

March 10, 2015

ERIE COUNTY COUNCIL – Regular Meeting

Fiore Leone, Chairman, called to order a Regular Meeting of the Erie County Council at 7:00 p.m. at the Erie County Courthouse, County Council Chambers, Erie, PA. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Mr. Smith took the roll:

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Mr. Breneman
Mr. DiMattio
Mr. Fatica
Dr. Foust
Mr. Horton
Mrs. Loll
Mr. Leone

Members Absent: None.

Also Present: Joseph Maloney, CPA
Sue Ellen Pasquale, General Accounting Manager
James Sparber, Finance Director

**HEARING OF
THE PUBLIC**

Randy Barnes, Harborcreek Township; Mr. Barnes asked to be on the agenda from now until the end of December. He stated that he's asked to be given a report from DevelopErie and felt that Council should be given updates on the Inland Port development. Mr. Barnes then discussed the \$26 million project, \$32 million with interest, in front of Council regarding the radio project. He commented that if the County is going to commit to a \$32 million project over the next 20 years, the County should be sure that they are getting \$32 million worth of services. He wanted to know why towers would be put up when there are already towers built and why the County spend \$4 million on new towers.

Chairman Leone responded to Mr. Barnes that he intends to have Katrina Smith of DevelopErie, along with Council members and the chairman of the GEIDC update Council in the near future. Chairman Leone stated that he would invite Mr. Barnes so any questions he may have can be answered. Mr. Barnes stated that he will submit his questions to Chairman Leone. Chairman Leone wanted Mr. Barnes to know that his comments did not fall on deaf ears.

**APPROVAL OF
MINUTES**

Dr. Foust moved to approve the minutes from the February 24, 2015 Regular Meeting. This was seconded by Mr. Breneman and carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

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**FINANCE
COMMITTEE
REPORT**

Mr. Breneman reported that the Finance Committee met on March 5, 2015, and agreed to place Resolutions 14, 15, and 16, 2015, to the agenda.

**PERSONNEL
COMMITTEE
REPORT**

Mr. Horton stated that the Personnel Committee met immediately following the Finance Committee meeting on March 10, 2015, and agreed to move Ordinance Numbers 28 through 33, 2015 to the agenda. Mr. Horton further reported that Pay Plan Committee also met on February 22, 2015, where various tasks were assigned, and members of the AdHoc committee for the row offices have been contacted. There was a meeting date scheduled, but most of the department heads would not be able to make it so they are trying to reschedule that meeting. Mr. Horton explained that all the department heads have been asked to review all jobs in their department and come back with job descriptions, salary, and classifications for each position. Mr. Horton further stated that now that all union negotiations are finished, they hope to move full steam ahead on this project.

OTHER REPORTS

Dr. Foust reported that on March 5, 2015, the members of the Next Generation Radio Committee made their report public regarding the recommendations for going forward with the radio system. He thanked the official members of the committee, Mr. Fatica, Mrs. Loll, Mr. Maloney, Mr. Sparber, and Mr. Grappy, as well as Mr. DiMattio and Mr. Leone, who attended most of the meetings. He stated their input was very valuable and that the project is one of the most important projects that Council will go forward on. Dr. Foust commended Council for the amount of research that was done. Dr. Foust reached out to the emergency responders in his district and he feels comfortable going forward with the project and the recommendation of the mix of fund balance and bond issue. **The full NGR Committee Report follows the end of the minutes.**

Dr. Foust then commented on Pleasant Ridge Manor – East and the for sale signs that were there. He proposed to his colleagues that it be recommended to the Administration, on the advice of Bob Marz, that \$10,000 be spent on a feasibility study to refurbish PRM – East once vacated as a nursing home. Dr. Foust felt that this is a place that County offices could be moved to and make it a mini-campus of County government. He stated that the exterior shell of the building is quite strong. Updates to the roof will be needed and the HVAC systems, but he felt it would be cheaper than the cost of tearing down the building and putting something else there. Dr. Foust commented that the resale of the Health Department building would catch a better price on the open market than the property at PRM-East.

Dr. Foust discussed Mr. Lee's update on the jobs program at caucus and that Council should be pleased that the County participated last year. Mr. Lee assured Council that the program is on track as far as timing. Council did give suggestions for additional employers to reach out to, including Lord, KLN, and the plastics industry, to have more for-profit companies participate in the program. Dr. Foust also advised Mr. Lee that despite other entities not contributing to the funding of the program, the County of Erie is fortunate to be in a very strong financial position and if additional funds are needed and warranted, Council should consider it.

