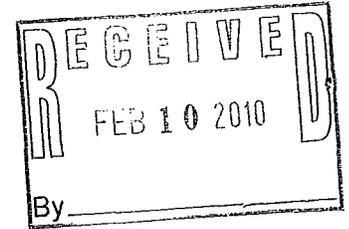


**NOT  
APPROVED**

**COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY AD HOC COMMITTEE**

**February 3, 2010**



**Committee Members Present**

D. Pullen, M. Healy, M. Johnsen, J. Scott

**Others Present**

M. Alger, W. Dibble, J. Foels, T. Hopkins, A. Lukasiewicz (*ECC Technologies*), J. Margeson, B. Riehle, J. Starks (*ECC Technologies*)

Communications and Technology Ad Hoc Committee Chairman David Pullen called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m., and everyone introduced themselves. Legislator Pullen stated that this committee would be taking over where the Fiber Optic Ad Hoc Committee left off in 2009.

**ECC Technologies Update on Assessment Study**

Andy Lukasiewicz from ECC Technologies stated that the County hired ECC to prepare a Fiber Needs Assessment and Municipal Fiber Cost Modeling Study which was completed and submitted in October 2009. One of the purposes of the study was to determine the feasibility of building an open access fiber network in the County. Mr. Lukasiewicz indicated that he brought copies of the final document for the committee's review. Mr. Lukasiewicz stated that to connect all of the public safety towers as well as the villages and towns, about 217 miles of fiber at an estimated cost of \$8.5 million would be needed. The results of the study indicated that such a project would not be sustainable in Allegany County. ECC developed an alternate plan which is also included in the document. The alternate plan calls for building spurs out into Hornell which should enable us to cover a lot of the businesses and sustain about 120 miles of fiber at an estimated cost of \$4.5 million. Mr. Lukasiewicz briefly touched on other action going on that might affect Allegany County such as the stimulus package and the fact that DFT (Dunkirk-Fredonia Telephone) has been working with Southern Tier West (STW) on a project that could technically support customers that would normally be used to fund our project. ECC Technologies President Joe Starks stated that the STW Project got funded through ION, and a lot of the businesses Allegany County was looking at are along that corridor, and it would not provide enough business to support two different systems. Mr. Lukasiewicz stated that Allegany County should work closely with STW to develop a win-win scenario so that we can work with each other instead of against each other.

Both Mr. Starks and Mr. Lukasiewicz stated that the STW/ION Project will bring fiber in along the Southern Tier which is good for the County as it will provide diversity and competition. Unfortunately many parts of the County will still not be covered. Committee members discussed Swain, noting its lack of infrastructure. A lot of the northern part of the County is devoid of infrastructure.

Mr. Starks noted that the Assessment Study is not for distribution or to be made public as it contains private financial information from suppliers and potential users. If Allegany County wants a report that can be sent or used by the general public, the financial information can be pulled out.

**Project Development and Funding**

Mr. Lukasiewicz stated that the next step is to understand what the County is looking for and what the County wants to do. Mr. Starks stated that short of the County needing to put fiber to their public safety towers, it is going to be very difficult to substantiate grant dollars. Fiber projects cannot

become a burden to the taxpayer. Mr. Starks suggested sitting down with ION as their maps are still loosely defined. How can we get them to expand their fiber and bring it into the areas we want?

Mr. Starks stated that it might behoove Allegany County to develop a last mile wireless solution as that type of project would be eligible for funding through the Ag. Department. Allegany County would not qualify for NTIA because ION has already received grant funds to build in this area.

Mr. Starks stated that building a fiber network would not be an option without some serious funding. Michael Johnsen stated that we are not in a position to maintain the system even if we found the money to build it. Allegany County would not be eligible for any stimulus money for fiber since ION has been funded, but we might be able to secure funding for last mile solutions.

ION will build a fiber network and provide service within one mile of that network. The good news is that we are getting some infrastructure in the County. Allegany County will not control it, but by working with ION and STW, hopefully we can develop programs that build off their project. Mr. Starks stated that securing money to build a project may be easier than finding money to sustain it. Mr. Starks indicated that it usually costs 6 to 8 percent of the project to sustain a project on an annual basis, and you do not want that to become a burden to the taxpayer.

### **Projects in Other Counties**

Michael Johnsen asked what other surrounding counties are doing. Mr. Starks briefly described the fiber coverage in some of the surrounding counties, noting that Allegany County is in a position where they can begin to work on how to solve some of the issues that have been identified. Wyoming County has a little fiber to support public safety and bring wireless broadband up to where the windmills are. Wyoming County needs to bring in a partner, and perhaps something could be done between the two counties. Mr. Johnsen stated Allegany County needs to branch out to others.

### **Service Providers**

Jerry Scott stated that it appears that Allegany County will be covered fairly well east to west. Everyone is pushing 3G and 4G, and we need to determine what we want to accomplish. The least expensive way to provide coverage is wireless. We need to sit down with major players and see what we can help with so that they will provide service. Mr. Scott indicated that sometimes large companies will come in an area if businesses and homeowners will sign a contract committing to use their service for a certain period of time. Mr. Starks noted that Verizon Wireless is one of the major supporters of these types of projects – they like dark fiber and the community model. Unfortunately because of their agreement with Verizon, Verizon Wireless can only go into areas and use services that are not Verizon territories.

Mr. Scott mentioned that providers will also bring service in if a company can create 100 new jobs. William Dibble commented that District III companies can't really expand without high-speed broadband services. There is not coverage in the southern part of the County.

Mr. Starks stated that if there is a justification in the County such as needing to replace microwave between public safety towers, lease line costs getting high, someone wanting to bring jobs in, etc. those types of justifications give us the ability to look at the model from a different angle and find out what the community is willing and able to do and what, as good citizens, we can justify back. Mr. Starks asserted that they can put the business case together, but they can't suggest that we increase taxes.

Mr. Johnsen stated that their hope in Swain was that when Verizon put the tower in, they would link it with other things, but they are using microwave. Mr. Starks stated that they are using microwave because other options are not available. In Livingston County there is a significant backbone being built, and it might be possible to tie into another network. Andy Lukasiewicz will follow up with Verizon. Mr. Starks remarked that Verizon wants the fiber, and if they can get it, they will use it. Mr. Johnsen stated that three additional users will be able to use the towers in Swain.

### **STW/ION Project**

Mr. Johnsen stated that we should be talking with Southern Tier West. What incentive is there for STW to help the rest of the County? What access does the community have to their project and what costs will be involved? STW has to generate enough revenue to cover losses in other areas.

Mr. Starks stated that he believes that STW Executive Director Richard Zink will have little to say about or do with the system that ION is putting in. ION is for profit, and they are going to build this project as a for profit company, and they are going to provide services to those that want it at a certain rate, and then they will operate it. Mr. Starks mentioned that ION is building right through the middle of Southern Tier East and Southern Tier Central, and it has cut them right in two, and they have very little to work with. We need to determine what ION will be making available. Mr. Johnsen stated that he had been under the assumption that STW was more than just a vehicle for ION to get the funding for the project. Mr. Starks said he is not aware of what control STW will have, and that is for us to figure out along with determining what role they will play. What STW gets out of this may be greater than what other regions have ended up with. Allegany County will want to make their voice heard and sit down at the table so that we get something out of this. Mr. Starks stated this is still very good for the community.

Legislator Pullen stated that there will be large swath of the County that will not be able to participate in the benefits that ION will be bringing to the County. How can we minimize that? The goal is to provide more than we currently are providing. The question is how we move forward. Mr. Starks stated that our initial focus should be in the wireless arena. We have public safety towers that we can leverage. The big challenge is how do we connect the things we can leverage together? Mr. Johnsen stated that we need to get together with STW and ION so that we understand what their arrangement is, and so that we can determine where we might fit in. Even if it's a bad news story, we need to find out for sure.

William Dibble suggested that a shortfall might be funded through a program referred to as "STEVE" (Southern Tier Electronic Valley...). Mr. Dibble believes there are similar projects at the Arkport School and a place in Virginia.

### **Moving Forward**

Chairman Curtis Crandall talked about the service available in Allegany County. Chairman Crandall stated that the average small business or homeowner may not understand the difference between wireless, broadband and fiber. What may be adequate for that small business or homeowner would not be sufficient for larger businesses or colleges. What is our ultimate goal? If ION plans to run fiber through the center of the County, we shouldn't look at it as a negative even if they take a large portion of the customers we had hoped would support the system we were proposing. We need to see how we can spur off of it, and there may be other means to secure funding. Our goals may need to be scaled back from where we originally started, but we still should be able to greatly improve our current service. Mr. Johnsen explained what happened in Swain,

noting that they started in Swain with a link to touch Time Warner in Canaseraga. Mr. Johnsen indicated that they would not have enough bandwidth to supply larger organizations. Chairman Crandall stated that the end user doesn't really care where the fiber originates. Chairman Crandall mentioned the possibility of partnering with other neighboring counties.

Mr. Starks stated that we have to consider the risk and reward to community. It would be great to have fiber to the home, and some day it will probably get there, but what we need to do is to determine how we can accomplish the goal of getting connection to homes. It's probably going to take a "hodge podge" of services to meet that goal, and there is nothing wrong with that. It's definitely not as risky. What is going to change over five years that may allow us to enhance this? As we start to look at the future, we need to plan how to get to the end goal and how to get the infrastructure out there. Mr. Starks stated that e-government may play a role as the little towns and villages become required to provide more and more things electronically. The microwave systems to the public safety towers will also need to be upgraded.

Mr. Dibble stated that when we put the original project together, we ended up with an estimate of \$8.5 million to get service on the poles. We also looked at Pennsylvania and tying into the Pennsylvania counties. It was also tied closely with public safety and the 911 center. Our Public Safety E-911 Center is in a consortium with Steuben and Schuyler Counties. Mr. Dibble would like to see a push with STW to work toward the original goal of \$8.5 million and see how it plays out. Mr. Dibble believes we should develop a business plan so that we can apply for round two stimulus funding. Mr. Starks reiterated that Allegany County would not be eligible for stimulus funding because ION has already received round one funding for this area. Steuben County is going to build fiber to all of their public safety towers, and then they plan to partner with Verizon and others.

### **Committee Work**

Mr. Johnsen stated that we need to define what this committee hopes to accomplish. We have been talking about mid-tier technology, and we really need to focus on two levels of technology. Our first goal would be to provide broadband to homes and small businesses ideally throughout the County. The second goal would be to clearly define where we really need the fiber. This changes our mission substantially because we are broadening the reach, but the two goals are intertwined. There is more money available for the last mile than for entire projects.

Legislator Pullen stated that half the cost would be covered to replace our microwave for the public safety towers. Is there funding that we should be applying for now? Could this ultimately become our backbone? Mr. Starks stated that there is some money for this type of project, and the majority of the money is going to collaborative projects. There are operators that would be very anxious to take over a project that someone else has paid to build.

Legislator Pullen stated that we need to set up a meeting with STW and ION, possibly jointly. We also need to check with other counties. We need to consider applying for funding for public safety fiber, and we need to define the two levels of approach.

Mr. Johnsen stated that we need to look at the map of the County and clearly define where we truly need fiber so that we have a goal in mind. We would then be in a better position to approach STW and ION to see how we can work together to accomplish some of our goals. The balance of the needs of the County really falls back to the last mile projects.

