



Onondaga County Legislature

JAMIE McNAMARA
Clerk

JAMES J. ROWLEY
Chairman

TAMMY BARBER
Deputy Clerk

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PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES – OCTOBER 17, 2023 **MARK A. OLSON, CHAIR**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. McCarron, Mr. Ryan, Mr. Bush, Mr. Kinne
ALSO ATTENDING: Chairman Rowley; also see attached

Chair Olson called the meeting to order at 8:59 a.m. *The minutes of the previous meeting had been distributed, and there were no objections to waiving the reading. There were no corrections to the minutes, and the minutes were approved.*

- 1. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:** Daniel Wears, Commissioner
 - a. Confirming an Appointment to the Onondaga County Fire Advisory Board (Paul J. Killius)**

A motion was made by Mr. McCarron, seconded by Mr. Kinne, to approve this item. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.

b. INFORMATIONAL: Update on the EOC

- New building on Electronics Parkway – hoped to be in at this time this year
- One small delay concerning a switch gear, which is an industry problem - backordered and delayed
- Thought there may be temporary solution available, but electricians, engineers and National Grid (NG) came to common agreement on it
- Waiting for new unit that should be in mid-December; once the switchgear is in, NG can do the hookup
 - NG has to increase power coming into building, which cannot be done until new switchgear is in
- Carpets going in this week
- Hopefully will be quick process

Questions/Comments from the committee:

- Is the EM50 addition done?
 - Not done; scheduled this week or next; all final metal came in, door was in a week or two ago
- Is the timeline January (for EOC)?
 - Looking at right after first of the year with holidays, people moving, and time off, etc.
- Any interruption of services?
 - Day or two for moving
 - Current EOC will stay; will move computers to new location
 - Current backup and everything else staying; will move as little as possible
- Is there a plan for an open house for public officials?
 - Thought about it, but not have not set a plan yet
 - Waiting until everything is settled and make sure it is presentable
 - Will be little past January for a timeframe
 - Once allowed to occupy, then EM will have time to get everything out there

- Is E911 backup site staying in the cellar?
 - Yes, no plans to change that
- Are there any other hiccups other than the switchgear?
 - Nothing that has caused major changes to timeline
 - Always find things that may be missed or added; this was most significant hiccup
- Budget?
 - Still on budget
- E911 will stay downtown, correct?
 - E911 backup is staying where it is; moving it would be a significant project
 - Not aware that it was ever part of the plan
- When does EM anticipate starting training rooms?
 - Waiting until they know firmly that the switchgear will be done; do not want to take it away from anyone
 - Plans for courses including Integrated Emergency Management Course
 - Community specific, 10 years in country and Onondaga County awarded it
 - Pushed it out to September of next year (as far as possible for federal fiscal year to ensure no hiccups)
 - Will make it available to others as soon as the room is available
- What is the plan for power redundancy?
 - Application in for generator through FEMA that was approved
 - Diesel generator with a 3 day tank
 - Initial application estimate for 125kw generator to power both buildings, but engineer determined had to be 175kw
 - Got grant, but had to send back to FEMA on the one change, even though there was no price change from initial estimation received from local generator company (now waiting for application to come back)
 - In interim, have portable generator that can be utilized; sufficient for building, or can go back downtown if necessary
 - Everything on laptops, plug and play
- How is staffing?
 - Good; going through changeover right now and filling vacancies
 - Have not been hit by same issue as other organizations
 - Have seen decrease in number of applications from what it was pre-COVID, but doing well
- When there was a recent flood issue, EM reached out to local officials, but bypassed the county legislator; what is the policy for whom EM works with and notifies?
 - Do not bypass anyone
 - Last 8 years, after large storm, when EM is aware of significant damage to county and might have ability to get federal assistance, will reach out to Supervisors, Mayors and Highway Superintendents
 - This is done for preliminary damage assessment information
 - Is there damage?
 - What does it roughly cost?
 - Where is it located?
 - What is it?
 - Take that data and compile based on jurisdiction to see if the county is close to their thresholds
 - If the county is close or at threshold, data is submitted to state government, who schedules a preliminary damage assessment; usually it is the same work twice (state will come out and look at the sites)
 - EM goes to the people that can provide the information – towns and villages are asked to collect information from their residents, as they are the ones there and see it
 - Can look at modifying the procedure
- EM reaches out to the AHJ, correct?
 - Yes, they are the ones that have firsthand knowledge
 - AHJ – Authorities Having Jurisdiction; i.e. Mayors, Supervisors, DPW, DOT
 - The ones fixing the roads, responding and have an idea of what it will cost

- Did FEMA step in for the last storm?
 - Onondaga County met \$2.1M or \$2.2M threshold, but NYS did not meet threshold for disaster assistance under Public Assistance Program
 - 2 programs:
 - Public Assistance – infrastructure, not-for-profits, government owned
 - Individual Assistance
 - Still working with state on emergency declaration, which would change what the county is eligible for reimbursement for, and percentages of reimbursement to municipalities for infrastructure
 - Personal is what EM is sending to state; it does not have specific threshold like Public Assistance
 - People affected will not know until EM gets final determination
 - Received another submission from town of Clay to send to state
 - If EM gets confirmation, they will go back to towns and villages, because that was the initial data collection
 - Towns and villages will then notify in their own way

The meeting was adjourned at 9:12 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



JAMIE McNAMARA, Clerk
Onondaga County Legislature

ATTENDANCE

COMMITTEE: PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

DATE: OCTOBER 17, 2023

NAME (Please Print)	DEPARTMENT/AGENCY
Tom Newton	OCS
T. J. Healey	OCS
J. Passano	OCS
D. Wear	EM
Jim Beebe	Leg
John DeSantis	Leg.
Ben Yaws	Law