Mr. Breneman wanted to inform Council and the Administration that for the second time in less than six months, the County and many departments, have failed to take advantage of state dollars that have been made available to counties and collaborations within counties for veteran services. Directly from the Adjutant, in his own words, this is money that they want counties to tell them what they want to do with it. The funding is up to \$750,000 already and it is continuously replenished. Mr. Breneman stated that the Administration will be getting a proposal soon on evolving the office of Veterans Affairs to a Department, but he wanted to make sure that all know that the Veterans Affairs Department needs to be adequately staffed, and soon. There is now \$2 million towards fighting homelessness among veterans in Pennsylvania. He strongly emphasized that there needs to be a Department of Veterans Affairs that is going to go out there, find the

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grants, and get them out to the department heads. He stated that 9 out of 10 departments in the County affects veterans and their families in some way and they could be collaborating with a lot of the non-profits and other agencies in serving these 23,000 veterans and the more that are returning. He further commented that there are smaller counties in the state that are leaving Erie County in the dust when it comes to doing this. If there is not a Department of Veterans Affairs here that is able to meet those needs, we're going to see a greater cost to the County on the other end with these services. Mr. Breneman stated that he looks forward to seeing that proposal and hopes that it includes a robust staffing plan and one that will meet the state, federal, and non-profit grants that are out there that can be brought into the county and leverage for the benefit of the veterans and the county.

Dr. Foust asked Mr. Breneman if the Administration has put a proposal together yet. Mr. Breneman stated that he was told by the County Executive that a proposal is being presented to her in the next week or two and she would come to Council once she has the proposal. Dr. Foust stated that this was discussed at budget time and Council was and still is in support of it, and he was surprised that this hadn't been completed yet, and thought that it would be tackled after the first of the year.

Mrs. Loll read the following prayer: "Help us to shatter the hatred and violence that is happening in our small part of the country. Don't let us close the door to help and understanding. Guide us so we won't lose our way and keep us on the path of responsibilities. Help us to hit the pause button when things aren't happening as we planned. We need to take a step back and give ourselves a chance to reflect and redirect our energies to that end. We ask for this guidance from our Lord. Amen."

Mr. Fatica told Mr. Barnes that he would be happy to have him talk to Mr. Grappy or Mr. McGrady with any questions regarding the radio project.

Mr. Fatica also congratulated the Health Department on their receipt of congratulations for its achievement of accreditation by the Public Health Accreditation Board. **The letter from the CDC follows the NGR Committee Report at the end of the minutes.**

MOTION TO AMEND AGENDA

Dr. Foust made a motion to amend the agenda and move Ordinances 28 through 33, 2015, to second readings. This was seconded by Mr. Horton and carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

NEW BUSINESS

Ord. 28, 2015 – Gen. Fund SA of \$6,015 for Elimination of 1st Dep. Clerk of Cts., Create Asst. Clerk of Records Position

Mr. Smith gave a second reading of Ordinance Number 28, 2015, "Thirteenth 2015 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$6,015 From Fund Balance, Elimination of First Deputy Clerk of Courts Position, and Create Assistant Clerk of Records Position". This was moved by Mrs. Loll, seconded by Dr. Foust, and carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

**Ord. 29, 2015 – Gen.
Fund SA of \$34,391,
Elimination of Asst.
Clerk of Records,
Create 1st Dep. Pro’s
Position**

Mr. Smith gave a second reading of Ordinance Number 29, 2015, “Fourteenth 2015 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$34,391 to Fund Balance, Elimination of Assistant Clerk of Records Position, and Creation of First Deputy Prothonotary Position”. This was moved by Mrs. Loll, seconded by Mr. Horton, and carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

**Ord. 30, 2015 – Pub.
Health Rev. Revenue
& Exp. Of \$3,600 &
Creation of Temp.
Staff Line**

Mr. Smith gave a second reading of Ordinance Number 30, 2015, “2015 Public Health Fund Budget Revised Revenue and Expenditures of \$3,600 and Creation of *Temporary Staff* Line Item”. This was moved by Mr. Fatica, seconded by Mrs. Loll, and carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

**Ord. 31, 2015 – Pub.
Health Rev. Revenue
& Exp. Of \$576 &
Creation of Overtime
Line**

Mr. Smith gave a second reading of Ordinance Number 31, 2015, “2015 Public Health Fund Budget Revised Revenue and Expenditures of \$576 and Creation of *Overtime* Line Item”. This was moved by Mr. Fatica, seconded by Mrs. Loll, carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

**Ord. 32, 2015 – Pub.
Health Rev. Revenue
& Exp. Of \$576 &
Creation of Overtime
Line in PH Admin.**

Mr. Smith gave a second reading of Ordinance Number 32, 2015, “2015 Public Health Fund Budget Revised Revenue and Expenditures of \$576 and Creation of *Overtime* Line Item for Public Health Administration”. This was moved by Mr. Fatica, seconded by Mrs. Loll, and carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

**Ord. 33, 2015 –
Approval of MOU
b/w County & PSSU
Casework Supervisors**

Mr. Smith gave a second reading of Ordinance Number 33, 2015, “Approval of Memorandum of Understanding Between the County of Erie and PSSU Casework Supervisors”. This was moved by Dr. Foust and seconded by Mrs. Loll.