Chairman Crandall provided a brief history of what the committee has done and where we stand. Chairman Crandall stated that we need to define what our ultimate goal and mission are, and

what County resources should be used to get us there. We cannot end up with a business plan when we do not know what our business is. We need technical input and an understanding of what factors impact our plan. Mr. Starks stated that we really need the community involved in this. The group you have is good, but you may need some more technical representation. The idea and thought that this team will continue to move forward is the goal with respect to developing your long-range technology plan. Mr. Starks stated that we should put together a short-term strategy to see what we can do for the underserved areas, but we do not want to lose sight of the long-term goals. ECC would be happy to play a technical role in helping the County organize this.

Mr. Johnsen stated that we probably have all the information we need. Those that will need fiber will most likely fall into one of the biggest groups of business, emergency services, health care, and education. Mr. Johnsen suggested that we include Development Director John Foels and the E-911 Coordinator in identifying some of these needs.

Legislator Pullen asked when the next meeting should be scheduled. Legislator Pullen asked Mr. Foels to report back on which businesses will need fiber. Mr. Foels stated that no one other than Alfred State College has an immediate problem with what they currently have coming into their building. Mr. Foels said we should have Richard Zink come in and tell us about the ION Pipeline and where they fit in. We need to make him aware of what we want and what we currently have. Then we need to look at the areas that are not currently served. This pipeline is going very close to large players. Mr. Starks said that eventually we will want fiber to our public safety towers. It would also be good to investigate the possibility of links with other counties.

Mr. Dibble mentioned other funding through the FCC, and Mr. Starks indicated that you have to be a registered carrier for that type of funding. An LDC registered as a carrier would also be eligible. Mr. Dibble distributed a newspaper article entitled, "Can We Afford Web Access for All?" for committee members to read. Mr. Dibble suggested that the committee should also look at what they are doing in Blackberry, Virginia.

Mr. Starks indicated that we still have money left on our account with ECC, and they would be happy to join us when we meet with ION and/or STW. ECC can help us move our goals forward.

Committee members agreed to hold another meeting to define where we want to go before meeting with STW and ION. Legislator Pullen stated that he would throw out some meeting dates in the next few weeks.

### **Adjournment**

A motion was made by Mr. Johnsen, seconded by Mr. Scott and carried to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,  
Brenda Rigby Riehle, Clerk of the Board

**NATION**

## Can We Afford Web Access for All?

**W**hen you pay your phone bill each month, a small percentage goes to a federal fund that subsidizes phone service for people in remote areas and for the poor. Now the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is considering expanding this \$7 billion Universal Service Fund to give all Americans access to high-speed Internet.

President Obama recently announced his plan to contribute \$2 billion in stimulus funds to the effort, but creating truly universal

broadband access could cost as much as \$350 billion. Next month, an FCC task force will recommend ways to pay for the expansion.

FCC chairman Julius Genachowski claims that providing universal broadband is an essential national mission that will boost the economy by enhancing communication and commerce, improving the delivery of health care, and providing new educational opportunities for millions. "It is to us what railroads, electricity, highways, and telephones were to previous generations," he says.

**FCC officials say universal broadband would boost the economy**

Rather than tack more fees on to phone bills, Joel Kelsey of Consumers Union suggests applying the fee to broadband-Internet users as well. (Right now, landline and mobile-phone users contribute to the Universal Service Fund.) "With an expanded base, the burden would be on more people so the cost to individual users would be lower," he says.

Barbara Esbin of the Progress and Freedom Foundation, an industry-backed think tank, says the costs shouldn't be borne just by consumers. "If we all agree this is a good thing for the entire nation," she argues, "it would be better to support it through general tax revenues so everyone shares in the costs."

**JUSTICE**

## The High Price of Jury Trials

Serving on a jury is a civic duty, but it can also impose financial hardship. A Minnesota plumber was jailed recently after telling a judge he couldn't miss more than one day of work for jury duty. Judges in many jurisdictions report a recent increase in the number of people who say they can't afford to serve or who simply don't show up, causing cases to be delayed or even dismissed.

Matt Fullenbaum of the American Tort Reform Association (ATRA) notes that even before the recession, it was tough to fill jury boxes. "In some jurisdictions, you have no-show rates of up to 50%," he says. ATRA wants more states to follow Arizona's lead, where jurors are paid up to \$300 per day for trials lasting longer than five days. The money comes

from a nominal fee charged to plaintiffs when they file cases. (In some states, jurors are paid less than \$20 per day, regardless of the length of the trial.)



Greg Hurley of the Center for Jury Studies notes that states with less onerous requirements have less trouble finding jurors. "In West Virginia, you could be put on a panel for four months," he says. "Other states have one-day, one-trial arrangements, where you show up once and, if you're not selected for a jury, you've fulfilled your requirement."

Fullenbaum says that states should make it easier for citizens to serve. "The jury system is a cornerstone of our democracy," he notes. "It's important that everyone answer the call."

**NEWSMAKERS**

## Fighting Diabetes



A recent University of Chicago study estimates that diabetes rates will double over the next 25 years. Journalist Dan Hurley's new book, *Diabetes Rising*, examines the latest research.

**Is diabetes becoming more common because Americans are getting heavier?** Our weight has been inching up, but diabetes is five times more common now than it was during World War II. We're certainly not five times heavier. And Type 1 diabetes, an autoimmune disease that wasn't traditionally associated with weight, is increasing by 2 to 3% each year.

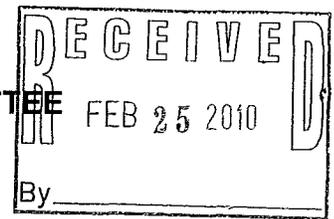
**How do scientists explain the increase?** There are several working hypotheses. One is that slight increases in weight do raise kids' risk of getting Type 1. Another is that a lack of vitamin D, the so-called sunshine vitamin, raises the risk of diabetes. Yet another is that because kids aren't exposed to as many germs these days, their immune systems are overly sensitive. And some environmental toxins perhaps stored in fat, have also been linked to diabetes.

**What are "diabetes clusters"?** Epidemiologists have started to notice that certain geographic areas—one in the Boston suburbs, for example—have particularly high rates of Type 1 diabetes in children. They don't yet know why, partly because diabetes is not a "reportable illness." If you get measles, the doctor has to report that to the CDC. The same should be the case for Type 1 diabetes.

**How else should we be fighting diabetes?** Choices for healthy living should be as easy and accessible as fast food. Eating right and getting enough exercise is important for everyone, whether they have diabetes or not.

**NOT  
APPROVED**

**COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY AD HOC COMMITTEE**  
*Sub-Committee of Planning & Economic Development*



February 22, 2010

**Committee Members Present**

D. Pullen, M. Healy, M. Johnsen, J. Scott, C. Crandall

**Others Present**

M. Alger, W. Dibble, D. Fanton, J. Foels, T. Hopkins, A. Lukasiewicz (*ECC Technologies*), J. Margeson, B. Riehle, F. Sinclair, J. Starks (*ECC Technologies*), R. Zink (*Southern Tier West*)

**Media Present**

B. Quinn – Wellsville Daily Reporter

Communications and Technology Ad Hoc Committee Chairman David Pullen called the meeting to order at 3:15 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made by Mr. Johnsen, seconded by Legislator Healy and carried to amend the last sentence in paragraph 5 on page 5 of the February 3, 2010, Communications and Technology Ad Hoc Committee meeting minutes to read Blacksburg, Virginia, rather than Blackberry, Virginia. The minutes were then approved as amended on a motion by Mr. Johnsen, seconded by Legislator Healy and carried.

**Southern Tier West (STW) Update**

Legislator Pullen introduced STW Executive Director Richard Zink and asked him to provide an update on STW Projects. Mr. Zink stated that Southern Tier West is involved with two projects – a fiber build project, and a wireless project in northern Allegany County. The fiber project has been funded with ARRA money. The ION Corporation out of Albany was the lead agency in New York State, and they received \$39 million to construct 850 miles of network including 115 miles from Jamestown to Whitesville, which they anticipate completing by the end of the year. Mr. Zink stated that this project is important for Allegany County because it will bring in competition and redundancy.

Mr. Zink stated that in 2008, STW received \$613,000 from a New York State Office of Technology Initiative that Governor Paterson put forward. So far STW has been able to construct two 80-foot self-supporting towers to provide services in and around the Swain Ski Center, which was an important achievement for STW as well as their partnership with Allegany County. The grant will pay for a total of six towers, two have been constructed, and Southern Tier Wireless plans to construct four more towers between Rushford and Swain. Mr. Zink stated that one of the most important things that can be done is to partner with others for space on the towers to keep costs down. Southern Tier Wireless was the private operating partner in this project. The more viable you can make the business, the more you will be able to expand down the road.

Mr. Zink indicated that STW will be applying for funding from the Economic Development Administration under the CTAA (Commerce and Trade Assistance Act) in the amount of \$950,000. STW will try to leverage the money they received from New York State to get that grant for projects in Western Chautauqua and Eastern Cattaraugus Counties. They met with BOCES, who they hope to

partner more with, last week, and they talked about the need to get broadband to the students so that they can keep up with the rest of the areas that have broadband. STW hopes to be able to apply for additional funding that may help solve some of these issues.

### **Stimulus Funding**

ECC President Joe Starks confirmed that stimulus money cannot be used to fund the same area twice, and because ION has obtained a grant for fiber within a portion of Allegany County, additional applications from Allegany County would not be considered. In addition, middle mile projects now need to be \$5 million or greater.

Mr. Dibble asked if there is room to apply under round two stimulus funding for middle mile projects. Mr. Starks said the applications are due in less than three weeks, and you would not get funding because of the ION Project. You could possibly get funding for public safety towers, but you would have to be able to sustain them, and it would be difficult to do that.

### **Swain Project**

Committee member and Grove Supervisor Mike Johnsen distributed copies of a map he printed from the Southern Tier Wireless website showing the towers they have or hope to erect for the \$613,000 wireless system. *(As previously mentioned, two of the six towers that will be financed by the grant were erected in and around the Swain Ski Center, and the remaining four will be constructed between Swain and Rushford.)* Swain was able to obtain internet service more locally from Canaseraga than what the original plan from Rushford would have been. The system is up and running with ten new customers; it's good service and the users are happy. Mr. Johnsen stated that the whole process only took about two months, and he commended the efforts of STW and Richard Zink for making this a possibility. Mr. Johnsen stated that they talked about dividing their efforts into two areas – middle mile and last mile. There does not appear to be much funding available for the middle mile or fiber throughout the County for a number of reasons. The last mile can be especially important in rural counties because it can provide the services that homes and small businesses need for the short term. It doesn't need to be tied into a massive system. If we come up with an area that desperately needs coverage, a wireless stand-alone system can be created, and it's a much quicker way to respond to residents and small businesses. More importantly there is a lot more money available for last mile projects than there is for the middle mile. Mr. Starks stated that there is actually more money available for middle mile projects, but the project size requirements (>\$5 million) do not make it feasible for many. Mr. Starks also briefly talked about the benefit of developing these small pockets of service and then moving on to the next area of need. Mr. Starks stated that eventually the middle mile will come back into play because as the wireless pockets become more successful there will be more and more demand.

### **Other Projects**

Mr. Johnsen stated that Swain was quickly identified as an area that desperately needed coverage, and we need to identify the other areas we should be looking at. Mr. Johnsen stated that Wayne Hauley from Southern Tier Wireless would be willing to address our committee and give us his thoughts on how we might make this happen.

Joe Starks stated that the northern part of the County appears to have a great program so Allegany County may want to focus its efforts in the southern part of the County. There may be some

funding for these types of last mile projects through the Department of Agriculture's Rural Utilities Service (RUS).

