving jobs and the budget on his end, for what it is saving them he doesn't even know the numbers and it doesn't bother him. He continued by saying that it's about effectiveness, the Town's Dispatchers are dedicated people, they are getting better trained now, a better work environment and he thinks that it will only go up from what they are getting now. He added that when he needs to call for the Highway Department or a Building Inspector or trying to get a hold of a certain person in our town, it is going to cause more effort and issues on his end and they have not asked them even once what those issues were and he met in the Supervisor's Office one time and he had it in his head that it is going to happen with no ifs, ands or buts about it and he could have been speaking Greek and he would not have cared. He concluded by saying that this is his opinion as a Fire Chief and his alone, he will go along with it because he has to, he will make the best of his Company and community but he thinks they are missing a good opportunity to save this position with the Chief in running Dispatch effectively.

Councilman Burns stated that he is glad that he spoke up and said all of that, he thought that they were reaching out and asking a lot of people their opinions because he does not know all the things that they know. He added that as far as the financial part of it goes, all he has heard is that they are duplicating services because 911 picks up a lot of their calls already but with the new 800 system coming, they were told that they have to get on board with that and if they do it now it's not going to cost them anything for Albany County to take it over.

Coeymans Fire Chief Dottino interjected that it's going to cost him and his Company something because he has to buy radios.

Councilman Langdon stated that he will end up buying them regardless.

Coeymans Fire Chief Dottino stated that they will if the Town decides to go to the 800.

Councilman Langdon questioned why they wouldn't do it.

Coeymans Fire Chief Dottino stated that he didn't believe that they had to.

Mr. Mariani stated that they can't force anyone to do anything, if the County dispatches for them then they have to.

Coeymans Fire Chief Dottino stated that he has no need to contact Saratoga County because the 800 reaches the far ends of the earth.

Councilman Burns asked if anyone has any numbers on keeping what they have now and added that the last he heard, it was going to cost \$60,000.00 to upgrade.

Councilman Langdon interjected that it would be upgrading the system that they have now and not upgrading to the 800.

Councilman Burns reiterated that right now it is \$60,000.00 and they had trouble making the budget for Dispatch this year. He added that he is not trying to put money over safety but with all

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the information that he has gotten, once the system is in place it is going to take some time and it's not going to be perfect but they can take it over and run it just as efficient as it is now. He continued by saying that it is him talking and he's not trying to disprove what Chief Dottino is saying because he knows more that he does and he respects his opinion. He then asked Mr. Doug Keyer what he thinks about it.

Mr. Doug Keyer stated that he thinks he needs to stay out of it.

Councilman Burns stated that it makes him mad that they have a meeting like this, everyone has questions but don't ask and people walk away saying they should not have done this, they should not have done that and it is being shoved down their throats. He continued by saying that he is asking opinions now.

Mr. Keyer stated that he has had the opportunity to meet with a couple of local Police Chiefs in Schenectady County and they switched over and unlike this particular arrangement, they continue to pay a portion that is much more than they are getting back from the UCC so from a financial standpoint he sees that it makes sense. He added that they do lose personal contact with the public, they have phones at the lobby area and it is something that the Chiefs themselves have recognized as a loss and in a lot of ways the financial aspect and the need to consolidate, which is being driven from the Governor's Office on down, outweighs the services that the local Police Departments gave to the community. He continued by saying that you have been able to walk into your local Police Department because it's the way it has been since they have been established with some of them back to the 1800's and the community expects to see someone there and now to walk in and see a phone hanging on the wall, they might not be so sure of what they are supposed to do. He continued by saying that that he assumes that it would be the closest car concept and then asked if there is a written 911 Agreement.

Mr. Mariani stated that they don't get involved in that and if the Town of Coeymans uses the closest car concept, they will continue that and if the Town of Coeymans calls their car first for everything, they will call their car first. He added that they are closet car in the County but if the Town doesn't want that, it's not what they do, they do what is asked if it is in their power.

Mr. Keyer asked what would happen if they had two cars tied up on an incident and a call came in.

Mr. Mariani stated that first they would check with the 2 cars to see if they could break and if they couldn't it would be a poll to see who is closest, whether it is the State, County or whoever. He added that the first thing to do is check with the Supervisor or whoever is designated in charge for the shift and see what they want to do, whether it be to turn it over or to break someone and this is how it is done in Watervliet and Green Island.

Councilman Burns stated that he can remember back in the day someone sitting at the Fire House on the radio, and that doesn't happen now because they have Dispatch and then asked Chief Dottino how efficient it would be to have one of his guys sitting at the radio.

Coeymans Fire Chief Dottino stated that it's not efficient but it will probably have to happen again when they get 2-3 calls at a time for a bigger emergency and then asked if the County will only dispatch if they turn over to the 800.

Mr. Mariani stated that is true if they are going to be dispatched by the County because the County is switching to 800 but if they are going to stay with Coeymans, they can stay on whatever channel they want. He added if they want 800, they will still give it to the Town of Coeymans, it is up to them, they are dispatched by the County on their frequencies and they are not going to charge them to use the system but if the Town of Coeymans is going to dispatch themselves and want capability out of that system, there is going to be a service charge for those municipalities, which won't be much, that want their own set of frequencies on the system because it is expensive. He continued by saying that if they require someone at their firehouse, then the County is doing something wrong and it needs to be fixed and it should not ever happen and if it does they need to call him because something has to change drastically.

Coeymans Fire Chief Dottino stated that it is a fear of the unknown and reiterated that he spoke with Supervisor Flach prior to now and he knew his opinion before now and he thinks a two

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month decision is a big decision for the Town to save \$50,000.00 without ever giving the new Chief of Police a chance, it took six years of running it to where it is today and they are not even giving six months to try and turn it around, which is not quite fair.

Councilman Burns stated that it was actually going on before they got the new Chief and he is doing a fantastic job.

Coeymans Fire Chief Dottino interjected that it was right before.

Councilman Burns stated that if they don't do this now, 2-3 years down the road they may find that they have to go to the 800 system because theirs isn't working as well as it should and it will cost them thousands of dollars to switch over.

Ravena Fire Chief Whitbeck stated that they are talking about the 800 switch over and he knows he has brought it up at previous meetings, they are talking about saving "x" number of dollars by closing down the Dispatch Center but as they are talking about it, they are acknowledging that there are going to be financial hardships on those directly affected by this, whether it be by the Village itself or the individual districts. He then asked if it has ever been brought up in any discussion that they can take the money that they are saving and put it aside to help offset the costs for each District because it is going to cost a pretty penny to get this system to 100% and utilize its full effectiveness, which is what they should be doing in talking about all of the gains that they are going to get from it and they need to start talking about getting to that point and then asked if they had that discussion.

Councilman Burns stated that they had and to the best of his knowledge, they are not getting rid of any equipment and they are pretty much keeping everything in place.

Ravena Fire Chief Whitbeck stated that the equipment downstairs is not going to get him the radio, he doesn't live in an area where he can go out and buy a \$20,000.00 vehicle for the Chief, he has to put the equipment in his own vehicle, whether it be Village money or his own, but he needs to buy the equipment. He continued by saying that they are telling him that he is probably not going to get that equipment for his vehicle and his function as a Chief Officer of his Department is to run to the calls directly in his vehicle and it is what he should be doing and in order for him to function at his capacity, he has to go out and make this additional purchase of \$2,000.00-\$3,000.00. He reiterated that they don't live in Colonie, it is a bit of a dent in their budget and what he is talking about is taking the money that they are saving and maybe moving it into another account because he knows this is not just his hardship, they are sharing it across the board and he and Chief Dottino are sharing the same concerns. He added that these are the costs that he's worried about, he is not worried about the equipment downstairs; he is talking about the \$3,000.00 radio that he has to put in his vehicle that they are not being given.

