

**WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

**COMMITTEE: DPW**

**DATE: JUNE 26, 2006**

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**Committee Members Present:**

Supervisors Belden  
Bentley  
Haskell  
Mason  
Stec  
Merlino

**Committee Member Absent:**

Supervisor Geraghty

**Others Present:**

William Remington, DPW Superintendent  
William Lamy, Deputy DPW Superintendent  
Brian LaFlure, Systems Maintenance Coordinator  
Joan Sady, Clerk of the Board

**Supervisors:**

Gabriels  
Barody  
F. Thomas  
Champagne  
VanNess  
Shane Ross, Undersheriff  
Larry Jeffords, Communications Supervisor  
JoAnn McKinstry, Confidential Secretary  
Amanda Allen, Legislative Office Specialist

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Mr. Belden called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

Motion was made by Mr. Mason, seconded by Mr. Bentley and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the May 23, 2006 meeting, subject to correction by the Clerk.

Privilege of the floor was extended to William Remington, DPW Superintendent, who distributed copies of his agenda to the Committee members.

Mr. Remington began by addressing item number one of his agenda, old business, which consisted of seven items. He advised that the first item on the list, the Great Escape project, was nearing completion and that only minor accounting work remained. Proceeding to item number two, Mr. Remington advised that he had spoken with JIMAPCO with regard to the reprinting of Warren County maps, but had not been able to determine an exact cost for the process. He stated that he would need to research this item further and would return to the Committee with firm figures at the next DPW Committee meeting.

Mr. Remington introduced William Lamy, Deputy DPW Superintendent to address item number three of the referrals list, referencing the Alder Brook Bridge. Mr. Lamy conveyed that Warren County had met with the property owners, the pertinent details of the meeting had been given to the County Attorney who would prepare documentation to be transmitted to the property owner's attorney.

Mr. Remington addressed item number four of the referral list. He suggested that although the Gas Boy system was set up for demonstration as scheduled, the Committee might want to postpone the demonstration due to inclement weather. Mr. Belden agreed, and advised that the

demonstration would be postponed until the next DPW Committee meeting.

Proceeding to item number five, Mr. Remington advised that he still had not received any response from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) with regard to Warren County's proposal to resolve the issue of the agency's contention that Warren County DPW cut trees on State Forest Preserve Land in the Town of Horicon. He added that he did not anticipate a response in the near future but would keep the Committee abreast of any updates on this issue.

Mr. Remington said that item number six, the six-month review of the maintenance shop requested by Mr. Belden was not due until October of 2006 and he would address the issue again at that time. Item number seven, the transfer of the Lake George bridge located on Big Hollow Road to Warren County, was not yet completed, as the transfer was being researched by the County Attorney, Mr. Remington said. He added that he did not feel there was much work to be done to complete this transfer but he would keep the Committee updated.

As the list of old business was completed, Mr. Remington proceeded to item number two of his agenda and asked Mr. Lamy to update the Committee on the status of the Corinth Road project. Mr. Lamy advised that on May 31, 2006 the design teams from Barton & Loguidice; Clough, Harbor & Associates and the utility companies, accompanied by Supervisors Stec and VanNess, walked the Corinth Road corridor to review the design and the placement of utilities both under and above-ground. The purpose of the meeting was to try to identify any conflicts that may exist, he added.

Mr. Lamy apprised that a subsequent meeting was held in Supervisor Stec's office where it was determined that further revisions must be made to the plans for under ground utilities as the cross section of the easements under the current plan were too wide. He said that the first areas for revision would be the town-placed utilities such as water and sewer, which could be moved into the street. This would shrink the area impacting the private property owner, he added.

Warren County DPW has had a long standing policy of not open cutting freshly built roads, Mr. Lamy explained. He said that in an effort to avoid violating this policy, the Town of Queensbury had agreed to extend water stubs to projected vacant lots for future development. Although this process could not be done for every parcel, it would be done periodically down the length of the corridor to lessen the need to cut in the new road, he continued.

Mr. Lamy advised that he and Mr. Remington had discussed this process and had agreed that once the project was finished they may come to the realization that they had missed the correct placement of a water stub, making it necessary to rescind on their policy of cutting the new road in order to provide water for new construction. By the Town of Queensbury extending the water stubs and Warren County backing up on the open cutting procedure to an "as needed" basis, the width of the easement required from the property owners could be greatly reduced, he added. This is something that they wanted to relate to the Committee for consideration prior to placing the water under the street, Mr. Lamy said.