Jerry Scott stated that he likes to see the big plan, and he wants to know who will design this system. You need to have two ways to get in and out. Right now you only have one way, and if it goes down, everyone on the system will be down. Mr. Johnsen commented that an outage may be the cost of getting it up quickly. Small businesses do not rely on internet service to communicate with a home office. If you gave them a choice to get it today, or wait for a year for a system with a backup, they would want to get it today. There may be some limitations, but it fills a current need. Mr. Zink indicated when the project is completely constructed there will be two backups in place. Mr. Starks stated that diversity in a community level isn't as significant, but in the long run, you will have to think about public safety towers and the issue of sustainability might be viable for three or four years down the road. You do have to have a long-term plan, but you can sit back and wait.

Mr. Scott expressed concern about repair service and guarantees of time limits to address problems that come up. Mr. Johnsen commented that no companies will guarantee repairs within a certain time frame – it's all best effort.

William Dibble stated that the Bolivar Country Club and east to Ceres and west to Richburg would be an area that needs coverage. It was noted that some areas that need service are identified in the Assessment, and Mr. Foels and Ms. Grugel should be able to identify where there are concentrations of businesses that do not have service now.

Legislator Pullen asked if there is a revenue stream associated with this? How long will towers and equipment last? Legislator Pullen said he would hate to get this up and running, and have everything end up wearing out or becoming obsolete. How will it all be sustained? Mr. Foels indicated that replacement values can be figured in to continue the system. You may want to invite those that installed the Swain towers as they indicated that it would take about \$1 million in equipment to blanket the rest of the County in wireless service. It is relatively inexpensive to cover everyone when we were looking at about \$6 million to provide fiber. Technology is only going to get better and less expensive. Mr. Foels said he was struck by how fast and financially feasible it would be to cover the whole County. Mr. Johnsen said there is the capital side which can hopefully be financed with grant funds, and then there is the operational side. If you can get grant money to cover the capital side, you have overcome a huge hurdle, and the system can be turned over to an operator to run, expand and ultimately tie into a larger footprint. Mr. Starks stated that no one has figured out how to make money on wireless service without the support of a grant, and he indicated that we would want to make sure that Southern Tier Wireless has sufficient money to get upgrades and new technology. As long as their business plan identified how they plan to do that, you should be relatively secure. Mr. Starks commented that today you have nothing, and you will get a solution that provides a competitive advantage.

### Telephone Service

Legislator Pullen stated that he recently read an excerpt from a law journal where AT&T has asked the FCC if they can discontinue the landline system. Most of the County has dial up service over the plain old telephone service (POTS). We now have to worry about the possibility of the providers discontinuing landline services. Mr. Starks stated that the FCC is not going to let providers drop the end customer. You need to separate voice and internet. There is a requirement that every home phone has access to phone service. It will be a very long time before POTS lines are discontinued unless there is something else in place.

### **Public Safety Communication**

Legislator Sinclair asked if there is a point where the upgrade of our emergency system touches with this program for developing private communication. Mr. Zink indicated that there could be some overlap. Legislator Sinclair stated that from the planning perspective we need to control the number of towers that go up. We should be able to plan joint usage of these towers. Mr. Johnsen said that in Swain it was a condition of the building permit that the towers allow other uses, and those towers can accommodate four other users. Mr. Johnsen commented that he believes we also need to find ways to live with new technologies.

Legislator Pullen asked what upgrades are needed for the public safety towers and the services Allegany County is already involved in. How can we tie these other projects into the projects that will be funded through homeland security. Legislator Healy stated that we would probably want to bring the people in the E-911 Center and Sheriff's Office that operate the public safety side of this into the conversation. If we received grant money to build a system to connect the public safety towers, would the STW Group take over and operate the system? Mr. Zink said as an LDC, they would subcontract this out as they do not have the expertise in-house to operate and maintain the system. By adding STW, it may add another layer to the County. Mr. Starks stated that if we are only dealing with public safety issues, we may be equipped to handle it in-house, but it's complicated when it becomes an open access system.

Legislator Healy stated that upgrading and connecting our public safety towers will end up being a County project, but hopefully the towers and equipment could be made available to others to use. Mr. Starks commented that Allegany County should consider partners that can help share the load, and that we might want to see if Southern Tier Wireless can use any of the towers we currently have.

Committee members talked about regulations that may require 800 megahertz spectrum as the FCC is pushing public safety in that direction. Building fiber to the public safety towers may not end up being in the best location down the road. Committee members talked about the fact that the 800 megahertz spectrum does not work well in hilly country.

### **Moving Forward**

Chairman Crandall stated that the committee is talking about four different things – the ION Project, the wireless project, public safety communications, and the project we had originally proposed. We are way off base with the original business plan we had talked about. Perhaps we need an overall comprehensive business plan for each component that incorporates into a larger plan.

Jerry Scott distributed a copy of a newspaper article regarding FCC's plan to bring high speed internet to all Americans. All grants through the federal government should be tied into the FCC recommendations. Mr. Scott said that we can give internet service to a lot of people with minimal investment, and we should do that, but we also need to be working on a bigger plan. Mr. Starks commented that regardless of what the FCC comes out with, you still have a short term issue to deal with.

Legislator Pullen stated that we are not going to get a middle mile grant. We've made a stride with what's happened in Swain with the help of STW. Legislator Pullen questioned where we might come up with \$1 million to extend service throughout the majority of the County. Mr. Starks stated that there is last mile solution money available through the Agricultural Department.

Mr. Johnsen stated that the mission should be to get broadband to as many people as possible as quickly as we can. We should pursue last mile grant money to cover the capital investment, and there are operators willing to take over the system. We should be able to do this at very little cost to the County. The USDA grant match was 15 percent last year. Any grant source is going to require a business plan including a plan of sustainability.

Chairman Crandall stated that we need a business plan or several business plans in place. Mr. Zink stated that whatever business plan is created, it must encompass the operator and maintainer, and they should be brought into the loop as soon as possible. Mr. Starks stated that Southern Tier Wireless could probably give Allegany County a plan, and that ECC would be happy to provide technical advice. Committee members briefly discussed who might be able to put together a business plan that could address the things that need to happen. Mr. Johnsen stated that he would like to keep ECC involved. Chairman Crandall commented that we need to be clear about what role we might want ECC to play and how much that will cost. Mr. Starks also recommended meeting with Southern Tier Wireless to determine what they are capable of providing.

Legislator Pullen recommended moving forward with the following:

1. Approach those that are affiliated with the County, John Foels and Sherry Grugel, and ask them to identify the pockets where we need coverage.
2. Contact the company that constructed the towers and ask them to attend our next meeting.
3. Contact Southern Tier Wireless and ask them to attend our next meeting.

### **Future Meetings**

The next meeting will be held immediately following the Board meeting on Monday, March 8.

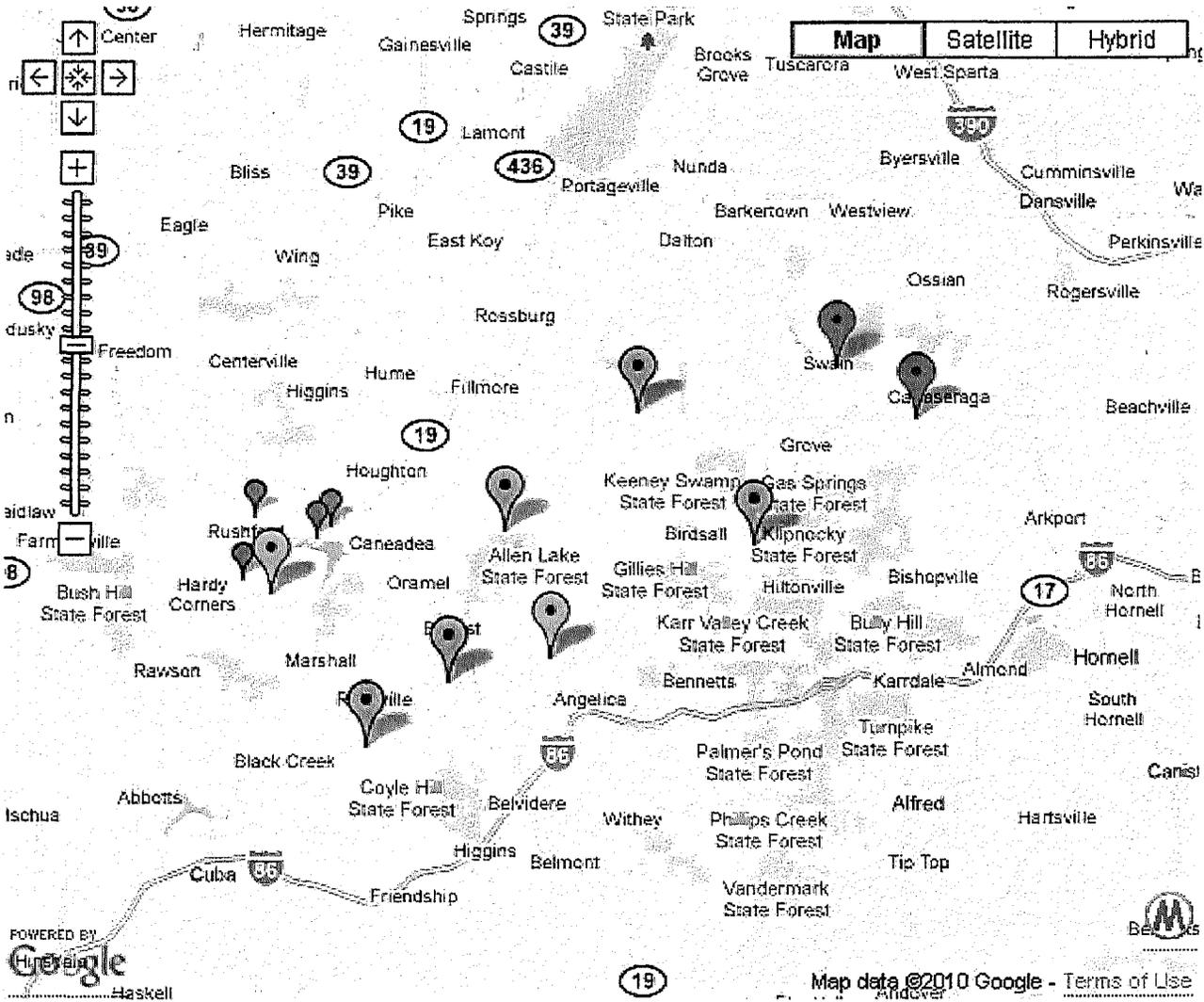
Legislator Pullen stated that anyone that claims that they can plan something from start to finish at the outset must be selling something. All you can attempt to do is leave as many options open as you can so that you can respond to a myriad of factors that are beyond our control. We are not where we thought we would be; circumstances have shifted. We hope to continue to gather information, respond appropriately, and not be left behind.

### **Adjournment**

A motion was made by Mr. Scott, seconded by Legislator Healy and carried to adjourn the meeting at 4:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Brenda Rigby Riehle, Clerk of the Board

# COVERAGE MAP



## Map Locations [-]

- Angelica Tower "Proposed Site"
- Baldwin Hill Tower Site#1
- Barber Rd Tower "Proposed Site"
- Canaseraga Site
- Grove Tower
- New Hudson "Proposed Site"
- Proposed Site
- Proposed Site
- Proposed Site
- Proposed Site
- Rushford Sub Site #1
- Rushford Sub Site #2
- Rushford Sub Site #3

-  **Proposed**
-  **Under Construction**
-  **Operational**



Associated Press

A Google logo is displayed at the National Retail Federation convention in New York. Google plans to build experimental, ultra-fast Internet networks in a handful of communities around the country.