Coeymans Hollow Fire Chief Kapusta stated that he looked at what it would cost to put new radios, 800 megahertz radios, in all of his apparatus and the Chief's vehicle and to replace the portables that he has and it is over \$100,000.00. He added that he knows the Sheriff's may supplement some of that but definitely not enough for all of the apparatus and his concern along with Chief's Whitbeck and Chief Dottino is that someone at some point made a decision that they are going to go to 800 megahertz, which will hopefully work good in the hilly terrain, typically it doesn't. He continued by asking that even if they cover all of his radios, which he typically buys every 15 years because they don't last forever, if they will give him \$100,000.00 in 15 years to buy new radios.

Mr. Mariani stated that they won't, it is a onetime thing.

Coeymans Hollow Fire Chief Kapusta stated that he didn't come into this looking to save money, he is a Fire Chief and he has to make sure that the dispatched calls are fast and accurate and to him it's not so much about money, it's about service and better service, it is definitely not about costing him a lot more money in 15 years. He added that he thinks that dispatching is completely separate than the 800 megahertz because they don't make a pager today that works on the 800 megahertz to his knowledge and he assumes that they would still be dispatching on a channel that they are currently so the 800 megahertz is a separate topic.

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Mr. Mariani stated that it is to an extent, it depends on where they are at, VHF has to stand for the time being where it is because there are no 800 megahertz fire pagers and it was replaced last year and they plan on keeping it forever or until different technology comes along that is acceptable. He added that if they are going to be dispatched by the County come 2016, they are going to the 800 megahertz capabilities, at least to be dispatched.

Coeymans Hollow Fire Chief Kapusta asked if any of the Fire Companies, Fire Chiefs, EMS, etc. had any input on that or is it just the Sheriff's Department making the decision that they will all go to 800 megahertz regardless of companies that have said that it doesn't work well for their situation and it is his concern. He added that traditionally the Fire Companies haven't had any say in it and they really don't like it because they don't get what they want and it almost sounds like the 800 megahertz is being shoved down everyone's throat, it may be the best thing in the world and be great but he just does not like that it is switching and they have to do it even though there has been zero input from any Fire Companies or EMS Agencies.

Mr. Mariani stated that they are not forcing anyone to go over, if they want to stay on a patched channel and limited capacity, that is fine but the full capacity will be on the 800 megahertz and they have outgrown the VHF, they don't have the capacity there anymore, there are no more frequencies available. He added that they looked at expanding that system at one point and trunking that or possibly trunking UHF but it wasn't possible and the system that they have now needs to be replaced for operational purposes, it's fine for paging and the fire channel is actually the better one but the Sheriff's channel has a ton of interference and when they went over to narrow band it actually cut their coverage almost in half and it is why they undertook the 800 project. He continued by saying that they know radios, VHF is getting dirtier than it was as far as the spectrum, they are giving out more licenses and there is no control over it, not like the 800 megahertz when you get the frequencies and a whole region has to vote on whether you can have them or not, there is a lot of research that goes into it and their VHF gets interfered with all the time and they experience the same thing from Orange County but they are powerless to do anything about it and this is the reason for the push to go over to it and why they are doing it. He went on by saying that upfront it stinks but the County probably should have done this 15 years ago and done it in pieces but all of the sudden it got dumped on them and they had a lot more problems than they understood and they took action to correct it, it was all at once and it was hard on a lot of people, they did the best that they could as far as giving everyone the radios and the capability of going over to it and they will get a mobile for every piece of their apparatus along with three portables, which is standard. He added that if it changes in the end and someone does not want to switch over, the radios that they would have received will be distributed to those switching over at that point, there is a possibility of that happening and as it stands right now, they are currently 2 million dollars under budget, which is a lot more radios that they can buy in the end as long as they don't find for whatever reason that they need a new tower site because something happened.

Coeymans Hollow Fire Chief Kapusta stated that just to be clear, he is less about savings and more about making sure that they can operate efficiently. He added that he is not ruling out 800 megahertz and his big concern is as Chief Whitbeck brought up, if he has to go out and buy \$100,000.00 in radios and maybe \$50,000.00 covered by Albany County, in 15 years they are going to need new radios and they will have to find a way to fund it, so they would have to raise taxes. He continued by saying that he thinks the Board is looking at it to save the taxpayers money, which is their job to do, but coming from the other end about service, they think they might be saving money and it might be the right way but someone is going to have to buy the radios eventually.

Councilman Langdon reiterated that replacing radios is something that they do anyway, regardless of what system and they must be doing some kind of budgeting to regularly turn over their radios.

Coeymans Hollow Fire Chief Kapusta stated that the radio that he buys today costs \$800.00, which is not the cheapest radio, it is a good radio and then asked how much a radio would be for the 800 system.

Mr. Mariani stated that for what he is going to want to use, it is about \$2,100.00 - \$2,200.00, there are cheaper but he's not going to want them.

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Councilman Langdon stated that Coeymans Hollow Fire Chief Kapusta was not at the meeting earlier when it was said that they are going to give three portables to each Company.

Coeymans Hollow Fire Chief Kapusta stated that he has 20 portables in his Department.

Councilman Langdon stated that from what he understands, those portables are still totally usable because when they are on the scene, they are not going to function on the dispatch channel, that's not going to turn around and change that and the other issue from what he is understanding is that the portables on the 800 system are going to work as well as their mobiles so they are going to get that same basic coverage in a portable.

Mr. Mariani stated that they have to be at a contract standard and a contract standard is 95% coverage portable and if they don't meet that standard, they have to put up a new tower site, which they ran into with the VHF, there was a hole that was supposed to be covered and it wasn't so it was their expense of a million dollars for the project that they had to come in and do. He added that in looking at the maps, Coeymans Hollow and Ravena are absolute solid areas, there is limited coverage on Partridge Run but no one lives there, so they didn't put another tower there because it would be a pointless waste of money. He added that they will take a vehicular repeater up there if there is something going on but as far as them, there are no gaps.

Coeymans Hollow Fire Chief Kapusta stated that he thinks the topic is huge and huger than here because part of the 95% is outside of house coverage and they are not talking about outside of house coverage, which is drastically different with the 800 megahertz. He added that his point is that he buys 20 batteries every two years for the radios, the batteries are more money, batteries don't last forever for the portables and a \$2025.00 portable vs. the \$800.00 portable with the same thing for the mobiles, it is a lot of money, he does budget for that type of expense but if he has to quadruple what his budget is, he has to find some way to pay for it.

Councilman Langdon stated that it is understandable and he is not opposed to sitting and talking about things like that with them and it makes sense.

Emergency Management Bruno interjected that he understands that there is going to be a contract between the Town of Coeymans and the County of Albany and they are going to pay a fee to start but then the fee goes away. He then asked if that is correct.

Mr. Mariani stated that is correct.

