

FACILITIES & COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

April 6, 2016
NOT APPROVED

Committee Members Present: D. Pullen, C. Jessup, D. Fanton, K. Graves, A. McGraw, D. Root, N. Ungermann, C. Crandall

Others Present: L. Ballengee, B. Budinger, S. Burt, S. Decker, K. Dirlam, M. Evans, S. Grusendorf, R. Hollis, D. M. Healy, R. Hollis, K. Hooker, J. Hopkins, K. LaForge, J. Luckey, J. Margeson, T. Miner, K. Monroe, B. Riehle, B. Risse (CONXX), T. Ross, D. Scholes, R. Swartout, R. Whitney

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Facilities and Communications Committee Chairman David Pullen.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Legislator Graves, seconded by Legislator Root, and carried to approve the Facilities and Communications Committee minutes of March 2, 2016.

Facilities-Related Matters

Deputy Public Works Superintendent Dean Scholes gave an update on the progress of converting a break room in the Health Department into additional office space. He stated that things were moving along well and should be completed soon.

Communications-Related Matters

County E-911 System Upgrade

Sheriff Whitney indicated that they would be reviewing a punch list with the contractor for the 911 Equipment Room on Friday. Lieutenant Grusendorf said there were a couple of minor things that needed to be added or changed, but that they anticipated being able to start moving equipment in next week.

County Broadband Projects Update

Legislator Pullen noted that the Allegany County Telecommunications Development Corp. had met the previous night. He remarked that it shouldn't be long before service would be available in the Village of Belmont. County Planner Kier Dirlam stated that they are waiting on the payment package. As part of the contract for the grant, it had to be reviewed by a certified public accountant. County Treasurer Terri Ross noted that it should be back shortly.

Lieutenant Grusendorf updated the group on the Almond tower location. There was a glitch in the agreement and the other party no longer wants to be involved. He did report that they had found another location closer to Almond that was probably going to work better for them. He stated that everything else was moving right along. As soon as the soil tests come back, they're ready to start breaking ground for the tower. Legislator Graves asked who would get any timber that comes off from the site. Lieutenant Grusendorf replied that the owner gets first right to the timber.

Bill Risse from CONXX said that they can expect to be able to turn service on in the Belmont area in the next 3-4 weeks. As soon as the E-911 project can create a tower north or south of Belmont, they will be able to bring service to other parts of the County. It typically takes 60-120 days to construct a tower. Legislator Ungermann asked if they were looking at building more than thirteen towers. Legislator Pullen indicated that the County won't have any more than thirteen. Last mile providers might put up smaller towers to serve particular neighborhoods. Legislator Fanton asked where the County stood with finding last mile providers. Legislator Pullen stated that Ryan Cool, who had been hired as the Executive Director for the Allegany County Telecommunications Development Corp., is working on that. Mr. Risse remarked on the frequency that will be used. He said that the FCC controls bandwidth use; and the FCC is not issuing any more licenses for the particular frequency that will work well in this area. In order to beat the deadline for licensing, CONXX went ahead and registered all of the tower locations as 3.65 GHz.

Legislator Pullen commented on providing service for BOCES and other local institutions. BOCES indicated that they will not consider a proposal until it's a proven operating system. Once we show it's functional, then they will talk to us. He also spoke about a recent InterCounty Association meeting held in Hammondsport and discussions about other network providers in the area. He spoke about \$500 million in grant money offered by the State. Unfortunately, Allegany County won't qualify for it for many reasons. One reason we don't qualify is because Time Warner provides service in the County. Legislator Ungermann asked if there was a reason for this. Mr. Dirlam said that Time Warner is under negotiations to be acquired by Charter Communications. Legislator Pullen stated that another reason they won't be considered for the grant is because they will not consider wireless service in the first round of grant applications. Also, there has to be service to 2,500 customers. Additionally, the application would have to be accompanied by a \$100,000 payment. So for a variety of reasons, it doesn't appear they will get many applications for the grant. Mr. Risse explained the Time Warner exception more clearly saying it's to keep Time Warner from using the grant money for upgrades. They would allow it if the money were used to upgrade towns that they don't currently serve.

Information Technology

IT Director Keith Hooker was asked to report on the County's internet service. He stated that the Information Technology Department was asked to help find a solution for internet service. He feels that now the LDC (Allegany County Telecommunications Corp.) has been created, the LDC should make a connection with ION for service. Legislator Pullen indicated that Mr. Cool has contacted both ION and Time Warner for quotes and expects to hear back from them very soon.

Old Business

County Administrator John Margeson spoke about a proposal from LaBella for the third floor renovations. A representative was not able to be at today's meeting, but will plan to be here on May 4. Mr. Margeson distributed copies of the proposal to the Legislators.

It was recognized that the committee had overlooked an agenda item that should have been discussed earlier in the meeting.

Accept and Approve Twenty-Five Year Lease Agreement in the Town of Bolivar

The Sheriff's Office is requesting the County's approval to enter into a twenty-five year lease agreement for one acre of land in the Town of Bolivar. This property will be used to construct one of four new 911 towers. This land will not be County owned, and will be a one-time payment of \$8,500 for a twenty-five year lease, renewable by the County at the end of the lease agreement if the County so desires.

The request was approved on a motion by Legislator Fanton, seconded by Legislator Graves, and carried. **Prepare Resolution.**

Good of the Order

Sheriff Whitney indicated they needed a funds transfer for a change order at the E-911 Center. They have money in the E-911 Surcharge fund that can be used rather than taking the money from Contingency. Sheriff Whitney requested that a sum of \$90,000 be transferred from A14.511.3510 (Reserve for E-911) to Capital Project account number H3200.200 (Capital Project – E-911 Renovation) to cover these additional costs.

The request was approved on a motion by Legislator Fanton, seconded by Legislator Root, and carried. **Refer to Ways & Means.**

Legislator Ungermann remarked that it's getting to be more and more like the federal government with cost overruns. Lieutenant Grusendorf explained that the added costs are for the fire suppression system. He explained some of the changes need to be made to have a proper fire suppression system in place. Legislator Pullen remarked that they've had surprises, but it's better that it is covered by the E-911 fees rather than having it come out of Contingency.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m. following a motion by Legislator Graves, seconded by Legislator Fanton, and carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah M. Decker, Journal Clerk/Deputy Clerk of the Board
Allegany County Board of Legislators