# Google intends to build ultra-fast broadband nets

## Seeks to connect consumers to Web

By JOELLE TESSLER

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Google Inc. plans to build a handful of experimental, ultra-fast broadband networks around the country to connect consumers to the Internet and ensure that tomorrow's systems can keep up with online video and other advanced applications that the search company will want to deliver.

The Google project, announced Wednesday, is also intended to provide a platform for outside developers to create and try out all sorts of cutting-edge applications that will require far more bandwidth than today's networks offer.

The company said its test-bed fiber-optic networks will deliver speeds of 1 gigabit per second to as many as 500,000 Americans. That

would be roughly 50 to 300 times faster than the DSL, cable and fiber-optic networks that connect most U.S. homes to the Internet today, at speeds typically ranging from 3 megabits to 20 megabits per second.

Google envisions systems that will enable consumers to download a high-definition, full-length feature film in less than five minutes; allow rural health clinics to send 3-D medical images over the Internet, and let students collaborate with classmates around the world while watching live 3-D video of a university lecture.

"Our goal is to trial new technologies and figure out what kinds of applications you can send over these big pipes," said Richard Whitt, Google's Washington-based counsel for telecommunications and media. "There may be next-generation applications that are being held back right now."

Whitt said Google isn't looking to compete head-to-head with the phone and cable TV companies that

dominate the U.S. broadband business. Rather, he said, Google hopes its project will help create advanced broadband applications and network technology and identify ways to bring fiber-optic connections to more Americans at a lower cost.

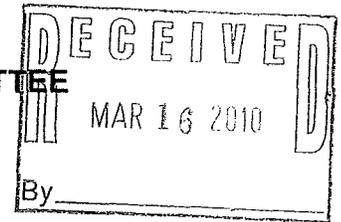
Federal Communications Commission Chairman Julius Genachowski praised the project, saying that "big broadband creates big opportunities." Next month, the FCC is set to unveil its recommendations on how to bring affordable high-speed Internet access to all Americans.

Google's announcement Wednesday also came as welcome news to public interest groups that have warned that broadband connections in the U.S. are far slower and more expensive than those available in many countries in Europe and Asia. Ultra-fast networks now available in the U.S., such as the university-backed Internet2 project, aren't available to consumers, as Google's systems would be.

**NOT  
APPROVED**

**COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY AD HOC COMMITTEE**  
*Sub-Committee of Planning & Economic Development*

March 8, 2010



**Committee Members Present**

D. Pullen, M. Healy, M. Johnsen, J. Scott, C. Crandall

**Others Present**

M. Alger, D. Broughton (*Comnet Services, LLC*), R. Hall, J. Foels, T. Hopkins, J. Margeson, B. Riehle, F. Sinclair, S. Teller (*Comnet Services, LLC*)

Communications and Technology Ad Hoc Committee Vice Chairman Dwight "Mike" Healy called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made by Mr. Scott, seconded by Mr. Johnsen and carried to approve the February 22, 2010, Communications and Technology Ad Hoc Committee minutes.

**Communication Services in Allegany County**

Michael Johnsen introduced Dan Broughton and Scott Teller from Comnet Services, LLC, the company that installed the high speed internet system in Swain. Mr. Johnsen stated that Wayne Hawley from Southern Tier Wireless, who manages the system notified him that 15 or 16 customers have signed up for service, and plans are already underway to expand the system. Mr. Johnsen briefly explained that the committee discussed the strategy of linking pockets together around the County using wireless service, which is basically what was done in Swain.

Mr. Broughton stated that he has discussed Allegany County's situation with John Foels, noting that it is a tough area to service. Mr. Broughton mentioned the need to enhance service for 911 and public safety. Mr. Broughton stated that there is a lot of vertical infrastructure (communication towers) in Allegany County that is not being shared and/or used for multiple purposes as it could be. Mr. Broughton indicated that it would be a good idea to look at the areas of need and create a redundant loop around the County. Small areas could be fed with a wireless link. Mr. Broughton suggested coming in from different directions to create a redundant system so that if something went down, the loop would continue to run. E-911 Coordinator Russ Hall distributed copies of a map showing the current towers in Allegany County, noting that the newest tower is 30 years old. Most tower locations are good, and the towers should most likely stay in the same locations for public safety purposes. Mr. Broughton stated that adding additional infrastructure to what currently exists would enhance that service and make it easier to create a loop. Mr. Broughton stated that updating what Allegany County has and adding to it, should provide service for a fraction of what fiber would be, and services could be shared with a little cooperation. Russ Hall stated that they just received their Public Safety Interoperability Communications Grant which will enable them to push out the rest of their microwaves, and they will have a microwave to every tower with a ring in the middle. Mr. Hall noted that there are a couple of dead ends due to the height of towers and the line of sight.

Development Director John Foels reported on the committee's request for information regarding the areas in the County that are desperate for a high speed internet connection. Mr. Foels

suggested that the committee involve the supervisors and mayors in obtaining this information. Mr. Foels is in the process of drafting a letter explaining what has been accomplished so far and ask them to identify the spots where there is no service, both residential and commercial. Mr. Foels indicated that Sherry Grugel does have data from the commercial side; however, it is not a comprehensive list and the results were sensitive to price issue. Mr. Johnsen stated that should enable the committee to create a map that would identify where we need to get service. Once we give this information to the representatives from Comnet, they should be able to come up with a valid design for the least expensive way to serve these areas and hopefully benefit 911 at the same time. Mr. Johnsen also suggested that the committee should continue to work with Richard Zink from Southern Tier West to try to secure some last mile grant money. Mr. Zink should also be able to tell us how we can tie into the ION Project. Mr. Broughton stated that someone has to light the fiber, and a perfect system would create a loop covered by two different companies. This has the ability to really enhance what we have, connect the dots to other areas, and have a tremendous impact on every taxpayer in the County. This is also something that new businesses contemplating moving to an area want to see.

Jerry Scott stated that we need to supply good service because people will begin to rely on the service especially for 911 services. Mr. Scott expressed several concerns about redundancy, backup and reliability. Mr. Scott indicated that he would also like to see something on the maintenance program. Mr. Broughton indicated that most of the equipment is put on a 10-year replacement plan. Mr. Foels stated the suppliers at Swain had to go through a lot of due diligence to prove that they would be an appropriate supplier because of the grant funds involved. In Swain, the infrastructure came through a grant, but the replacement costs had to be worked into the model and spread out over several years so that it would be self-sustaining. Mr. Scott was invited to tour the operations at Swain so that his questions and concerns could be addressed more thoroughly.

Mr. Johnsen stated that we need to develop a set of specifications that include all of the things we've talked about plus several others that we haven't even thought about. We need to do a little research to determine what other parameters should be included with these agreements so that it can be part of the whole package. Once we get the information back from the towns and villages, we should have the basis for developing a system design. At that point, we should be able to develop estimates for what this might cost, and how much we might be able to get in grant money. Mr. Broughton and Mr. Teller indicated that they would be happy to work with the committee at any time. Mr. Johnsen also suggested that a few committee members could meet separately with Mr. Hall, Mr. Foels and Ms. Grugel to iron out the spots that will need service. Chairman Crandall suggested that maps should probably be sent with the letters to the towns and villages to assist the supervisors and mayors in supplying the information we are looking for. Legislator Pullen briefly talked about the need to save the information that we receive back so that it can be referred to, and also as an accountability measure for those that may not have responded or indicated that they did not need additional internet services. Mr. Johnsen also talked about the need to cross check the information we receive from the supervisors and mayors with the information that Mr. Foels and Ms. Grugel have so that we make sure that the businesses that need service get it.

In answer to a question by Legislator Pullen, Russ Hall stated that we have seven public safety towers, and we should be able to get rid of one or two as transmission towers. Over time, we may need to add receive-only sites. Mr. Broughton commented that it would probably be less expensive to upgrade our towers in conjunction with 911 rather than trying to use some commercial space on other towers. Mr. Johnsen commented that this will not do much for cellular phone service as the cell phone companies would probably only use our towers as a last resort. Mr. Broughton stated that we would know how many towers it would take to provide quality internet service throughout the County once we have a good understanding of where the dark spots are.

Mike Johnsen talked about the "build it and they will come" scenario he is seeing played out in Swain. As people see the service is available, they want it, and the demand and need for additional services will continue to grow. Areas and businesses that offer free internet are also seeing a lot of use.

Chairman Crandall summarized that the following steps will be taken:

1. Send letters with survey and map to all towns and villages.
2. Blend information from survey with topographical map.
3. Develop business plan.
4. Secure grant funding.

Jerry Scott stated that the FCC will announce their plan to Congress on how they believe America should move forward with broadband on March 17. We need to consider this because all new grants will most likely follow that plan.

Mr. Scott showed committee members a Magic Jack, noting that there are quite a few companies that advertise that they can supply service very inexpensively. Mr. Scott expressed concern that they also advertise that they supply 911 services, and many people will come to rely on it, and he doesn't want us to have a mediocre system that cannot consistently deliver when people come to depend on it. Russ Hall commented that there are only actually a tiny handful of providers that provide 911 service; the other companies just route the call. Sometimes the relay from the other companies does not provide an adequate 911 address.

The committee plans to meet again after the additional information has been gathered.

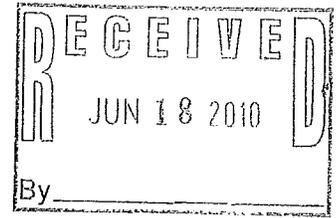
### **Adjournment**

A motion was made by Mr. Scott, seconded by Legislator Healy and carried to adjourn the meeting at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Brenda Rigby Riehle, Clerk of the Board

**NOT  
APPROVED**

**COMMUNICATION/TECHNOLOGY  
AD HOC COMMITTEE MINUTES  
JUNE 16, 2010**



**Members Present:** D. Pullen, M. Healy, Mike Johnsen, Jerry Scott, C. Crandall

**Others Present:** J. Margeson, M. Alger, T. Hopkins, D. Fanton, F. Sinclair, P. Curran, K. LaForge, T. Miner, B. Rigby Riehle, J. Foels, K. Dirlam, R. Hall, W. Brown

**Guest:** Richard Zink – Southern Tier West, Wayne Hawley – Southern Tier Wireless, Sherry Grugel – Greater Allegany County Chamber of Commerce, Inc.

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Chairman D. Pullen at 10:05 a.m.

**Approval of Minutes:**

A motion was made by Jerry Scott, seconded by Mike Johnsen and carried the minutes of May 19, 2010 were approved.

**Introduction:**

Chairman Pullen asked for introductions from everyone and then gave an update on the goals of the committee.

**Kier Dirlam – County Planner:**

Mr. Dirlam stated he had meetings with Russ Hall – E911 Coordinator and Richard Zink – Southern Tier West who helped bring him up to date on the issues that are being addressed for improving communications and technology through out the county.

Mr. Dirlam was notified that the Department of Public Works received a request to issue permission for right of way to various locations in the county for the ION Project to progress forward toward the completion of the networking project in the county. Once this project is completed it will provide a better level of service to consumers.