Emergency Management Bruno stated that at some point there is going to be some revenue and there will be an expense to the Fire Districts, Village and Rescue Squad and some to the Town for the Police Department and some of the money should be put towards the expenses. He added that you can't dispute their needs, they are going to want a mobile in every apparatus as well as one portable in every apparatus in case the Chief is not there and the Officer has to go out in the field as well as wanting to expand on it and if they are going to do this and meet in the middle, the way to do it is for the Town to help fund it. He continued by saying that they are not going to solve this immediately but they need to find out the needs, the cost and how they can share the cost.

Councilman Langdon stated that he understands that they will drop the taxes and the Fire Districts will have to raise them to offset the cost and they have to make sure that there is a net gain for the taxpayers.

Emergency Management Coordinator Bruno stated that there has to be a separate discussion on how to fund the transfer to the 800 because if they are going to transfer to the County, they want to be all in and not half in.

Supervisor Flach stated that they certainly would like to meet with all the Fire Chiefs and Police Chief before they sign a contract so they have some kind of an idea what they are going to need to budget for when the 800 comes in.

Councilman Burns stated that in three years the charge goes away and they shouldn't have to pay anything for Dispatch and like it was suggested, maybe they could take that money and set aside for the Fire Departments.

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Councilman Langdon stated that for the first year it is going to be about \$150,000.00 ahead so from the first year they will be \$50,000.00 and it takes three years for them to phase out where they are covering the Dispatchers to move to the County and once that third year is over, they are approximately \$200,000.00 ahead, which is pretty substantial. He added that the idea to sit down with the Fire Departments and try to work out some kind of an arrangement to help offset their increase cost that they might experience, he is perfectly fine with sitting and discussing that.

Councilman Burns stated that his thoughts were that if they keep it going the way it's going and they keep the extra money and put it aside in case three to four years down the road things aren't working out and maybe they may have to start their own dispatch up again, at least they will have something to start with and this is personally what he would like to see happen. He continued by saying that from everything that he heard, the County is going to do a good job and the longer they do it, the better they are going to get at it.

Dispatcher Mike VonSchenk stated that he is not concerned with the money they are saving, he is concerned about community safety and he is concerned about the safety of the one guy that he has on A Line out on patrol. He added that the money they are saving, the \$50,000.00 extra can pay for another Police Officer on that patrol, which would be more safety for the community and more safety for the one guy who is on the street by himself. He continued by saying that sometimes the Sheriffs are available, sometimes they are not and on a rare occasion he will get the State Troopers but he is talking the community and an Officers safety and this is something that they really ought to address.

Councilman Burns interjected that they really are thinking about all of that and it isn't something that they are taking lightly.

Supervisor Flach stated that they have talked to the Chief of Police about hiring and they are working on things there and as Councilman Burns said, he is thrilled with their Chief.

Dispatcher Mike VonSchenk stated that he hates dispatching on the A Line to call someone because he knows that they are going into a bad situation.

Councilman Langdon stated that as far as he is concerned, the whole process honestly started for financial reasons in his mind, and was primarily the Sheriff coming down and telling them that they will have some increased expenses and as a Fiscal Officer of the Town he has a responsibility to see whether it is a sensible thing to take on. He added that as they began to look into it, there appeared to be significant financial savings, which is the first reason he began to take a look at it and the more they dug into it and began to understand some of the newer technologies that they are going to bring to the table, other benefits and the patrol cars are going to be able to have computer access, all of it. He continued by saying that the more he heard about the redundancies that have to happen because of some of the medical training that the dispatchers have at the County that is not provided down here, as he begins to add it up, even if the cost is the same, it seemed like in a long run when everyone gets accustomed to it and he realizes that there are going to be glitches and not a seamless transition, it seems to be a much better public safety issue in the long run when you look at the big picture of all of it getting put into place.

Dispatcher VonSchenk stated that he still does not see where the money that they are saving won't go over to Chief McKenna for another Officer.

Councilman Langdon stated that one of the things that he learned in discussing things with the Officer's as a Police Commissioner for a while and in trying to find out what was going on with the Officers, he began to learn of the times that Officers go into buildings where there is a door open where there shouldn't be and there is no one backing him up. He added that he is a strong believer in having their own local Police Department and he does not believe that this Town and Village should be uncovered by a Department and as a businessman he is very interested in providing to business owners that want to make investment and grow some jobs here and to him the Police Force is an extremely essential part of the community here. He continued by saying that he totally agrees with someone being on a call by himself and he does not like that and at some point he sees having two guys at all times, there are some that say that there should be 2 plus a Supervisor but he's not willing to go that far at this point, but the idea that there are two Officers that can back up each other, it is a direction that they need to go.

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Dispatcher VonSchenk stated that his job is dispatching fire and EMS, which is only a small part of it and most of his time is spent with the Police because the ration of calls is 20/1 and his primary job he sees as safety of the guys and he is concerned about what happens to them and something has to be done about it.

Councilman Langdon stated that it is something that has not gone away and he was never aware of how it all worked until the transition with the Police Department in the fall and he didn't know all the ins and outs of police work, he has learned a lot in six months. He added that it is something high on his priority list to see it get adjusted and worked out so they know that there in never anyone out there by themselves and reiterated that he totally agrees with that.

Councilman Burns called on Brian Dunigan who had previously had his hand up.

Mr. Brian Dunigan asked if the Town decides not to go with Albany County, will the 800 megahertz radios still get dispersed to the Fire Departments.

Mr. Mariani stated that if they don't want to switch over but want to use 800 then yes but if they don't switch over and say they won't use the 800 system the answer is no, they will not give radios to people who will never use them.

Mr. Dunigan stated that you never know if you are going to use something and it would be out there to say that you would never use them.

Ravena Fire Chief Whitbeck stated that if they weren't having these conversations, as a Chief Officer you want the capability but what they are talking about here is in the eventuality and not if, and they are looking at a year from now to make the switch over, which is different from having the capability to being fully operational and in listening to Chief Kapusta, he is not sure if they are really grasping what he is saying. He added that the County is giving them radios and he understands that, they will have the capability of using their current radios and he does not expect anyone to be an expert unless they are heavily involved in what they do and there are those of them as Chief Officers that believe anyone going into a hazardous atmosphere or situation needs to have the ability to communicate and that is why they hear the words like 20 portables, it is so everyone on the apparatus has the ability to communicate with the Officers. He added that he wants them to understand this and it isn't because they are going out there messing with the radios, they are kept on the apparatus and they are not carrying them around just to talk to each other and reiterated that he wants everyone to understand what Chief Kapusta was talking about and he is not sure how someone would budget for a 400% increase. He concluded by asking when the last meeting regarding this issue and added that he sees it going back to October or November.

Chief McKenna stated that he had one meeting with Kevin Demerest approximately one month ago and his recollection is that there was one time where he along with the 3 Fire Chiefs got together.

Ravena Fire Chief Whitbeck asked when it was.

Chief McKenna stated that it was November or December.

Ravena Fire Chief Whitbeck stated that it has been a while and his concern is he has been questioned about it because people think that he has been having meetings with people that he shouldn't without being escorted by a liaison. He added that the last meeting that he attended was numerous months ago and then asked how he is supposed to answer to the Village Board about what is going on in the meetings that they are hearing about, he's got no answer for them because he isn't going to any of them. He then asked if they are having meetings and what was the date of the meeting with Albany Emergency Management.