In addition, Mr. Lamy related, the utility companies had forwarded a cost for construction on this

project. National Grid had estimated \$1.2 million which did not include the cost for earth work or for customer connections; however, the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) had advised that customer connections would be funded under the project, he said. There would also be the need for concrete at some of the crossings which was not included in the National Grid estimate either, he added. Mr. Lamy said that Verizon was sticking to their original estimate of \$1.2 million for under-grounding the telephone utilities.

In summary, Mr. Lamy estimated a low end figure of \$2.4 million to complete the project of under-grounding the necessary telephone and electric utilities plus whatever the additional costs were for earth work. Mr. Lamy advised that he did not expect the earth work to be an eligible cost under the DOT grant. A meeting with DOT was to take place last week to discuss funding for this project but was postponed until next week, he added.

Mr. Champagne entered the meeting at 9:40 a.m.

Mr. Belden asked Mr. Lamy if the wires for cable television would also be buried and what the cost for that would be, to which Mr. Lamy replied that the cable television lines would be buried but that a cost for this had not yet been disclosed.

Mr. Belden asked Mr. Stec for his opinion of the project. Mr. Stec replied that he was happy with the proposal. He explained that he and his staff were in agreement with the placement of the utilities beneath Corinth Road, requiring as little easement from the property owners as possible. Subsequent to the meeting in his office, Mr. Stec said he had met with a representative of National Grid who advised that the switch gears would not be affected by this project and that it would not be in Warren County's best interest to make drastic changes to their current plan as it would be at a great cost. As such, Mr. Stec advised, the National Grid lines would not move much from where they were currently located.

Mr. Lamy apprised that he was hoping to schedule a follow-up meeting with the utility companies in the near future to address the remaining issues. He added that he would keep the Committee updated as more information became available.

Mr. Belden asked Mr. Lamy when the under-grounding construction would begin and Mr. Lamy replied that the real estate department had not yet been dispatched to secure the easements from the property owners because a firm plan was not in place. Once a permanent plan was devised, it would be conveyed to the property owners and the easements procured, he said. Mr. Lamy estimated a start date of Spring of 2007 and advised that if the date were to be pushed back he would be sure to notify the Committee well in advance.

Mr. Belden asked if any motion was required to allow for the open cutting of new roads if needed to which Mr. Remington replied that this was simply a Warren County DPW standard and did not require any Committee action. This information was shared with the Committee simply for their edification, Mr. Remington added.

Mr. Barody asked Mr. Stec if he had received any resistance to the proposed work from the property owners. Mr. Stec replied that the residents he had encountered seemed supportive of

the work to be done. He added that he planned to have National Grid spray paint the areas to be affected so that both the Supervisors and the property owners could view the extent of the project before it was started. Mr. Stec advised that he did expect opposition from some of the property owners once the extent of the work was disclosed.

Mr. Barody questioned the size of the utility equipment to be placed above ground. Mr. Lamy responded that some of the equipment would be of considerable size, requiring up to a 10 foot by 20 foot easement. Approximately thirty parcels would have significant above-ground equipment placed on them, he added.

Mr. Mason requested clarification, and asked if other than the above ground equipment noted, would the other adjustments be visible and Mr. Lamy advised that they would not.

Mr. Champagne addressed the Committee and asked if National Grid had taken into account which parcels might be larger and better suited to house the above-ground equipment. Mr. Stec advised that was the purpose of the initial walk-through and this issue had been addressed. Mr. Champagne asked that the Committee be notified when the proposed changes were made in spray paint, and also that they be alerted to the next walkthrough. Mr. Lamy advised that he would be sure to do so.

Mr. Remington proceeded to item three of his agenda referencing a resolution request to authorize out-of-state travel for Amy Drexel, Senior Account Clerk of the Civil Defense and Natural Disaster Department, to attend a Mass Fatalities Incident Response Course in Williamsport, PA from July 25 through July 28, 2006. He added that Warren County would be financially responsible only for the transportation and dinner, and the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Association (PEMA) would cover the additional costs for the room and the course.