Mr. Dirlam had a meeting with Sherry Grugel to discuss the survey study that was done by the Allegany County Chamber of Commerce. The purpose of the survey was to determine the current level of broadband internet use in the county as well as future needs. Mr. Dirlam distributed information which was presented in a bar and pie chart format. This survey was completed six months ago. Mr. Dirlam felt there was need to send out a new survey because of all the updates that have been accomplished since this survey was done.

**Richard Zink – Executive Director Southern Tier West:**

Mr. Zink gave an update on the progress of funding for towers in the county. Mr. Zink discussed the importance to partnership with Southern Tier West, Southern Tier Wireless and the County to make the availability of improved broad band service to the County more cost effective with more availability to the consumer. Southern Tier West is willing to partner with the County and provide \$180,000 of funding to install a new tower on Ackerman Hill near the tower the County owns, if an agreement is approved.

Mr. Zink stated after five years Southern Tier West can revert ownership back to the County. Once the new tower is installed the equipment can then be transferred from the old tower to the new tower and the old tower can then be dismantled. Mr. Zink stated there is a short time frame in order to receive the funding. The project needs to be installed and all invoices provided before the August 18, 2010 deadline. Mr. Dirlam stated that in order for this project to be able to move forward a Geotechnical study needed to be completed. The study is estimated at a cost of \$5,000. Russ Hall – E911 Coordinator stated the New York State Core of Engineers specs indicate the County needs a 300 foot free standing tower. There was discussion with Mr. Zink on the possibilities of meeting these requirements.

There was discussion on the ION Project and it was stated that the project is actually covering more area to the south of the county than originally anticipated. Mr. Hawley stated this is a win-win situation for the County, Southern Tier West and Southern Tier Wireless as well.

Chairman Pullen addressed his concerns on how long it would take for a tower to be installed. Mr. Johnsen stated once the tower was approved it took Comnet Services, LLC six weeks to have the job completed in Swain.

Legislator Fanton asked Mr. Zink if an agreement is approved, can there be put in the agreement that ownership will revert back to the County at the end of the five year period so it will be in writing and approved before the five years expires. Mr. Zink agreed to this issue and also stated Southern Tier West would want in the agreement that Southern Tier Wireless has life use of the tower as long as the system operates.

County Administrator John Margeson stated it would be best to have one package that includes approval for the Geotechnical Study and an agreement lease with Southern Tier West for the installation of the tower.

A motion was made by Jerry Scott, seconded by Legislator Healy and approved unanimously a resolution to accept a Geotechnical Study be completed at a cost not to exceed \$5,000 and to approve a Lease Agreement with Southern Tier West for a tower to be installed and other legal details worked out between Southern Tier West and the County Attorney. Any additional funding to be determined by the Ways and Means Committee as needed to complete the project. This referral is to be forwarded to the Ways and Means Committee at their meeting this afternoon for their approval to expedite this agreement as soon as possible. **REFERRED TO WAYS AND MEANS  
PREPARE A RESOLUTION**

Chairman Pullen stated the extreme importance of moving this forward as soon as possible to take advantage of the funding that is available at this time and the need of expansion of the wireless and 911 system.

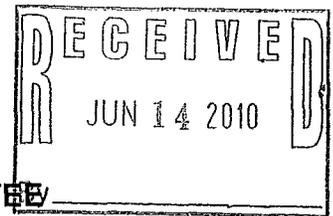
Mr. Johnsen stated he had a very productive meeting with the new manager of Frontier and gave an update on the progress that has been made. Robert Smith the new manager would like to attend a future meeting to present a map of plans for wireless connection from Rochester through Allegany County.

Legislator Crandall stressed the importance of completing the Geotechnical study and to complete a new survey with the towns and villages for areas of pockets that do not receive wireless service to identify these areas and address these needs in the county.

A motion was made by Jerry Scott, seconded by Mike Johnsen and carried to adjourn the meeting at 10:48 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted:  
Alice Alsworth  
Confidential Secretary  
County Administrator

**NOT  
APPROVED**



**COMMUNICATIONS & TECHNOLOGY AD HOC COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
MAY 19, 2010**

**Members Present:** D. Pullen, M. Healy, Mike Johnson and Jerry Scott

**Others Present:** C. Crandall, F. Sinclair, T. Hopkins, K. LaForge, G. Benson, D. Fanton, J. Margeson, T. Miner, M. Alger, J. Foels, K. Dirlam, L. Gridley, S. Torrey, R. Hall, Sherriff Tompkins and NYS Trooper Dave Gresham

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Chairman David Pullen at 9:48 a.m.

**Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made by Legislator Healy, seconded by Chairman Pullen and carried 4-0 to approve the minutes of March 8, 2010.

**Introduction**

Chairman Pullen invited all guests to introduce themselves and then gave an update stating there may be funding available and several meetings have been held to establish direction. It is very challenging to meet the qualifications for stimulus funding and a study has been prepared which he has a copy of. The purpose of today's meeting is to determine how the Committee should move forward and which entities should be involved. Cellular phones, Internet and operations are the key focus. Emergency responders including 911, Communications Network, Sheriff's Department, State Police and Fire Departments are key entities to be factored in. Fiber Optics might not be a possibility for our area due to funding. For that reason other options must be considered.

M. Johnson noted a grant had been received by Southern Tier West (STW) in the amount of \$600,000. It has been used to provide successful wireless coverage to the Swain area. STW is currently working on providing additional service to the Rushford area. There was discussion regarding "pockets" or areas that could be connected together with shared towers. He reported that Richard Zink of STW and committee members met yesterday regarding moving forward with towers. It is hoped that towers will be on the ground in Rushford by the end of August. The original sites were to built going from West to East, but plans were re-directed to East to West to accommodate the needs of the Swain Ski Center. A tower will be installed at Swain in the fall and the northern parts of Allegany County, above I-86, should be in good shape by the end of the fall.

M. Johnson also reported there is funding available for the "last mile" of service. The new Western District Manager for Frontier Telephone will be meeting later today with Mike Johnson. Frontier has been fairly cooperative and responsive thus far. The committee is pursuing all forms of communications, not just fiber optics and DSL.

There was discussion regarding shared services within the county for cell phone towers. We favor working together to connect them, thereby reducing the total number of

towers. We have no control over use of space on each tower. Usage is in the discretion of Verizon. Most townships in the county do not have zoning; therefore, there are no restrictions on the building of cell towers. There was further discussion regarding cell tower restrictions due to landowners and zoning. The question was asked if townships can adopt SEQR to acquire a permit approval for a tower. M. Johnson responded, "yes, and that was what his township did." It was noted that townships don't have the power to remove towers, but they can approve planning permits with restrictions. C. Crandall commented that once the "needs" surveys are completed and the pocket areas are noted, we can look into utilizing the existing towers and determine the needs for wireless service in areas that do not need towers.

J. Scott reported he visited Swain recently and was very impressed with the wireless service that had been installed. He recommended proceeding one step at a time. The key next step at this point is obtaining the needs survey results.

A question was raised regarding how many fire service towers the county owns and who has jurisdiction. Russ Hall, Fire Service, reported the county does not own all the existing towers. There is one tower in Grove that is county-owned and ready for use. All others are not cross-stabilized at this time. He is working with STW and Southern Tier Wireless for shared services. Southern Tier Wireless has offered broadband access for the Grove tower owned by the County. When asked, Russ commented he would probably be the best contact person. He reported the following fire service towers are available:

- Hall Road, in Granger
- Hamilton Hill, in Cuba
- Ackerman/Corbin Hill, in Belmont (A prime site but tower should have been replaced 16 years ago, which is an issue)
- White Hill, in Alma – has space available but county does not own
- County Rd. 12, in Alfred – Cell phone space only
- County Rd. 21, in Andover
- McMann Rd, in Birdsall – owned by Family Life Network tower has space available, but wants to sell tower. This raises questions regarding using existing towers rather than adding new towers.

There was discussion on the possible purchase of the tower in Birdsall and what funding might be available. D. Pullen reported on the stimulus funding for rural broadband. He explained that we may qualify for consideration but we don't have enough population density per mile to qualify for co-axial and commercial business access. We are competing with counties such as Nassau and Suffolk which have more population density.

There was discussion regarding the interaction between New York State Police, 911 and Economic Development. Legislator Healy noted there is some funding available for Public Safety and the Public Safety Committee is looking to apply for what is available. R. Hall will survey towers and establish infrastructure needs and what's usable. He needs a recommendation from the committee before moving forward. It was determined that the needs survey must be completed before a determination can be

made regarding the needs of NYS Police and Sheriff's Office, so there is no duplication of services. Sheriff Tompkins reported that it is important to remember as we move forward that public safety should come first and that it should remain a priority as different agencies become involved.

There was discussion regarding a possible study and any funding source available. The ARRA fund was discussed and the need to possibly retain a consultant. There was consensus that if a consultant is used that the County consider using Mike Saia, a local communications supplier, who is very familiar with our area. Legislator Sinclair suggested the Comprehensive Implementation Group could possibly fund the expense of such a study, and should consider obtaining an estimate from Mr. Saia. R. Hall also suggested working with David Cook, a principal designer of the statewide wireless system. That was a very detailed plan. He also agreed that Mike Saia is an excellent resource but may not have all the missing pieces. Jerry Scott remarked the "pipe" needs to be in place to serve everyone, whether it is fiber or radio. Legislative Chairman Crandall commented no further money would be spent until the needs survey is completed. It was suggested a meeting with Mr. Saia be held through the NYS Troopers. R. Hall further suggested instead of a broad study through a survey, it may be better to do a needs assessment for the commercial areas; targeting a specific area versus the whole county.

A grant application was discussed and J. Foels suggested that R. Hall work together with County Planner Kier Dirlam and STW to gather information and bring it back to the committee. Once that is available the committee can look into a grant application. K. Dirlam said funding appears secondary at this time. He agreed that he would work with Russ Hall to streamline and pull various resources together. There is grant funding for "last mile" and 911, so it was suggested that 911 and the Ad Hoc Committee work together and decide which is the best entity to apply for grant funding.

Chairman Pullen asked for any comments from Trooper Gresham regarding NYS Troopers concerns. He reported the NYS Troopers have three legs of communication:

1. Landbased radio – leased tower space
2. Statewide vehicle locator – satellite driven
3. Most important is to piggyback off County 911 System, which is necessary for public safety

NYS Troopers will support any initiative the county takes with a ground based radio system. It is important they remain linked to the 911 system. They would be willing to do a letter of support for any grant funding applications the County might submit.

A motion was made by Legislator Sinclair; seconded by Legislator Healy and carried to adjourn the meeting at 10:52 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Cathleen L. Whitfield  
Recording Secretary

**NOT  
APPROVED**

**COMMUNICATION/TECHNOLOGY  
AD HOC COMMITTEE MINUTES  
JUNE 16, 2010**



**Members Present:** D. Pullen, M. Healy, Mike Johnsen, Jerry Scott, C. Crandall

**Others Present:** J. Margeson, M. Alger, T. Hopkins, D. Fanton, F. Sinclair, P. Curran, K. LaForge, T. Miner, B. Rigby Riehle, J. Foels, K. Dirlam, R. Hall, W. Brown

**Guest:** Richard Zink – Southern Tier West, Wayne Hawley – Southern Tier Wireless, Sherry Grugel – Greater Allegany County Chamber of Commerce, Inc.

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Chairman D. Pullen at 10:05 a.m.

**Approval of Minutes:**

A motion was made by Jerry Scott, seconded by Mike Johnsen and carried the minutes of May 19, 2010 were approved.

**Introduction:**

Chairman Pullen asked for introductions from everyone and then gave an update on the goals of the committee.