Supervisor Flach stated that they tried to set up a meeting and he and the Emergency Management Coordinator talked about his availability and he had classes that night so he could not make it, they tried to reschedule it and he was not here when they talked with Councilman Masti. He continued by saying that the County was going to meet with the Fire Chiefs and tried on occasion or two to do so but it has been since January.

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Ravena Fire Chief Whitbeck stated that with schedules it is what it is and trying to get everyone together is not an easy task but here they are with a very short timeframe.

Mr. Mariani stated that personally he does not have a timeframe and the Town's target is June and if he's not comfortable, it's not going to be June and he wants to be clear about that.

Ravena Fire Chief Whitbeck stated that they are in this room at a Workshop talking about some pretty significant issues and talk about in a couple of years saving "X" amount of money and start putting it toward purchases but it isn't a commitment, it is just them having a talk. He added that they make the commitment and switch over and they as a Town Board might not be in office and the next Town Board may not agree with it and reiterated that there has to be a plan and he does not see hammering everything out in the next two months. He continued by saying that they talk about meetings and they have to get to the point where they are actually meeting and discussing the issues, they can't just talk about having meetings with Emergency Management if they are not going to meet with them and it is very frustrating for a lot of people and the Village Board and when they ask him questions, he has to give them some answers at some level because he reports to them. He reiterated that they are talking two months and there are a lot of issues that they need to hammer out, which has been his biggest problem, the timeframe and it is getting real now and he does not think that they have talked about all the issues that they need to talk about. He added that he routinely works on the Rescue Squad and he communicates with Dispatch quite a bit, it has been fine, they do a great job and at the end of the day he thinks there is a lot more to the process that they need to evaluate and he agrees with Chief Dottino that the new Police Chief deserves a chance to set things straight and they can take an extra couple of months to put their minds together. He concluded by saying that Chief Kapusta brought up one of the most important points with the radios, they tested talking outside on a front porch and then asked if the system will work on an inside construction job at the middle or senior high schools and how it responds to those sort of elements.

Mr. Mariani stated that the system was not built on in-building coverage.

Ravena Fire Chief Whitbeck stated that it might work, he does not know but these are the things that they should be finding out right now and not in June or July when the process is done.

Councilman Burns stated that the County is giving a radio for each truck and unit in addition to three portables and they have their radios that they use now, which they will continue to use to keep in contact on the fire scene and won't be using the County's radios unless they need outside assistance or to get in touch with someone else.

Coeymans Hollow Fire Chief Kapusta stated that there are several ways of going about it and he thinks that they will agree that you can use all 800 megahertz, the VHF that they are on now and juggle two radios, which he does anyway. He added that the problem is he now has 800 megahertz and still has the VHF radio and he's not buying 20 portables every 15 years, he is buying 30 portables every 15 years and that is a problem. He continued by saying that he thinks there is benefit in the County taking Dispatch Center only because of some issues that Dispatcher Von Schenk brought up with the Police Department and for 99% of the time Dispatcher Von Scheck is alone at night and that is fine but when there is a fire call in the middle of the night it gets crazy because he is also working the radio for the Police and fire and can't do it himself and these are issues that he is positive the new Chief of Police will correct and then there are other issues that won't be corrected unless you use a lot more money, put more Dispatchers on and upgrade the equipment. He went on by saying that in his opinion, the right thing to do at some point in time is to move over to the County, it will happen eventually, there is much more benefit in that but there are some downsides like people losing their jobs, which he's not looking at as a friend, he is looking at it from a Fire Chief's aspect of what is right for his District. He continued by saying that it is a complete separate topic than the 800 megahertz where there are so many different routes and options to look at but nothing has been discussed and he does not know of a plan, he has gotten nothing that outlines his choices that in two years they expect you to either go to 800 megahertz or you stay on VHF but if you want they will give a portable to each Chief, which is a pain because he might be working at his job and there is a call during the day and one of his fire fighters needs to talk to County, which they do a lot. He concluded by saying that it is more than just one thing and more investigation needs to take place, they may be able to get it done in their timeframe but he, Chief Whitbeck and Chief Dottino have full-time jobs and if their pagers and radios aren't working right, that is a big problem for them and he does not know what

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the plan is for radios, he could have just one radio, two radios that are completely different with batteries that don't interchange and he has to maintain both sets and he only has so much room in his apparatus to mount radios and reiterated that there is a lot to talk about.

Councilman Burns stated that they are supposed to make a decision and they are trying to take in all the information that they can and they are hearing both sides of it but he just said himself eventually they are going to have to go over to the 800 system.

Coeymans Hollow Fire Chief Kapusta stated that nothing is going to force them to do it, it is just a matter of time to switch to the County and not the 800 megahertz system, which he is dealing with as a separate thing.

Councilman Burns stated that as they have told them, and he does not think that they are trying to drive it down their throats, it is an opportunity for them, they will give them this equipment, they will give them as much as they can and get them set up and do everything for them now but if they wait and do it in a couple of years, they can't offer them the same thing.

Coeymans Hollow Fire Chief Kapusta stated that he has radio maps from previous people in the Town of Coeymans and was told that it would solve their problem and it was going to work perfect and with no offense to them, he has heard where their towers are going to be, which might work but he doesn't know. He added that he doesn't want to raise his hand in 2015 and say send me 800 megahertz radios I want to go on, he wants the system to be up and he wants them to give him a portable radio that he can walk around with and be able to go inside and be out and about in normal places and reiterated that he wants to test it out before he says he will go to 800 megahertz.

Councilman Burns stated that he thought they had done that already.

Coeymans Hollow Fire Chief Kapusta stated that he hasn't and he is the type of guy who if he wants something done, he does it himself because he doesn't just trust what people tell him, he wants to do it.

Dispatcher Mike VonSchenk stated that you wouldn't buy a car without test driving it.

Mr. Mariani interjected that there is no system to test yet, which is the downside and when the time comes if they aren't dispatched by the County and don't know if they want to cut over, he will be more than happy to give them a radio to try out before they make a commitment but the Sheriff's Office Dispatch is going over to 800 megahertz.

Emergency Management Coordinator Bruno stated that earlier in another discussion he said that there would be a transitional period and next year is the cut-over.

Mr. Mariani stated that next year is the cut-over for the County not the Town, 2016 if for the entire County and 2015 is for the flat areas.

Emergency Management Coordinator Bruno stated that he said that there would be a period of simulcast where both systems would be running because not all agencies will have switched over.

Mr. Mariani stated that even the timeline on install, there are thousands of radio installs that have to take place, it will be a period of time and if it didn't function for someone that they dispatch for they will not force them to stay on it, they will either force the company to make it work or if that's not part of what it is, they can use what they wish at that point. He added that if it works, they are offering as many radios as they can and they are dispatched by the County.

Emergency Management Coordinator Bruno stated that he also mentioned an additional transitional period but they didn't talk about a number and he believes he said that he wouldn't commit to one.

Mr. Mariani stated that he really can't but he sees it being several years.

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Emergency Management Coordinator Bruno stated that he is trying to get a grip on a timeline because they are all going to be spending money and maybe the Town can pass a non-binding resolution that the Town Board will fund and assist the Fire Departments and Rescue Squad with this adventure over to the 800 and it will be up to the Fire Departments, when the time comes, to encourage people to support them, which is an important piece. He added that it sounds to him like the bigger issue is the 800 megahertz than the transition, which they don't know a whole lot about and maybe at the meeting on the 30th they can discuss the 800 and try to get their arms around it. He continued by saying that he is a Fire Commissioner and he has to think about what the numbers mean and hopefully in the future, technology gets less expensive.