Motion was made by Mr. Haskell, seconded by Mr. Bentley and carried unanimously to approve the request as outlined above and the necessary resolution was authorized for the July Board Meeting. A copy of the resolution request is on file with the minutes.

Mr. Remington addressed the final item of his agenda and introduced Brian LaFlure, Systems Maintenance Coordinator, to address the subject of the radio system update and request. Mr. LaFlure advised that the current radio system is used for the DPW, several local highway departments, local water departments, public health, code enforcement and such. The system had been an 'open system' for many years, which allowed anyone with a radio to access the frequencies and the system had become unmanageable, he said.

Mr. LaFlure summarized the situation noting that on June 7, 2006 it was discovered that a radio was locked on, making the remaining radios unusable. He said that although an extensive search was made for the malfunctioning radio they were unable to find it because the radio was located in a mobile vehicle. Because the system was unusable Warren County initiated a private line scenario where a piece of equipment was used to allow only radios with the correct coding to use the frequency, Mr. LaFlure said. Since this process was used it had stopped the effect of the malfunctioning radio, however, it had also restricted use for several departments whose radios did not have the correct coding, he added.

In light of these recent complications, Mr. LaFlure apprised, he and Mr. Remington had worked

together to research what requirements were necessary to bring the current radio system up to the specifications that would be used under the private line scenario. An upgrade to the existing radios would greatly improve the system by limiting use to authorized personnel and blocking outside and civilian use, increasing accountability of users and it would also allow for the tracking of malfunctioning equipment, he added.

Mr. LaFlure stated that the project would be overseen by himself and Communications Supervisor Larry Jeffords. Mr. LaFlure assured the Committee that this was not a unique situation, explaining that this scenario had occurred within the law enforcement, Emergency Medical Service (EMS) and Fire Department radio systems which were recently updated in a two year project.

Mr. VanNess entered the meeting at 9:53 a.m.

Mr. LaFlure advised that another issue which would be resolved by this upgrade was the use of the same frequency and private line encryption process by both Warren County and Ravena-Coeymans Police Department and Emergency Services, which had caused interference between the two entities. He continued, stating that he had been working with New Scotland Communications, the agent used by Raven-Coeymans, to be sure that this issue does not resurface.

Mr. Remington advised that several of the towns using the same frequency had reprogrammed their radios and were using the private line encryption. The majority of the Warren County vehicles had been reprogrammed using this standard and the remainder of the re-programmable radios should be completed next week, he added.

Mr. Remington responded to a question raised regarding antiquated radios, and he stated that for older radios which were not able to be reprogrammed, there was an additional part that could be purchased to add private line capability. Mr. LaFlure added that an aftermarket module could be added to the radio for approximately \$50 per unit plus installation fees. He noted that this was an upgrade to the radio system that would have been required in the future; however, it was now a necessity due to the radio malfunction.

Mr. Remington referenced a handout in the agenda which proposed a Site Voting System for the Warren County Department of Public Works. He stated that although reprogramming would work and would make the radio system usable, they would like to purchase and institute a voting and decoding system which would allow increased control over the radio system. The decoding portion would allow the department to identify when and which unit was in use each time a radio is keyed and would also allow for the tracking of a malfunctioning radio, Mr. Remington said. The total cost for the added equipment would be \$22,206.00, which was within the DPW budget, he added.

Mr. Mason questioned the purpose of the voting system. Mr. LaFlure explained that there were several radio towers in Warren County and the voting system would decide which tower would give the best signal depending on where the radio was being used and giving access to all towers. He said that currently, if the radio was too far from the tower and could not get a signal, the radio would not work; the voting system would eliminate that issue, he added.

Mr. LaFlure continued, advising that the southern part of Warren County already had this technology in place and it worked very well. He said that the proposal that was provided listed the equipment needed to upgrade the towers located in Hague and Gore Mountain to increase coverage in the Northern portion of Warren County and would eliminate many of the dead spots currently existing.

Mr. Mason asked Mr. LaFlure for clarification of the cost to the individual towns for the upgrade of their current radios to use the new system if instituted. Mr. LaFlure stated that most of the radios purchased in the past 15 years had the capability to be reprogrammed in which case it would be very inexpensive. For radios that were not re-programmable, an aftermarket module could be purchased to upgrade the radio at a cost of approximately \$50 per unit plus installation fees, he added.