**Kier Dirlam – County Planner:**

Mr. Dirlam stated he had meetings with Russ Hall – E911 Coordinator and Richard Zink – Southern Tier West who helped bring him up to date on the issues that are being addressed for improving communications and technology through out the county.

Mr. Dirlam was notified that the Department of Public Works received a request to issue permission for right of way to various locations in the county for the ION Project to progress forward toward the completion of the networking project in the county. Once this project is completed it will provide a better level of service to consumers.

Mr. Dirlam had a meeting with Sherry Grugel to discuss the survey study that was done by the Allegany County Chamber of Commerce. The purpose of the survey was to determine the current level of broadband internet use in the county as well as future needs. Mr. Dirlam distributed information which was presented in a bar and pie chart format. This survey was completed six months ago. Mr. Dirlam felt there was need to send out a new survey because of all the updates that have been accomplished since this survey was done.

**Richard Zink – Executive Director Southern Tier West:**

Mr. Zink gave an update on the progress of funding for towers in the county. Mr. Zink discussed the importance to partnership with Southern Tier West, Southern Tier Wireless and the County to make the availability of improved broad band service to the County more cost effective with more availability to the consumer. Southern Tier West is willing to partner with the County and provide \$180,000 of funding to install a new tower on Ackerman Hill near the tower the County owns, if an agreement is approved.

Mr. Zink stated after five years Southern Tier West can revert ownership back to the County. Once the new tower is installed the equipment can then be transferred from the old tower to the new tower and the old tower can then be dismantled. Mr. Zink stated there is a short time frame in order to receive the funding. The project needs to be installed and all invoices provided before the August 18, 2010 deadline. Mr. Dirlam stated that in order for this project to be able to move forward a Geotechnical study needed to be completed. The study is estimated at a cost of \$5,000. Russ Hall – E911 Coordinator stated the New York State Core of Engineers specs indicate the County needs a 300 foot free standing tower. There was discussion with Mr. Zink on the possibilities of meeting these requirements.

There was discussion on the ION Project and it was stated that the project is actually covering more area to the south of the county than originally anticipated. Mr. Hawley stated this is a win-win situation for the County, Southern Tier West and Southern Tier Wireless as well.

Chairman Pullen addressed his concerns on how long it would take for a tower to be installed. Mr. Johnsen stated once the tower was approved it took Comnet Services, LLC six weeks to have the job completed in Swain.

Legislator Fanton asked Mr. Zink if an agreement is approved, can there be put in the agreement that ownership will revert back to the County at the end of the five year period so it will be in writing and approved before the five years expires. Mr. Zink agreed to this issue and also stated Southern Tier West would want in the agreement that Southern Tier Wireless has life use of the tower as long as the system operates.

County Administrator John Margeson stated it would be best to have one package that includes approval for the Geotechnical Study and an agreement lease with Southern Tier West for the installation of the tower.

A motion was made by Jerry Scott, seconded by Legislator Healy and approved unanimously a resolution to accept a Geotechnical Study be completed at a cost not to exceed \$5,000 and to approve a Lease Agreement with Southern Tier West for a tower to be installed and other legal details worked out between Southern Tier West and the County Attorney. Any additional funding to be determined by the Ways and Means Committee as needed to complete the project. This referral is to be forwarded to the Ways and Means Committee at their meeting this afternoon for their approval to expedite this agreement as soon as possible. **REFERRED TO WAYS AND MEANS  
PREPARE A RESOLUTION**

Chairman Pullen stated the extreme importance of moving this forward as soon as possible to take advantage of the funding that is available at this time and the need of expansion of the wireless and 911 system.

Mr. Johnsen stated he had a very productive meeting with the new manager of Frontier and gave an update on the progress that has been made. Robert Smith the new manager would like to attend a future meeting to present a map of plans for wireless connection from Rochester through Allegany County.

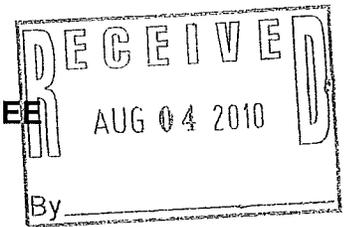
Legislator Crandall stressed the importance of completing the Geotechnical study and to complete a new survey with the towns and villages for areas of pockets that do not receive wireless service to identify these areas and address these needs in the county.

A motion was made by Jerry Scott, seconded by Mike Johnsen and carried to adjourn the meeting at 10:48 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted:  
Alice Alsworth  
Confidential Secretary  
County Administrator

**NOT  
APPROVED**

**COMMUNICATIONS & TECHNOLOGY AD HOC COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
July 21, 2010**



**Members Present:** M. Healy, M. Johnsen and C. Crandall

**Absent:** D. Pullen and J. Scott

**Others Present:** F. Sinclair, K. LaForge, D. Fanton, J. Margeson, M. Alger, J. Garmong, K. Dirlam, R. Hall, Sherriff Tompkins, J. Tucker, C. Braack, S. Grugel, and D. Hanchett

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 10:04 a.m. by Planning & Economic Development Chairman Fred Sinclair in the absence of Chairman David Pullen.

**Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made by M. Johnson, seconded by Legislator Healy and carried 3-0; w/2 absent, to approve the minutes of June 28, 2010.

**STW Memorandum of Understanding**

Chairman Sinclair presented an MOU that was revised and signed by Southern Tier West regarding the construction of a new radio tower at the county site on Ackerman Hill. STW has \$180,000 in grant funds available to offset the cost for a 300 foot tower with completion being in mid-August.

County Planner Kier Dirlam handed out a quote from SAIA who has agreed to move all equipment, including FBI, to which STW has agreed.

Legislator Fanton expressed a concern with maintenance cost coming back to the county after five years. Chairman Sinclair referred to the 5<sup>th</sup> paragraph in the MOU regarding the maintenance of the tower and after discussion County Attorney Miner expressed no problem with the language, but would check with Sheriff's Department and Emergency Services. There was additional discussion regarding:

- Leasing tower from STW at no monthly fee
- Price of tower versus future tower costs
- Tower pricing, with a lower price submitted by SAIA
- Increased height of tower with increased cost (\$15,000-\$17,000)
- Real Estate to be rented by other providers may provide future revenue
- Tower height concerns - statewide wireless; building replacement; add-on's to additional height (i.e., microwave extra RE)
- Highland Security Grant (Emergency Services); allocation and reimbursement process

M. Johnsen spoke regarding concerns with tower loading (number of antennae's) and design to accommodate systems today and in future years with strength enough to support "twist and sway." Too much twist will miss signal and extra height is no good if it can't support the additional load of antennae's.

Kier Dirlam reported on the finances and estimated demolition cost of old tower. \$45,000 has been allocated and the estimate to take down the old tower is approximately \$12,000, leaving \$33,000 for the additional 40 feet which should cost approximately \$17,000. The remaining funds are not allocated at this time and there is no request for additional funds today, just the decision on authorization to spend. Legislative Chairman Crandall questioned the time-frame and possible loss of the \$160,000 from STW if not met. Chairman Sinclair commented we are still within Southern Tier West's time-frame; however, they need to know the height as soon as possible, preferably today. Legislator Healy asked of the existing Memorandum of Understanding will need to be amended for the specifics. Chairman Sinclair responded "no, that nothing in the previous MOU addressed the specifics." Legislative Chairman Crandall commented that he felt comfortable moving ahead as the money is already allocated and whatever questions we can't answer immediately, Southern Tier West could decide, as long as it stays within the funds appropriated. Height difference should not be a concern as long as it meets our needs. M. Johnsen agreed with Chairman Crandall and stressed the height and strength needs to be decided now as it will take time to pour footers. There was consensus and no objections to the 300' tower height.

There was consensus with board members to recommend a 300' tower to Southern Tier West with a codicil defining future usage. M. Johnsen and K. Dirlam will talk to Southern Tier West and SAIA and Chairman Sinclair encouraged the Sheriff's Department and Emergency Services to be involved in those discussions. D. Hanchett remarked there is not enough room in the current building to add more equipment and there will need to be future discussions regarding the housing and equipment space.

Chairman Sinclair entertained a motion to move the Memorandum of Understanding to the Ways and Means Committee with a 300' tower height pending the assurance we have adequate strength for loading and "twist and sway." Motioned by Legislator Healy; seconded by M. Johnson and carried 3-0 w/2 absent. **REFER TO WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE**

A motion was made by Chairman Sinclair; seconded by Legislator Healy and carried to adjourn the meeting at 10:35 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cathleen L. Whitfield  
Recording Secretary

## MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

This Memorandum of Understanding, made June 28, 2010, by and between the County of Allegany, 7 Court Street, Belmont, New York 14813 hereinafter called "County" and the Southern Tier West Regional Planning and Development Board, 4039 Route 219, Suite 200, Salamanca, New York 14779, hereinafter called "STW".

The parties to this Memorandum of Understanding wish to set forth their understanding concerning the potential construction of a new radio tower at a site on Ackerman Hill where an existing radio tower owned by County currently sits. STW has indicated to County that it has \$180,000 in grant funds available which can be used for the construction of a new radio tower of approximately 300 feet if the work can be completed by mid-August,

In consideration of STW agreeing to undertake all steps necessary to construct a new radio tower at the Ackerman Hill site, which steps include conducting the necessary engineering studies and environmental review, together with procuring all necessary permits, County agrees to pay to STW the sum of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000) to be used for purposes of procuring a geotechnical study addressing the construction of a 300 foot radio tower at the Ackerman Hill site.

Upon the completion of the geotechnical study evidencing the suitability of the site for construction of the new tower, County agrees to pay to STW, a sum of money not to exceed Forty-Five Thousand Dollars, (\$45,000), representing the actual cost of this project not involved in constructing the tower, which costs will not exceed One Hundred and Eighty Thousand Dollars (\$180,000). County will enter into a separate lease agreement with STW allowing STW to construct a 300 foot radio tower at the Ackerman Hill site. The lease will assure adequate access to the site for ongoing maintenance. The term of the lease shall be for an initial term of five years, subject to renewal upon terms satisfactory to both parties. Consideration for the lease shall consist of STW's agreement to allow County to place and use its E-911 radio communication equipment on the tower, without charge, together with STW agreeing to relocate from the old tower to the new tower, at Allegany County's expense, any radio equipment owned by the FBI. STW agrees that County shall be entitled to a license for such space required by County and the FBI and County shall be entitled to receive any payments under its license agreement with the FBI.

County shall be responsible for its own equipment on the tower as well as tower maintenance, but STW shall own the tower, fixtures and equipment related thereto (not otherwise owned by County or the FBI) and shall be responsible for obtaining and maintaining all regulatory approvals. Each party shall hold the other party harmless as against the negligent acts of its officers, employees or agents and provide adequate insurance or self-insured reserves for "commercial general liability" of at least two million dollars. STW agrees that it shall not pledge or otherwise encumber the tower and equipment related thereto without the prior written permission of County.

At the end of five years, County shall have the right, but not the obligation, to terminate the lease upon sixty (60) days written notice to STW. If County elects to

terminate the lease, STW agrees that for the additional sum of one dollar (\$1.00), it shall transfer to County its property interest in the tower, equipment and fixtures related to the tower. Furthermore, STW agrees that it would assign any interest in existing license agreements. Upon transfer, County will assume all rights and responsibilities with regards to the tower and any outstanding license agreements.

That both the County and STW agree to cooperate fully with each other to accomplish the objectives set forth herein.