Mr. Mariani stated that they do generally go down in price over time.

Emergency Management Coordinator Bruno stated that they aren't going to resolve the 800 megahertz issue immediately, it sounds like it has a bearing on the transition but he does not think that it will make or break the transition deal. He added that at some point they are going to have to spend the money and Coeymans Hollow Chief Kapusta is going to have to buy them regardless if he wants to work with Westerlo and Onesquethaw who have to go on 800 because they have no choice.

Supervisor Flach stated that he does not think that any one of the Town Board members doesn't know the importance of the Fire Companies, Police Department and Rescue Squad and he does not think that it is an issue. He continued by saying that he would be willing to go to the Attorney for the Town and say if they are not there after the 800 switch, that they can somehow commit to helping them fund because in three years they will be saving a couple hundred thousand dollars. He reiterated that he is pretty confident in that and they certainly don't want anyone to not have what they need and to him it's not a huge concern and maybe at the March 30th Meeting they can sit down and discuss the 800 and what they would need so they can make sure that they meet their needs. He added by saying that it isn't personal, it's business and he understands that for the Dispatchers this is personal and he gets that, he understands that and he wants them to know that it isn't anything that they have against their Dispatch it is just that they feel this is something that in moving forward as Emergency Management Coordinator Bruno had said, this is going to happen and they feel now is the time. He continued by saying that Ravena Fire Chief Whitbeck asked if they had the bumps worked out and they absolutely do not but they want to make the right decisions for the Town and this is why they are there. He went on by saying that he has friends in Dispatch, they are great employees but the Board's job is to think of every tax payer of the Town.

Mr. Doug Keyer stated that they are talking about saving \$200,000.00 for three years and then asked if they are saving that or will the money be re-appropriated.

Supervisor Flach stated that it is something that they need to decide and they were just saying that they might have to put money toward the 800 megahertz system and whatever number can become part of the budget beginning next year's budget, which he will be doing in the fall.

Mr. Doug Keyer asked what the total Town Budget is on an annual basis.

Supervisor Flach stated that it is not quite 6.5 million.

Mr. Doug Keyer interjected that \$200,000.00 is a significant portion of it.

Councilman Langdon stated that only approximately 2 million of that is raised by property tax, a lot of that comes in from sales tax and other revenue streams so in looking at 2 million, \$200,000.00 is 10% and for him, one of the reasons that he originally ran for office is that he has lived in this town and paid property taxes for about 22 years now and he knows that his income has not gone up as fast as the property tax bill, which he knows is not all town taxes, a lot of it is happening in the school. He continued by saying that to give some of it back to the taxpayers, he absolutely does think that it needs to be part of the focus and he understands if they need to turn around and say that they ought to provide a radio to each Firehouse or some kind of a plan, he is not opposed to that but he doesn't want to spend all the money and taking it from one place so they can spend it somewhere else is not the game plan.

Ms. Bonnie Keyer stated that it would be a one-time expenditure right now to get them up.

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Councilman Langdon stated that the hard part is that they are only here for their term and they can't control what happens after they are gone.

Emergency Management Coordinator interjected that they are going to run into trouble when it does happen because they have been around long enough to remember that there was a time that the Town of Coeymans paid for the Worker's Compensation for the Fire Departments and the Comptroller wrote them up and the Councilmen didn't care because they knew that the Comptroller was criticizing on one side and the firemen were on the other side thanking the Town Board for your support. He added that it is going to be the same circumstance, they are going to get criticism for buying radios for the Fire Departments but they are going to get accolades from the fire fighters for the support.

Councilman Langdon stated that the bottom line is that if a taxpayer asks him about that, he will say that he won't give it to them, he will lower taxes but the Fire Districts will have to raise the taxes.

Emergency Management Coordinator Bruno interjected that they don't have sales tax revenue or any other funding revenues that the Town has.

Councilman Langdon stated that there is a balance and his focus is to see the total expenditures of the Town become more efficient, not necessarily eliminating services but to become more efficient so they can do it for less money because there is a lot of waste here and the more he is here, the more he is finding. He added that they are making a significant savings with implementing the new bookkeeping system, they are paying for it over the first couple of years but then they turned around and stopped using Paychex, who they were paying \$13,000.00 a year and they bought a system that they get to keep for \$16,000.00. He continued by saying that there are a lot of places like this in the way that they are doing business that they are trying to evaluate and find the smartest way to do it.

Councilman Burns stated that the new Police Chief is phenomenal and for him to do the job that he's doing right now and be able to focus on what he is doing, he does not think that it is right for them to keep piling more and more on top of him, which they have done in giving additional responsibilities. He added he knows part of what he does is the Dispatch Center and he doesn't mean to deny him of that, but to put him in charge of Dispatch and expect him to turn it around and run fantastic, which he knows that he can, he does not feel that it is fair.

Councilman Masti asked if anyone had anything else to add before he speaks.

Coeymans Hollow Fire Chief Kapusta stated that he had one more thing to add on the 800 megahertz and added that they all work hand-in-hand with the Fire Departments in Greene County, New Baltimore, Medway-Grapeville, some Greenville and they also work with Bethlehem and the thing that makes him nervous about the 800 is that he thinks it is being jammed down their throats, it may be the best system and the best thing to do but he never liked being told what to do. He continued by saying that one problem that they have is that they are saying that the Town of Coeymans is going to buy radios for the Fire Departments, which he assumes is the Village of Ravena as well, but they aren't buying radios for New Baltimore, Medway-Grapeville, etc. so there are companies that they deal with every day that when they switch to 800 megahertz they are not going to be able to talk to them. He added that there are months of conversation that he thinks needs to take place about the consideration of going to 800, what are their options are, what their channels are and how to communicate to a mutual aid company and these are huge things that the need to consider. He went on by saying that they have local radios is the fire trucks and the good thing is that all of New Baltimore has their channels and can get a hold of their dispatcher and them, which is the same with Medway-Grapeville and they also you some high-band in Greene County for their EMS so it is a multi-purpose radio and when they go to 800 megahertz, which will mean that they will have to buy a \$6,000.00 mobile and \$3,000.00 to talk to them and he is not sure that they are going to and it will then be an operable issue.

Councilman Burns stated that they will have the 800 system, they will have the radios in their trucks but they will still have their old radios that they talk on at the fire scenes.

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Coeymans Hollow Fire Chief Kapusta stated that he's not going to have that many radios on his belt, he carries two and everyone is not going to have a separate radio, some of the more expensive radios will actually combine the frequency band they have now but they are probably not the \$2,300.00 and if they were to do that, they would be on a 800 megahertz channel talking to guys in a building and if New Baltimore is trying to get a hold of him on another channel, he won't hear it.

Councilman Burns stated that he won't be talking to his guys in a building with an 800 megahertz; he will be using his regular radio.

Coeymans Hollow Fire Chief Kapusta interjected that they don't know that yet, there are so many options.