Mr. Remington stated that this upgrade would increase the radio reception and availability for all officials in Warren County, at both the town and county levels, and he hoped to see it instituted as quickly as possible. He then referenced the resolution request included in his agenda requesting a transfer of funds from the County Snow-Supplies budget to the Machinery Fund budget which would pay for the upgrades. Mr. Remington advised that the funds were available due to the mild winter we had experienced.

Mr. Belden questioned the use of these funds, asking if there would be sufficient money available in the budget if they were to experience early winter weather conditions. Mr. Remington responded that he had budgeted sufficient monies to cover any severe weather in the late fall and early winter.

Mr. Stec asked how soon the upgrades could be completed. Mr. LaFlure advised that although the Gore Mountain tower was the best site available it was the worst one to work on. He said that there was only a four month window in which the tower could be driven to; after that time, he said, anyone wishing to reach the tower must take a gondola to the top of the mountain and then a snowmobile to reach the tower. These conditions would make it very difficult to transport equipment during the winter months, he added. Mr. LaFlure stated that if the upgrade was allowed, he would advise that it be done during the four month window when the drive to the tower was possible; otherwise the project would have to wait until spring of 2007. He said that the delivery time on the equipment was approximately four to six weeks and it was under state contract; the labor, he added, would be provided by Capital Digitronics who are already under contract with Warren County so there would not be any need to request bids for this project.

Mr. Stec asked Mr. LaFlure if there would be any need for additional tower locations in the future to further increase reception and availability. Mr. LaFlure replied that although he would like to add another tower, it was very difficult to gain approval from the APA and that could take up to five years.

Mr. Haskell stated that a more extensive search should be made to find the radio currently malfunctioning and that the additional request should be proposed again at budget time. Mr. Remington responded, stating that he was not asking for more money, simply a transfer of the monies currently unused and within his budget. Mr. Belden agreed with Mr. Remington and advised that he felt the upgrade should be made and done now before the weather made the work impossible.

Motion was made by Mr. Mason, seconded by Mr. Merlino and carried unanimously approving the request to transfer funds as outlined above and to refer same to the Finance Committee. A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.

Mr. Belden asked Mr. Remington if the paving process was on schedule. Mr. Remington advised that they were approximately one week behind but working hard to catch up.

Mr. Merlino advised the Committee that Saratoga County Emergency Management had been working with the Town of Lake Luzerne and had approved a site for a water tower in the northern part of the town. It would be approximately six months before any final decisions were made, however, he would keep the Committee updated, he added. Mr. Merlino also thanked Mr. Remington and his staff for their quick response to his calls.

Mr. Gabriels noted that in light of the extended period required for APA approval for additional radio tower sites, he felt it pertinent to allow Mr. LaFlure to begin the search for additional sites now while they were not required. Mr. Stec said he supported that concept and added that there might be other fire houses or locations available which would not require APA approval, such as the case with the current tower erected at the Hague Fire Station. Mr. LaFlure advised that he would be happy to do this and return to the Committee with his findings.

Mr. LaFlure stated that it would be a great help to him in his search if once the new system was in place, the town and county highway departments would test the system to see where the areas in need of better reception might be. Mr. Remington supported this statement.

Mr. Gabriels asked who would be in control of administrating the new radio system. Mr. LaFlure responded, stating that the Sheriff's Department would be administrating the system as they currently do. Every transmission over the radio system was recorded and documented and this would remain the statute; however, he added, the new system would add a type of caller ID function making the user easier to detect.

Motion was made by Mr. Stec, seconded by Mr. Mason and carried unanimously to allow Mr. LaFlure to research possible locations for additional radio towers and to report his recommendations to the committee.

Mr. Remington thanked Mr. LaFlure for the help he and his staff had given during the search for the malfunctioning radio and in producing a proposal for the new radio system.

Mr. Bentley advised that there were two existing towers on Panther Mountain which Mr. LaFlure might be able to research. Mr. LaFlure advised that he had previously inquired about those towers but had not received favorable results; however, he said he would check again.

There being no further business to come before the DPW Committee, on motion by Mr. Bentley and seconded by Mr. Stec, Mr. Belden adjourned the meeting at 10:16 am.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Amanda M. Allen, Legislative Office Specialist