Mr. DiMattio moved to amend the ordinance to include the new exhibit, which would include addition of Item #5. This was seconded by Dr. Foust and carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

Ordinance Number 33, 2015, as amended, carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

RESOLUTIONS

**Res. 14, 2015 –
App. 5 year lease
b/w Crown Castle
& County of Erie**

Mr. Smith gave a reading of Resolution Number 14, 2015, “Approving a Five Year Lease Agreement between Crown Castle GT Company, LLC, and Erie County Government”. This was moved by Mr. Fatica, seconded by Mrs. Loll, and carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

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**Res. 15, 2015 – App.
Erie County Emerg.
Ops Plan**

Mr. Smith gave a reading of Resolution Number 15, 2015, “Approving the Erie County Emergency Operations Plan”. This was moved by Mrs. Loll, seconded by Dr. Foust, and carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

**Res. 16, 2015 – Exon.
Taxes in Corry Area
SD and City of Corry**

Mr. Smith gave a reading of Resolution Number 16, 2015, “Exonerating Taxes on One Abandoned Trailer/Property #06-006-014.2-013.56 in the Corry Area School District and the City of Corry”. This was moved by Mr. DiMattio, seconded by Mr. Breneman, and carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

**BOARD/AUTHORITY
APPOINTMENTS**

Mr. Fatica moved to approve the reappointment of Robert MacIsaac to a second four year term on the Erie County Assessment Appeals Board to represent the West County. This was seconded by Dr. Foust and carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

Mr. Fatica and Mrs. Loll both commented that Mr. MacIsaac has been an excellent member of the board. He is a real estate agent and an appraiser. Mrs. Loll stated that she is a liaison to that Board and Mr. MacIsaac is the current chairman and has done a fantastic job on the board.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Deneé M. Breter, Council Secretary

Report of the Next Generation Radio Committee of County Council

*RECOMMENDATIONS FOR
IMPLEMENTATION AND FUNDING*

February, 2015

Committee Members



**Dr. Kyle Foust,
Chairman**

Phil Fatica

Carol Loll

Joseph Maloney,
CPA

James Sparber

John Grappy

Report of the Next Generation Radio Committee of County Council

FORWARD

In September, 2014, MCM Consulting submitted their Next Generation Radio System Needs Assessment and Strategic Plan Report to the County. The following are the recommendations from MCM Consulting:

“It is recommended that steps be taken to replace the current radio, microwave and radio console equipment/systems/network as soon as possible since it serves as the “back bone” for communications within the county for the public safety departments within Erie County. A failure in these vital systems cannot be tolerated.

MCM Consulting Group, Inc. is recommending based on the availability of UHF frequency pairs, unify the radio communications of all “County responsible” entities onto one “platform” or radio frequency band with by suggesting a UHF, IP based, P25 phase II (for spectrum capacity) “trunked” (for spectrum efficiency) and a multi zone “simulcast” (for coverage)” configuration.

UHF can be justified as it is already in use by the City of Erie, one of the largest communicators in the county, so integration would be less upsetting for that entity. Colleges, universities and neighboring Crawford County also use UHF. Erie County is already FCC licensed for five UHF pairs and finding additional radio frequency “pairs” may be easier in the UHF band.

Preliminary frequency searches indicate possible channels are available. The paired frequencies lend themselves well to repeater type systems and make transmitter combiner designs somewhat easier. The VHF frequencies are not paired.

Report of the Next Generation Radio Committee of County Council

MCM also recommends that the current Canopy microwave system be replaced with a digital Multiprotocol Label Switching (MPLS) microwave "ring" system with ring protection would be required to link the operational zones. The system must be Ethernet capable and have a minimum bandwidth of 150 mbps for the new system. The selected vendor for this project would be responsible for a complete "turnkey" job to include path surveys, equipment selections and FCC licensing.

Finally, MCM recommends that the current Catalyst radio console system be replaced with a new system that is recommended and warrantied to be compatible with the new radio system equipment."

At the January 8, 2015, Erie County Council Reorganization Meeting, Council nominated and approved Mr. Fiore Leone as Chairman for 2015. At that time, Mr. Leone stated, "We need to set our priorities this year. Obviously, the very first is to decide how to go forward with the 911 services and communications system recommended. We seem to be in agreement that this is a necessity and the time has come. In an effort to speed this process and accomplish the goals we have projected, I am appointing Joe Maloney, our CPA, Councilman Dr. Foust as Chair of this committee, along with Carol Loll and Phil Fatica."