Ravena Fire Chief Whitbeck stated that the frustrating part is that they are communicating to them that this is not going to be the most opportunistic way or preferable way that they want to operate, they are coming to them and trying to explain what they should and should not be doing and they are leaning more towards they shouldn't carry a lot of different radios and he is pleading with them to listen what is being said. He added that even though they will have that ability, they are talking long-term and they need the commitment that this isn't going to be day-to-day and there are a lot of things that they need and it keeps going back and forth that they will still have the ability. He continued by saying that eventually they will have to pick a system and it sounds like they are going to have to pick the 800 system, he knows they will have a choice but eventually it doesn't sound like they will have a choice, which is the way it is being explained to them. He went on by saying that they need to start treating it for what it is, he and Chief Kapusta are telling them that it's probably not going to be the best of ways or the way that they should operate and they are telling them how they operate and he does not know what the Board's experience is in the field but they are telling them how it is in the field. He added that they are trying to convey this information to them, they need them to start listening to what they are saying and he understands that there are a lot of things going on but this is the third time that he has said the same thing and is hearing the same argument and these are things that need to be hammered out before they make the transition. He concluded by saying that they need commitments, the Board is going to have a lot of work on their hands and they can all agree that it isn't going to take 3 weeks.

Councilman Masti stated that they aren't going to over to the 800 megahertz even in the near future, Mr. Mariani said that it will be a year or more away.

Mr. Mariani stated that it will be available in 2016 and they will be fully over sometime in 2017 and as far as their operability, they are still going to have VHF, they can interface anything be it 800, 700 or whatever they are carrying with Greene County, which has been taken into consideration for when the State Police buy radios for their cars, they still need to maintain VHF for them, which is all done on the console level. He added that each tower site that borders a county with a different type of system is going to have a full set of inner operable repeaters on it with VHF, UHF and even analog 7 & 8 so they will be able to patch anything that comes in, they thought it out before they went over to 800 because they realize it is an issue, especially for their neighbors in Schoharie. He continued by saying that Saratoga and Rensselaer are 800 the same time that they are but they also have to deal with Columbia, Greene and Schoharie, which they took into account when the built it so no one is going to be isolated that they do business with today and reiterated that they definitely thought out the process.

Coeymans Hollow Fire Chief Kapusta stated that his point is not to say that the 800 is terrible, there are a lot of cool things with it and if he needs help, he can ask for help and they have his GPS location. He added that his point is that there is a lot of planning that they are not doing for that and the patching is great but if Greene County goes new, they don't trust County Dispatch to transmit on their channels and it's not happening. He continued by saying that he would love to see the system when it is up and running in a year and find out who is on and who is not on, where the coverage is, where it doesn't work, in-house coverage or not, who he can talk to and if he can get rid of his other radios. He added that there are a million different options and his only point is that there is a lot more work to be done that is not happening.

Councilman Langdon stated that he is hearing that they have to carry so many radios, which doesn't sound realistic from what he is hearing and he understands different types of frequencies

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work better in or out of a building but it doesn't sound like they are going to use much more than VHF and if they have the 800, they said they carry two radios now so they would be the two frequencies that are going to be most likely carried and it's not the whole crew on the scene of a fire that needs the 800 directly to the dispatch so it will be the Chief or whoever is in charge of that particular incident that is going to be in that capacity that really has to have maybe both.

Coeymans Hollow Fire Chief Kapusta stated that there are different ways of going about that and personally he would want all of his radios to be the 800, it's their primary that they talk to the County all the time on.

Councilman Langdon stated that he will have years to get there.

Councilman Burns asked if the can go to different frequencies on the 800.

Coeymans Hollow Fire Chief Kapusta stated that they can buy a radio that will be multiple but instead of being \$2,500.00 it is \$3,500.00 to \$4,500.00.

Mr. Mariani stated that it is impractical as well; you can't scan both bands at the same time.

Councilman Burns stated that if you are on a fire scene, you don't want someone interrupting you when you are trying to get a hold of one of your guys.

Coeymans Hollow Fire Chief Kapusta interjected that it is why he has two radios, one sits on the channel that gets him right to the guy that is in the house, it is direct to him and the other is the dispatcher, everyone else on this scene has the radio that goes direct so the dispatcher doesn't hear all the other conversation. He added that as units are coming in, his radio that goes direct only goes a mile, it's not going to go to New Baltimore for orders, in order for them to get a hold of him they are going to need some type of repeater or he will have to be switching channels on his radio, which logistically will not work well. He continued by saying that they may buy one 800 megahertz radio but they aren't going to outfit every truck and every officer and spend \$100,000.00 just to talk to Coeymans, Coeymans Hollow or Ravena, which means they don't talk to New Baltimore until they show up on the scene.

Councilman Burns stated that they talked about this when they sat down and talked with the Chief's and he wrote down the procedure for a fire where they will dispatch Ravena and alongside of Ravena they will dispatch Coeymans with a tanker and rescue truck, which included New Baltimore.

Mr. Kevin Demarest stated that they will do the same as they are doing right now, they will reach out to Greene County by phone and request whatever they pre-set and that won't change.

Coeymans Hollow Fire Chief Kapusta stated that the way that it happens today is if he needs a truck from New Baltimore he would make a call to Greene County Dispatch, they tone-out New Baltimore and the Fire Chief will get on the air to ask what exactly he needs because half the time there is some miscommunication, whether it be because he didn't make it clear or either the Coeymans or Greene County Dispatch didn't understand it clearly and that isn't going to happen if they are on 800 megahertz because he doubts that they will spend \$100,000.00 on radios just to talk to Coeymans Hollow Fire, which means they won't be able to talk to them until they get on the scene or call the dispatcher who in turn will call Albany County Dispatch who will have to get on the radio to talk to Coeymans Hollow to ask a question, which is not efficient at all.

Councilman Burns asked if Greene County is going to go with the 800 megahertz.

Mr. Mariani stated that they are not but they have Albany County fire control.

Coeymans Hollow Fire Chief Kapusta interjected that he is not sure if their Dispatch Center does or not.

Mr. Mariani stated that they have VHF in New Baltimore and the minute they are pulled in for mutual aid; their frequency will be joined with whatever channel they are using on 800 for the fire.

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Coeymans Hollow Fire Chief Kapusta asked if they will have permission to use the VHF channel.

Mr. Mariani stated that the VHF is still running and they would drag that into their talk group.

Coeymans Hollow Fire Chief Kapusta stated that he wanted to see it in writing that they will be able to drag Coeymans into their talk group.

Mr. Mariani interjected that it would be them building that procedure because if Ravena doesn't want to work that way they can't tell them that they have to.

Coeymans Hollow Fire Chief Kapusta stated that no fire or EMS was brought into the conversation and maybe it is a 100% right thing to do but he doesn't like the fact that no one was brought in on it. He added that they are asking what they want now, which sounds really good but they didn't ask him months ago and his problem is that it's too easy to commit to something but then logistically say that it can't be done. He continued by saying that he is being a little selfish and looking out for his needs at his Fire Company and things have been promised in the past that fall through for some reason or the other so he wants to see a detailed plan, which can be them working together on what they want to do, what the County can offer and if it's feasible and reiterated that it is something that they are not solving immediately.

Councilman Masti stated that basically what they are talking about is switching Dispatch over to the County, the County is still going to use the current radio system until probably late 2016 early 2017 when they will be looking to switch over to the 800 megahertz so they literally have a year and a half to two years to work out the 800 issue but in the meantime they are still going to be dispatching pretty much the same way as they are getting their calls now.

Mr. Mariani stated that is correct.