That this Memorandum of Understanding shall cover the time period of June 28, 2010 to August 15, 2015 unless further extended or otherwise modified in writing by the parties hereto.

This Memorandum of Understanding has been executed by the respective parties the day and year first above written.

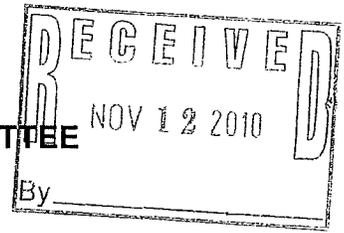
COUNTY OF ALLEGANY

SOUTHERN TIER WEST PLANNING AND  
DEVELOPMENT BOARD

*Richard D. Zink*

NOT  
APPROVED

COMMUNICATIONS & TECHNOLOGY AD HOC COMMITTEE  
October 20, 2010



**Members Present:** D. Pullen, M. Healy, J. Scott, and C. Crandall

**Absent:** M. Johnsen

**Others Present:** F. Sinclair, K. LaForge, J. Margeson, T. Miner, M. Alger, T. Ross, B. Rigby-Riehle, R. Hall, Sheriff-Elect R. Whitney, S. Torrey, M. Saia, K. Hooker, D. Lavery, and R. Zink

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 10:01 a.m. by Chairman Dave Pullen.

**Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made by Legislator Healy, seconded by Jerry Scott and carried 4-0; w/1 absent, to approve the minutes of July 21, 2010.

**OLD BUSINESS / UPDATES**

**Ackerman Hill Tower / Support Building**

Mike Saia reported he will be responsible for the installation of the new tower. The status to-date is the majority of the tower is finished in the fabrication shop with half being galvanized. He is meeting the foundation contractor today and excavation will start within the next two weeks. He has the layout of property and is now looking for direction from the county on site location for installation. Legislator Sinclair asked that the new tower be put as close to the existing tower as possible. M. Saia commented there is concern with existing guide wires and access by the crane and they will put the tower just outside the interior fence line, so as not to disturb the guide wires to first tower. Legislator Sinclair asked if original guide wires could be removed to allow tower to be installed inside fence. M. Saia will work around wires to avoid building a new fence, but he has to work around the crane as well, as safety to the original tower and guide wires is critical. There was discussion regarding cost to put tower inside original fence or possibly removing one side of fence so tower is in the perimeter of triangle. The outer fence will not be affected. Dig NY will be onsite for UFPO layout.

There was consensus that Russ Hall of Fire Service will be the contact person for Mike Saia. County Administrator John Margeson reported that he met with M. Saia last week and he recommends that M. Saia and R. Hall do initial site inspection and if there are any concerns, to let him know and the County DPW will follow-up. There was committee consensus that this process was acceptable and they will accept what is found to be appropriate by J. Margeson and R. Hall. **Chairman Pullen entertained a motion for the committee to authorize John Margeson, County Administrator, to make decisions based on recommendations by Mike Saia and Russ Hall. Motioned by Legislator Healy; seconded by J. Scott and carried 4-0 w/1absent.**

There was discussion regarding the construction of a new support building to house tower equipment. M. Saia reported he can provide, at no cost to the county, a stand-

alone cabinet building that is temperature controlled to store the equipment. This will be a temporary structure until such time the County can fund the construction of a new building. The county will have to supply the power to cabinet. It is not in the best interest to house the equipment in the current building, as it will be a fire hazard. His temporary cabinet is more secure than the existing building in place.

There was further discussion on the cost for a new building and the proposal for a turn-key 12x30 concrete building, temperature controlled, would be approximately \$44,850. This size is adequate for all equipment to be housed. Equipment has grown and there is no more space in the current structure. The question was raised regarding a new concrete building versus temporary cabinet. M. Saia remarked there is no room in the temporary cabinet for anything else. It won't support other users to the tower. R. Hall commented a new building provides more versatility. Future interfacing would create more cabinets to be in place, whereas the new building can house everything. Chairman Pullen recommended that the committee move to provide a new building as soon as possible. R. Hall recommended proceeding if funds are available. It needs to be done, but done right. Chairman Pullen asked the committee for any thoughts and/or suggestions. Legislative Chairman Crandall has met with Ways & Means Committee to look into funds available. There is a possibility to share the cost between 2010 and 2011 budgets. They will also look into possible funding through outside sources. R. Hall commented that Allegany County is one of the few counties to have a center set up as a backup, where we can be on-line without help from outside agencies. He anticipates within the next few years it will become mandated to have backup centers, which could allow for some funding and historically, 911 surcharge and other funding has been made available for these projects. The cabinet is our backup plan for now. Chairman Pullen suggested tabling any further action on the new building until such time funding has been established. C. Crandall suggested the committee compile a list and plan for what will be needed over the next few years, prioritize and get costs, etc.

**Joyce Hill Tower** – The tower will not support the installation of a 3' dish which is performance based for connection to the SE quad in the county. Current tower is not capable. It was suggested replacing the tower with a 180' self-supporting tower, with a 90 mph wind rate. The new dish supports Public Safety simulcast system for the county only. There was discussion regarding the availability of other towers to utilize and it was determined the county should control its own destiny as much as possible by owning their own towers. R. Hall commented there is no funding available for capital expense in the current PSIC grant, the building is in bad shape and the generator is not in good condition. The tower site is land-locked with access through a neighbor's backyard, which works for now, but if property were to sell, there is concern over future access to property. J. Scott encouraged the need for the county to own its own land for site access. There is farm land adjacent to current site and it was suggested looking into purchasing land for access.

Legislator Healy commented we need an overall perspective of tower usage and formulate a plan to govern it. We need to access the local law and be informed when new towers are going up. There was discussion of a creating a Comprehensive County Plan. Chairman Pullen suggested finding out what other towers are available and plan for the future. Legislative Chairman Crandall suggested the need for a plan of existing

and future buildings, towers, etc. and it should be referred to the County Attorney for investigation. Chairman Pullen entertained a motion to refer the issue of research of the Joyce Hill property to the County Attorney to investigate. Motioned by Legislator Crandall; seconded by Legislator Healy and carried 4-0 w/1 absent. **REFER TO COUNTY ATTORNEY**

**Communications System / Upgrades** – There is the need of a review of the communications systems, upgrades underway, grants in play or future opportunities, existing committees and coordination of efforts with the County Planner.

**Southern Tier West** – Four of six towns have been constructed; Swain, Baldwin Hill, Black Creek area and broadband from Caneadea to Rushford. There is currently 320-340 customers and a waiting list of 100, which will be addressed with the completion of the Ackerman Tower installation. They are waiting for reimbursement from NYS to finalize the last few pieces. Overall, the project is going well with hopes of completion by year-end. There is \$30,000 available for additional antennas. The Highway Association discussed where they could be best utilized and they are looking at the townships of Alma and Ward. It was noted there are two towers in the northern part of the county which will be included in this project. Legislator Sinclair addressed Sheriff-Elect Tompkins and inquired if R. Hall could be utilized on a committee to pull together usage of towers and resources, to which he replied, “yes.”

Chairman Pullen commented that if any funding is available, and a tower is available, then funds should be utilized to add equipment versus building a new tower. They have explored the concept and the hardest part with grant funding is the match. It is difficult to come by for any county and usually in-kind services are provided as the match (i.e. rental fees). Possibly work with all three counties (Chautauqua/Allegany/Cattaraugus) at once to address the areas not being served and use the county match for that.

There was discussion regarding coordination of efforts and committees. Legislator Sinclair suggested to the Chairman and Administrator to investigate such a structure. Hopefully Southern Tier West will continue to work with us towards these goals. Chairman Pullen requested suggestions on who should be on this task force. Legislative Chairman Crandall said he will work with J. Margeson and possibly just have an expansion to this committee. He also thanked Richard Zink for being here today.

A motion was made by J. Scott; seconded by Legislator Healy and carried to adjourn the meeting at 11:02 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cathleen L. Whitfield  
Recording Secretary

**APPROVED**

**COMMUNICATIONS & TECHNOLOGY AD HOC COMMITTEE**  
**October 20, 2010**

**AMENDED November 17, 2010**

**Members Present:** D. Pullen, M. Healy, J. Scott, and C. Crandall

**Absent:** M. Johnsen

**Others Present:** F. Sinclair, K. LaForge, J. Margeson, T. Miner, M. Alger, T. Ross, B. Rigby-Riehle, R. Hall, Sheriff-Elect R. Whitney, S. Torrey, M. Saia, K. Hooker, D. Lavery, and R. Zink

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 10:01 a.m. by Chairman Dave Pullen.

**Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made by Legislator Healy, seconded by Jerry Scott and carried 4-0; w/1 absent, to approve the minutes of July 21, 2010.

**OLD BUSINESS / UPDATES**

**Ackerman Hill Tower / Support Building**

Mike Saia reported he will be responsible for the installation of the new tower. The status to-date is the majority of the tower is finished in the fabrication shop with half being galvanized. He is meeting the foundation contractor today and excavation will start within the next two weeks. He has the layout of property and is now looking for direction from the county on site location for installation. Legislator Sinclair asked that the new tower be put as close to the existing tower as possible. M. Saia commented there is concern with existing guide wires and access by the crane and they will put the tower just outside the interior fence line, so as not to disturb the guide wires to first tower. Legislator Sinclair asked if original guide wires could be removed to allow tower to be installed inside fence. M. Saia will work around wires to avoid building a new fence, but he has to work around the crane as well, as safety to the original tower and guide wires is critical. There was discussion regarding cost to put tower inside original fence or possibly removing one side of fence so tower is in the perimeter of triangle. The outer fence will not be affected. Dig NY will be onsite for UFPO layout.

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There was discussion regarding the construction of a new support building to house tower equipment. M. Saia reported he can provide, at no cost to the county, a stand-alone cabinet building that is temperature controlled to store the equipment. This will be a temporary structure until such time the County can fund the construction of a new building. The county will have to supply the power to cabinet. It is not in the best interest to house the equipment in the current building, as it will be a fire hazard. His temporary cabinet is more secure than the existing building in place.

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**Joyce Hill Tower** – The tower will not support the installation of a 3' dish which is performance based for connection to the SE quad in the county. Current tower is not capable. It was suggested replacing the tower with a 180' self-supporting tower, with a 90 mph wind rate. The new dish supports Public Safety simulcast system for the county only. There was discussion regarding the availability of other towers to utilize and it was determined the county should control its own destiny as much as possible by owning their own towers. R. Hall commented there is no funding available for capital expense in the current PSIC grant, the building is in bad shape and the generator is not in good condition. The tower site is land-locked with access through a neighbor's backyard, which works for now, but if property were to sell, there is concern over future access to property. J. Scott encouraged the need for the county to own its own land for site access. There is farm land adjacent to current site and it was suggested looking into purchasing land for access.

Legislator Healy commented we need an overall perspective of tower usage and formulate a plan to govern it. We need to access the local law and be informed when new towers are going up. There was discussion of a creating a Comprehensive County

Plan. Chairman Pullen suggested finding out what other towers are available and plan for the future. Legislative Chairman Crandall suggested the need for a plan of existing and future buildings, towers, etc. and it should be referred to the County Attorney for investigation. Chairman Pullen entertained a motion to refer the issue of research of the Joyce Hill property to the County Attorney to investigate. Motioned by Legislator Crandall; seconded by Legislator Healy and carried 4-0 w/1 absent. **REFER TO COUNTY ATTORNEY**

**Communications System / Upgrades** – There is the need of a review of the communications systems, upgrades underway, grants in play or future opportunities, existing committees and coordination of efforts with the County Planner.