As Chair of this committee, I am pleased to present the following Report of the Next Generation Radio Committee of County Council.

Dr. Kyle Foust,
Chairman, NGR Committee

Report of the Next Generation Radio Committee of County Council

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION AND FUNDING

IMPLEMENTATION:

1. Proceed immediately with implementation of the Next Generation Radio System as designed in the MCM Consulting Plan submitted to the County of Erie.
2. Erie County should fund 100% of the costs for the infrastructure and equipment necessary to operate the system as detailed in the MCM Report.

FUNDING FOR NGR SYSTEM:

1. Transfer \$10 million of the current unrestricted fund balance to a line item dedicated as unrestricted committed fund balance to fund initial start of the system.
2. Take out a bond to cover the remaining balance to fully implement the NGR system.
3. As Erie County is covering 100% of end user equipment costs, all local fire, police, local emergency management, and EMS agencies should collectively apply for Federal Assistance to Firefighters, COPS More Technology, and other grant funds available. Any grant funds received are to be returned to the County to offset the costs of infrastructure hardware, software and end user equipment.

Report of the Next Generation Radio Committee of County Council

FUNDING FOR NGR SYSTEM (cont'd):

4. Yearly costs for MCM Consulting:

2015 – \$404,824.75
2016 – \$441,627.00
2017 – \$441,627.00
2018 – \$ 36,802.55 (project closeout)

Total = \$1,324,881.22

5. Capital Equipment Cost (Radio / Microwave System)

2015 (5%) \$674,277.65
2016 (85%)\$11,462,720.09
2017 (10%)\$1,348,555.30

Total: \$13,485,553.04

6. Towers / Shelters / Construction

2015 (10%)\$462,000.00
2016 (80%)\$3,696,000.00
2017 (10%)\$462,000.00

Total: \$4,620,000.00

7. Subscriber Units (Mobiles / Portables / Pagers / Base)

2017 (90%)\$5,796,813.60
2018 (10%)\$644,090.40

Total: \$6,440,904.00

Report of the Next Generation Radio Committee of County Council

FUNDING FOR NGR SYSTEM (cont'd):

8. Contingency

2018 (100%) \$674,249.70

Total: \$674,249.70

TOTAL PROJECT COST: \$26,545,587.96

STIPULATIONS:

1. Any police, fire, local emergency management, and EMS organization designated by the local municipality as their emergency service provider, choosing to "opt in" to the Next Generation Radio project, will be required to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Agreement with the County of Erie by June 1, 2015. Any police, fire, local emergency management, and EMS organization choosing to "opt out" of the Next Generation Radio project will be responsible for 100% of the costs associated with purchasing the equipment necessary to interface with the Next Generation Radio system.
2. Erie County is covering 100% of end user equipment costs based on the pre-determined quantity as defined in the final report and recommendation by MCM Consulting Group. Any additional equipment requested by any police, fire, local emergency management, and EMS organizations not outlined in the report of the MCM Consulting Group's study will be the sole financial responsibility of the respective organization.
3. The current "Remote Dispatch Points" (East County, Emergycare, Millcreek Township and the PA State Police) will be responsible for 100% of the costs associated with purchasing the equipment necessary to interface with the Next Generation Radio system.
4. Any funding for maintenance, repair or replacement of end user equipment costs outside the manufacturer's warranty period will be the sole responsibility of the police, fire, local emergency management, and EMS organization.



Centers for Disease Control
and Prevention (CDC)
Atlanta GA 30333

January 29, 2015

Melissa Lyon, MPH
Public Health Director
Erie County Department of Health
606 West Second Street
Erie, Pennsylvania 16507

Dear Ms. Lyon:

On behalf of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), we are pleased to congratulate the Erie County Department of Health on achieving accreditation by the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB).

Your national accreditation status sends an important message to your partners and community that your organization meets national standards and provides services in a manner that all residents should come to expect from their health departments. Moreover, because the national accreditation program seeks to advance the quality and performance of all health departments, your participation in this program indicates your commitment to the continuous improvement of your health department's services.

Receiving recognition from PHAB as an accredited health department is an impressive achievement. CDC recognizes the time and effort that leaders and staff members from all levels of your health department have dedicated to this effort. We commend the Erie County Department of Health for this extraordinary accomplishment.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Thomas R. Frieden in black ink.

Thomas R. Frieden, MD, MPH
Director, CDC

Handwritten signature of Judith A. Monroe in black ink.

Judith A. Monroe, MD, FAAFP
Director, Office for State, Tribal,
Local, and Territorial Support
Deputy Director, CDC