Councilman Masti stated that right now this is what they are dealing with. He added that he is all for the Fire Department, he is safety oriented and in his mind it is a transition that they are going to have to embrace, just as at work when they got a whole new computer system in the Emergency Department, which he had one day to learn and was a little upset too so he can relate but it was out of his control. He continued by saying that a lot of this is out of their control and safety wise he does not feel as though they are endangering anyone right now, they are still dispatching the same way but it will be through Albany County and not their own Dispatch in the Police Department. He went on by saying that they will have a transition period where they can meet and hammer out all the details and he doesn't fully understand what they do at a fire, he applauds that the firemen volunteers are out there doing this and going out in the middle of the night when it is freezing cold to put out fires and go to work the next day dead tired on their feet and not getting a salary for it. He added that what he can do to help them, he will do because someday he may need their help, he will want them there and when he campaigned for office, the biggest thing that attracts him to a community is a good Fire, Police Department & EMS because they are life involving things. He concluded by saying that you need good emergency services and he doesn't want to compromise it, he is willing to listen and try to sort things out and reiterated that for Dispatch they are talking about the same radio frequencies and same radios, no one has to buy anything yet and they have a year and a half to two years to sort out the rest of it, which he thinks they can do in two years but they have to take that first step because they don't know what they are going to get and won't know until they start making a commitment to Albany County.

Councilman Langdon stated that the other side of that is he understands the concern about working with New Baltimore, which they probably do quite a bit but they have the other side too, Westerlo is with the County, they are going to be on the 800 so there is no perfect scenario.

Coeymans Hollow Fire Chief Kapusta interjected that the County today is on the same frequency band as the Town is now, Westerlo has their channel, the Town has their channel, New Baltimore has their channel, they can all talk and New Baltimore can talk to Westerlo.

Councilman Langdon stated that what he is saying is that when the 800 comes in, Westerlo is going to change whether they like it or not.

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Coeymans Hollow Fire Chief Kapusta stated that they will be able to talk to Westerlo; they won't be able to talk to New Baltimore.

Councilman Langdon stated that what he is trying to say is that he understands his concern about an issue with New Baltimore but if they didn't switch to the 800, they are going to have the same kind of issue with Westerlo so it's going to be a problem with one side or the other and reiterated that there really isn't a perfect solution.

Coeymans Hollow Fire Chief Kapusta reiterated that it is why he is saying that there is a lot of planning to do and a lot of options, he is only bringing up the facts that this is going to cost money, it's not going to be as simple as flipping a switch, it won't be that simple and they may lose things in the process. He added that he is hoping that the 800 comes in and it's the best thing since sliced bread and they get all the channels and can talk to someone in Cohoes if he wants to but he is bringing out all of his concerns so they are aware of the fact that it is not a simple decision.

Councilman Langdon interjected that it is what they want; it is what they want them to do.

Coeymans Hollow Fire Chief reiterated that he thinks it is separate from the discussion about what they are doing for this year or early next year, whatever they decide to do.

Councilman Langdon stated that honestly to him it affirms the issue of doing the transition now even more instead of trying to tackle all of the changes at once; they can spread out some of the different issues over the next couple of years.

Councilman Burns interjected that it will also be for a lot less money.

Dispatcher VonSchenk stated that he does not understand a lot about radios and is very low tech but he remembers 20 some years ago when they started the EMS and started doing defibrillation when part of their protocol was that they had to contact ALS medic units. He continued by saying that before County had medics, they would get up on County radio with Albany Fire doing intercepts with incompatible systems and they used to patch them through, which he does not know if it's the same technology or if it's changed but they talked direct to Albany Fire in their trucks.

Mr. Mariani stated that if they took away the inner operation with their neighbors, they would lose all of their grid, the State would take it away, it was a requirement to get the initial 6 million that they got to put towards it, they had to prove and commit to an inner operable plan for their neighbors.

Dispatcher VonSchenk stated that it worked well going back to 1991-1992.

Mr. Mariani stated that they have everything except low band right now because it is broken and they have the capability of doing all of it right now so it isn't anything new that is going to be undertaken.

Emergency Management Coordinator Bruno asked if it can be built into the CAD or into procedure that if you are to dispatch for instance incompatible Greene County, when a request comes in, they will be patched in.

Mr. Mariani stated that it would be a written procedure because with the CAD system that they have now, there is no way to digitally do that and it would become second nature like a lot of the other things that they do and for an example they now have to do that in the north end when Troy comes over 3-4 times a day to Watervliet, Watervliet has a complete proprietary system that they bought that no one can talk to so they have to patch Troy over on an inner operational repeater, which is the same as Cohoes, Watervliet and Colonie.

Supervisor Flach asked if there were any other comments.

Ms. Claudette Taylor stated that basically it pertains just to her but when she takes her Mom back and forth to Florida, she goes to the Police Department and fills out a form that says she is

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not going to be home, what's in her driveway, will her mail be picked up, will lights be left on and now she would be looking at a phone on the wall and then asked who is going to do that.

Councilman Langdon stated that during the day it is never going to be not staffed down there. Ms. Taylor stated that this is something that she was not aware of.

Councilman Langdon reiterated that there is always going to be at least one person down there during normal business hours all day long.

Ms. Taylor stated that she worked in telecommunications and talking through a phone is not the thing to do.

Councilman Langdon stated that there is a position of Clerk for the Chief and there will always be a position there, they have never taken that out.

Ms. Taylor stated that last year there was an incident when her 90 year old Mom was on the floor, she was on the phone with 911 telling Albany County Dispatcher for them to please come to the side door and not the front door or back door and she was told that she could direct them to the door when they get there and she told them that she would have to choose between staying on the phone with them or going to direct the EMS, which she couldn't get through the Dispatcher's head. She added that luckily the Dispatcher for the Town knew her, knew the house and told them where to go.

Mr. Mariani stated that they would not have been communicating with the EMS responding to that situation and he was probably doing the best that he could.

Ms. Taylor stated that before she retired, you had to go the extra distance and she expected that the Dispatcher would just say to go to the side door.

Councilman Masti interjected that it can be put in the program.

Mr. Kevin Demarest stated that he can put any emergency access information can be loaded into the program.

Councilman Langdon stated that the data would go right to the Officer's car on his screen.

Mr. Demarest stated that they currently do that now and agencies put in key locations and things like that.

Coeymans Hollow Fire Chief Kapusta stated that the key thing that Ms. Taylor brought up is that she was trying to tell them what to do but the Dispatcher can't do that because he is not talking to the person responding because there is another Dispatch Center so they would have to call Coeymans and tell them what she said, which is not that easy to do. He continued by saying that this is one of reasons why it is crazy when you call County and they take the information and then you maybe you get over to Coeymans and talk to them again, they are not talking back and forth to each other and it seems so inefficient. He concluded by saying that he has called dispatch and he has been through that.

Councilman Langdon stated that her situation is an argument as to why they need to do this because if they had done this and that situation arose, that Sheriff Dispatcher would have been in direct communication with the Officer, which is not the case with the way that Dispatch is currently set up.

Councilman Masti stated that her information would have been in their system and they would have been able to tell and ideally in a perfect world it will happen once they get everything straight. He added that it isn't seamless, but nothing in life is seamless and they have to take the first step, which is all he is saying that they are doing and the timeframe, they shall see.

Ravena Fire Chief Whitbeck asked if they are still set on the June 1st timeline.

Councilman Langdon stated that they are if it works and everything they are hearing, it is a very workable situation by June 1st.