**Southern Tier West** – Four of six towns have been constructed; Swain, Baldwin Hill, Black Creek area and broadband from Caneadea to Rushford. There is currently 320-340 customers and a waiting list of 100, which will be addressed with the completion of the Ackerman Tower installation. They are waiting for reimbursement from NYS to finalize the last few pieces. Overall, the project is going well with hopes of completion by year-end. There is \$30,000 available for additional antennas. The Highway Association discussed where they could be best utilized and they are looking at the townships of Alma and Ward. It was noted there are two towers in the northern part of the county which will be included in this project. Legislator Sinclair addressed Sheriff-Elect Whitney and inquired if R. Hall could be utilized on a committee to pull together usage of towers and resources, to which he replied, “yes.”

Chairman Pullen commented that if any funding is available, and a tower is available, then funds should be utilized to add equipment versus building a new tower. They have explored the concept and the hardest part with grant funding is the match. It is difficult to come by for any county and usually in-kind services are provided as the match (i.e. rental fees). Possibly work with all three counties (Chautauqua/Allegany/Cattaraugus) at once to address the areas not being served and use the county match for that.

There was discussion regarding coordination of efforts and committees. Legislator Sinclair suggested to the Chairman and Administrator to investigate such a structure. Hopefully Southern Tier West will continue to work with us towards these goals. Chairman Pullen requested suggestions on who should be on this task force. Legislative Chairman Crandall said he will work with J. Margeson and possibly just have an expansion to this committee. He also thanked Richard Zink for being here today.

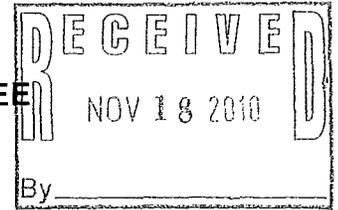
A motion was made by J. Scott; seconded by Legislator Healy and carried to adjourn the meeting at 11:02 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cathleen L. Whitfield  
Recording Secretary

**NOT  
APPROVED**

**COMMUNICATIONS & TECHNOLOGY AD HOC COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
November 17, 2010**



**Present:** D. Pullen, M. Healy, C. Crandall

**Absent:** M Johnsen, J. Scott

**Others Present:** J. Margeson, M. Alger, F. Sinclair, K. LaForge, D. Fanton, B. Rigby Riehle, T. Miner, J. Foels, R. Hall, J. Luckey, R. Whitney,

The meeting was called to order by Chairman D. Pullen at 10:04 a.m.

A motion was made by Legislator Healy, seconded by Legislator Pullen and carried to approve the October 20, 2010 minutes with a correction on the third page under Southern Tier West. The sentence stated Legislator Sinclair addressed Sheriff Elect Tompkins and it should have stated Sheriff Elect Whitney.

**Broadband Coverage Maps**

Legislator Sinclair presented three maps to the committee produced by the County Planner Kier Dirlam who was unable to attend the meeting. Legislator Sinclair went on to explain what each map represented. The first map was wireless tower locations & buffers, the second map was for broadband wired coverage as of early 2010, and the third was geographic background layers for cell service coverage.

John Foels, Development Director stated the second map on broadband coverage does not show the new coverage that has been obtained by a new Verizon tower in the upper right northern corner of the map for the Swain area. It also does not show the coverage obtained by a new Verizon tower in the Rushford area, Legislator Pullen asked if the sites for more coverage have been obtained yet. Mr. Foels was not able to answer that question at this time. An update will be given at the next meeting.

**Ackerman Hill Tower**

Mr. Hall distributed pictures on the progress on the tower that is being installed on Ackerman Hill. The tower is expected to be assembled by the end of the week. If that is completed a crane is expected to arrive on Monday and the tower is expected to be stacked by Tuesday weather permitting. The gravel in the area is clay and due to the wet climate the ground is very wet and spongy. The trucks are getting stuck quite frequently which slows down the progress of the project. Weather permitting, the expected completion date is December 1, 2010. There was concern on the availability of the tower being able to accommodate all the antennae's that are required. Mr. Hall stated the tower was set up to accommodate everything we want now plus an addition 40% more for future use.

Legislator Sinclair asked Mr. Hall to discuss inventory of the existing programs, committees, sources, grants that are available and concerns with them. Mr. Hall was first asked to discuss the 911 system and the services it provides such as:

- Emergency Calls
- Calls for extra enforcement
- Fire Service
- Hazard Response Team
- Resources such as tow trucks
- Answering phones for Department of Health, Social Services etc. if they are not available on weekends

Mr. Hall stated the Sheriff Department is in charge of Dispatchers. Equipment is supervised under Fire Service Department, such as phones, recording equipment, radio's etc. Mr. Hall discussed the surcharges that consumers are charged for 911 services and how much the County is reimbursed for it. Mr. Hall also stated each county has to be in compliance with the State regulations in order to be reimbursed for some of the expenses that have been incurred to enhance our communication systems. Mr. Hall gave an update on how the improvements have been made and its efficiency.

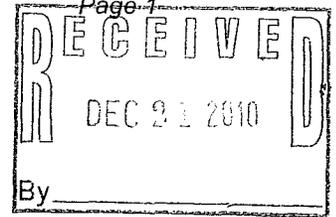
There was discussion on the committees that have been formed throughout the county to work to improve communications with each entity such as Emergency Services, 911 System, Fire Service, Fire Advisory, Fire Departments, Ambulance Services, Police Departments, Hazard Mitigation Team, and Highway Superintendent Association. There was discussion on how these committees can work together for Homeland Security across the county to share frequencies in case of a disaster so everyone will be linked and able to work together to handle a situation more effectively. There was discussion on inviting other committees to a joint session to discuss these issues.

A motion was made by Legislator Healy, seconded by Chairman Pullen and carried to adjourn the meeting at 11:04.

Respectfully Submitted:  
Alice Alsworth  
Confidential Secretary  
County Administrator

NOT  
APPROVED

**COMMUNICATIONS & TECHNOLOGY AD HOC COMMITTEE  
MEETING AGENDA  
DECEMBER 15, 2010**



**Members:** Dave Pullen, Mike Healy, Jerry Scott, Curt Crandall

**Others**

**Present:** Mitch Alger, Kier Dirlam, Dwight Fanton, John Foels, Sherry Grugel, Russ Hall, Wayne Hawley, Keith Hooker, Judy Hopkins, Ted Hopkins, Kevin LaForge, John Margeson, Tom Miner, Fred Sinclair, Scott Torrey, Cathleen Whitfield and Richard Zink.

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting is called to order by Chairman David Pullen at 10:06 a.m.

**INTRODUCTIONS AND WELCOME**

Chairman Pullen welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes from November 17, 2010 were reviewed. A motion was made by J. Scott, seconded by C. Crandall and was approved.

**REPORTS:**

**Update on Towers:**

Mike Healey discussed the project meeting that was held recently regarding the grant funds and that the southeast part of the county is presently covered by the Joyce Hill Tower and the Jericho [Alfred] Hill Tower for 911 services. There is about \$100,000 left in the latest grant funding and it needs to be spent in a prudent manner and by September 2011. The Joyce Hill Tower is not capable of sustaining the new equipment that needs to be installed. The Jericho Hill Tower may not continue to offer free space for larger antennas under the old lease agreement. A tower located on Pingrey Hill exists that can handle the equipment and cover the same areas for both of the other towers. However it is privately owned and they are asking a rent per month that may not be viable. Negotiations are still underway for using this tower.

Dave Pullen asked how critical is it to upgrade these towers at this time?

Russ Hall responded that for the existing system of radios these towers have been fine. But in order to install the new system they need better towers to be available. The amount received from the grant does not cover the entire costs associated with these upgrades. The feds have required that all radios move up to a P25 level which increased the costs significantly. We have not applied for any subsequent grant rounds since the 2007 application that we are now working on under a final extension. There may be new rounds of funding coming next year. The existing grant is enough to take care of the fixed assets but not the mobile assets that require 6 ¼ bandwidth be in use by 2013. No decision about the tower situation was made at this time.

### **Progress on Broadband Initiative**

Richard Zink of Southern Tier West RPDB reported that four of the six towers are up and that three are operational. The new Ackerman Hill [Corbin Hill] Tower is ready to have the equipment installed soon. The New Hudson Tower and Allen Tower will be up and running by March. Presently there are about 300 – 375 subscribers to the broadband service on the existing three towers. The Swain tower is being utilized more now that the winter has set in. They are intending to move forward with providing high speed internet to the eastern and northern parts of Cattaraugus County next. Richard Zink requested the County to begin considering what would need to occur for the broadcasting equipment to be installed on the other two County owned Towers: Cuba's Hamilton Hill and Granger. This would improve coverage across the western and central part of the County. Russ Hall indicated that each tower needs to be assessed to confirm that it is suitable for these installations. Russ Hall indicated that both of these towers are in reasonably good shape but will need some basic maintenance during the next few years to be performed whether they are used just for 911 or for the other services also. The agreements would be directly with Southern Tier Wireless. The first issues will be the technical assessment and then the legal aspect can be worked out. There were not any negative concerns by the committee members to this proposal if these issues can be worked out.

ION Project is slowly progressing. Joe Calzone – CEO of Ion told Richard Zink that they had intended to start construction this last season but that some federal legal issues held it up. They intend to get going next spring or summer. They must be done by the end of 2012. The Dunkirk Fredonia Telephone and Finger Lakes Technology are working to provide service to the universities, hospitals and major benefiterers.

### **Committee Mission for 2011**

Dave Pullen noted that the original plan for this committee was to hold six meetings and take care of one project. That has changed as projects have changed. The original concept did not come to fruition and we have been working the wireless broadband avenues instead. The ION project has come up and also changed the original plans. Dave Pullen asked the rest of the committee for their comments:

Fred Sinclair noted that we know that there is a need to consider the needs of both EMS/911 and the public access and Economic Development concerns for Broadband Internet connectivity. We need to go after additional funds and sharing the implementation of various broader scopes issues to include all aspects. The intricacies of a coordinated communications system need to be objectively looked at by a consultant/engineer.

Jerry Scott noted that we have evolved now but we have a large maintenance issue that needs to be considered. We need an overview of things every two or three months at this ad-hoc committee level. We should be assisting Southern Tier Wireless in getting onto the County towers as soon as reasonably possible.

Mike Healy indicated that we need to investigate a county wide permitting process for towers and broadband installation.

Dave Pullen stated that we are not at work to get grants for the individual radio users for 911 and that we should do this. The cost for these radios maybe as high as \$500,000 which we do not want the county to have to pay for the whole amount.

Curt Crandall noted that while the original thrust of the committee was on economic development and the internet it is now also on EMS/911 needs, especially working on finding and supportive funding efforts. The work done at Swain on wireless was a positive for the Swain area and now Verizon is also finding out how great the need was there. He encouraged Wayne to do additional PR as his service becomes available in each area as the Legislators are hearing the public outcry for good service at a more reasonable price.

Russ Hall stated that we are going to need a person in the future who is in charge of keeping track of how all these various systems interact and that they understand what needs to be addressed when there are failures of the system.

Dave Pullen indicated interest in working toward creating an RFP to put a consultant on to analyze our needs and the issues that we are considering. Chairman Crandall will consider all of the topics noted when setting the 2011 charge for this Ad-Hoc committee.

**ADJOURN:**

A motion was made by J. Scott, seconded by M. Healy and was carried to adjourn the meeting at 11:04 a.m.