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Councilman Burns interjected that Mr. Mariani said that if he's not comfortable, it's not going to be a go.

Councilman Langdon stated that they are not talking about switching to 800 by June 1st, it is just the Dispatch situation.

Ravena Fire Chief Whitbeck stated that he's not talking about beyond that, he is talking about just the initial transition and he isn't sure if they are ready because there are a lot of questions that haven't been answered.

Councilman Langdon stated that they have been talking with the different Fire Chief's as much as they can and has met with the Police Chief and Emergency Management Coordinator Bruno and as far as he knows, he has not sat down with Ravena Fire. He added that a lot of it is individualized to each department and he needs to sit down with them to see what they need and they will customize the system to what they want.

Mr. Mariani stated that they could go forward at this point and they need to talk to everyone. He continued by saying that he understands what he is saying in that there are two separate things and things that he has to work out with the Town and reiterated that operationally they could go forward.

Ravena Fire Chief Whitbeck interjected that he does not think that it will be as pretty as they think it is and what he was talking about earlier is they are looking at potential huge commitments on the Fire Companies behalf, the Town and County are talking about going to the lawyers to draw something up, which is an impossible thing to do in a year and it would be fair to say that some sort of a commitment from the Town level that they will assist with some of the cost are just words and in this day and age they need more than just words.

Councilman Langdon stated that the purchases aren't even going to happen for two years because they are not going to be full 800.

Ravena Fire Chief Whitbeck stated that they said June 1st and he does not think that \$200,000.00 is going to fall out of the sky.

Councilman Langdon stated that he fully understands that but what he is saying is as Chief Kapusta said there really are two issues here, the Dispatch is a transition and part of the process, the 800 is going to come around the other side of it but to him it is much easier to do in bite size pieces like this rather than thinking they are going to solve all the problems and move Dispatch and go to 800 megahertz all at once. He continued by saying that it makes much more sense to follow the path they are on and Mr. Mariani is the man in charge as far as he is concerned and if he doesn't feel as though June 1st is going to be an adequate transition date as far as the Dispatch side of it, it isn't going to happen.

Coeymans Hollow Fire Chief Kapusta stated that if he feels that if either agency can't dispatch his Fire Department properly, he will have 50 of his members as well as Ravena and Coeymans, it isn't go through if they don't want it to go through and they all need to be in agreement that it is a green light. He added that if the County says yes they are ready to go, he wants to be able to say yes he's ready to go but they haven't talked about all the pagers that have to be reprogrammed and the radios may need to be programmed.

Councilman Langdon stated that they discussed it earlier in the meeting when he wasn't here and reiterated that they are going to schedule 3 days where everyone will have the opportunity to come to the Mobile Radio Shop and get all of it done.

Coeymans Hollow Fire Chief Kapusta stated that if he doesn't make it down for one of those three days, they cannot switch over and his point is that the only person flipping the switch is not over here. He added that he wants to be involved with anything that happens with his Fire Company because he is the Chief and it is his job.

Councilman Langdon stated that he didn't mean that he would have no say and probably didn't word it very well but the reality is that Mr. Mariani is the one that is going to ultimately be

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responsible in a lot of ways if this doesn't go right and he has to know that he is comfortable with the Fire Companies and them with him.

Emergency Management Coordinator Bruno asked Mr. Mariani what the parameters are for the switch over in his mind because he has to be satisfied and there are parameters that he wants to see.

Mr. Mariani stated that there have been a few issues and one that concerns the Fire Departments is procedures and making sure that they have all of their procedures and their information and what they need to build into the system, and then what they want to do with their radios.

Coeymans Hollow Fire Chief Kapusta stated that he is reprogramming his radios anyways, he has that capability and his only point is that there are a lot of things to think about with the Fire Departments, EMS, etc. and there are a lot of things that they need green lights on before they vote yes.

Collectively the Town Board agreed.

Mr. David Flach interjected that he is talking about money and the taxpayers just voted to give him 4 million dollars.

Coeymans Hollow Fire Chief Kapusta stated that they did not and they voted to allow the Fire Department to spend up to 3.5 million to build a new firehouse, not to buy radios and he doesn't want to raise taxes.

Mr. David Flach stated that he bets they will have money left over.

Coeymans Hollow Fire Chief Kapusta stated that he hopes they do, the money has to be used for the building, if they don't use it for the building they cannot spend it, they are not getting 3.5 million to spend on whatever they want.

Coeymans Masti stated that if they keep having the meetings and hashing things out, they will find solutions and he is confident of that.

Coeymans Hollow Fire Chief Kapusta stated that they need regular meetings and he thinks everyone is in agreement about that. He added that there was concern as Ravena Chief Whitbeck tried to get at earlier, is that they started this in November, now they are down to three months to get it done and they need more than one meeting a month to make this happen.

Mr. Mariani stated that it doesn't have to be everyone, some need focused attention and need different things, which could mean 8 meetings a month but they are fine with that and evenings are not an issue so no one will have to miss work and whatever meetings they feel need to take place, they will be here.

Councilman Masti interjected that they can't ask him for anything more than that.

Councilman Burns stated that no one is making a million dollars off of any of this and they are really trying to do what's best for everyone for safety and financial reasons, which is good for the taxpayer and it feels like they are walking into the lion's den all the time but they are really here trying to help and make the best decision with whatever information they get.

Ms. Claudette Taylor interjected that just because they are trying to save money doesn't mean it's always a good thing.

Collectively the Town Board agreed.

Coeymans Hollow Fire Chief Kapusta asked if there is any money available for consolidation.

Supervisor Flach stated that the County is probably getting money and he is assuming that they are getting money to be able to consolidate.

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Mr. Mariani stated that it is an unfunded mandate at this point, the State is coming down on the County and on every application that he fills out for any kind of grant money it asks if they are consolidating and if your answer is no, it gets thrown in the garbage. He added that there is money out there and they have to go after their representatives because there is money that they can grab for them but they have to find it, which might be a good source for some of the radios. He continued by saying that eventually all of the grants will require some effort of consolidation or they are going to take them away, they have already cut the grants and they are not even available to Towns and Villages but available to the County and they have to distribute it in some way and they only give them the grant if they plan on distributing in some way that is a result of consolidation.

Coeymans Hollow Fire Chief Kapusta stated that it may be different for grants but he knows there is money or grants out there to combine government agencies and the only thing that he would ask is that if the Town Board has an in with someone, maybe there is some money they can get to put towards the radios that they are going to have to buy.

Councilman Masti stated that he went to bat for them and they saved some on a loan but there isn't much out there, the Federal government will send billions overseas but trying to find some local is like pulling teeth from a mummy.

Coeymans Hollow Fire Chief Kapusta reiterated that they should look for some money for them and should keep their eyes open.

Supervisor Flach asked if there were any other comments, hearing none he asked for a motion to adjourn.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION

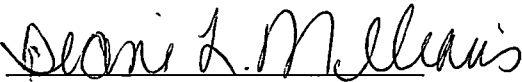
On motion of Councilman Langdon, seconded by Supervisor Flach, the Town Board Workshop was adjourned.

VOTE – AYES 4 – NAYS 0 – SO MOVED – ABSENT 1 (Dolan)

Time – 8:28pm

Respectfully Submitted,

APPROVED – As Read April 27, 2015


Diane L. Millious, Town Clerk