

**FACILITIES & COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE
JANUARY 9, 2013**

**** NOT APPROVED ****

Committee Members Present: D. Pullen, M. Healy, G. Benson, D. Fanton, K. Graves, A. McGraw, F. Sinclair (Absent: C. Crandall)

Others Present: M. Alger, C. Braack, D. Button, D. Burdick, V. Grant, D. Hanchett, T. Hopkins, G. James, J. Luckey, J. Margeson, T. Miner, K. Monroe, T. O'Grady, B. Riehle, C. Santora, D. Scholes, R. Starks, R. Swarthout, R. Whitney

Media Present: B. Clark, *Olean Times Herald*

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Facilities and Communications Committee Chairman David Pullen.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Legislator Graves, seconded by Legislator Sinclair, and carried to approve the Facilities and Communications Committee minutes of December 5, 2012.

Facilities-Related Matters

Department of Social Services Space Needs/Recommendations

Department of Social Services Commissioner Vicki Grant informed the group that she had met with Deputy County Administrator Mitch Alger and reviewed plans of the County Office Building, including the third floor, but those plans seemed outdated. She distributed a list of the number of DSS employees and where they are currently housed, comparing the space the Department has now and the potential of future additional space. She looked at grouping particular units together, expressed a desire not to lose any of her current space, and a wish for conference room space on all floors. She noted that the State Audit is continuing, although at this time auditors are only reviewing the employment unit, and no report has been issued. It was noted, however, that until some definitive information is obtained, the process cannot begin on renovating the area. It was decided to revisit this issue at the next meeting, at which time, perhaps, the discussion regarding allotted space could begin in earnest. In the meantime, Legislator Pullen asked DPW to create a more accurate schematic of the current state of the third floor.

Updates on Renovation Projects

Superintendent of Public Works Guy James noted that the new Maintenance Building behind the Courthouse has been completed and waiting for the Certificate of Occupancy. He also said that the old Support Collection Building work is complete as well. Ultimately, the former museum will be demolished. A letter from County Clerk Rob Christman regarding additional records storage space was distributed, indicating that a continuing need exists. It was reiterated that the Bond Council had agreed that a storage facility for court records is an acceptable use of remaining Court House bond funds. Records Officer Craig Braack concurred with Mr. Christman's letter, and further, endorsed the idea of using those remaining bond funds as, in his opinion, grant money will either be scarcer in the future, or it will more often be directed downstate.. Some discussion followed regarding the most cost-conscious, easily accessible, yet capacious way to build such a facility. It was noted that the last storage building cost approximately \$110,000 because the labor force was the County's DPW workers. This time around, the desire is to contract the construction out. Legislator Sinclair suggested that we research what other counties have done to find a design that meets all criteria. It was decided,

on a motion by Legislator Sinclair, seconded by Legislator Graves, and carried to have the Records Officer and the County Administrator's Office research existing designs for efficient record storage with a potential life of 10-20 years and return with results at the next meeting.

Legislator Pullen commended the DPW for its work installing the new chandelier at the Court House. He went on to ask Probation Director Robert Starks about the renovations to his area; Mr. Starks noted he was awaiting word from DPW of when work would begin.

Communications-Related Matters

Executive Session

The Committee entered executive session at 3:40 p.m. on a motion by Legislator Graves, seconded by Legislator Fanton, and carried, to discuss a law-enforcement-related matter dealing with communications. The Committee exited executive session at 4:30 p.m., following a motion by Legislator Graves, seconded by Legislator Sinclair, and carried.

Following executive session, it was decided, on a motion by Legislator Sinclair, seconded by Legislator Healy, and carried, to authorize the installation of necessary communication equipment possibly on the tower operated by Alfred State College in an approximate price range of \$150,000 (although actual price to be determined) and to refer the cost issues to the Ways and Means Committee. **Refer to Ways & Means**

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 4:35 p.m. following a motion by Legislator Fanton, seconded by Legislator Graves, and carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Cynthia Santora, Secretary to the Clerk of the Board
Allegany County Board of Legislators

**FACILITIES & COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 13, 2013**

**** NOT APPROVED ****

Committee Members Present: D. Pullen, M. Healy, D. Fanton, K. Graves, A. McGraw, F. Sinclair, C. Crandall (Absent: G. Benson)

Others Present: M. Alger, M. Barney, C. Braack, D. Burdick, D. Button, R. Christman, G. James, J. Margeson, T. Miner, T. O'Grady, B. Riehle, C. Santora, D. Scholes, D. Swarthout

Media Present: No media present

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Facilities and Communications Committee Vice Chairman Dwight "Mike" Healy. Committee Chairman David Pullen presided upon his arrival.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Legislator Graves, seconded by Legislator Fanton, and carried to approve the Facilities and Communications Committee minutes of January 9, 2013.

Facilities-Related Matters

Deputy Superintendent of Public Works Dean Scholes updated the Committee on current projects. He told the group that the Certificate of Occupancy had been received for the new Maintenance Building and that he was expecting drawings from LaBella within the next week or two showing potential spots for the elevator and vestibule. He also noted that the work on the District Attorney's former office is progressing well. Mr. Scholes also distributed a map of the third floor of the County Building showing different zones for ease of square footage calculation. He invited any Committee members to tour the area if they so desire. Discussion followed regarding which areas can and can't be re-configured. DPW Superintendent Guy James advised against tampering with the stairwells. The possibility of enclosing the courtyard was discussed; pros and cons were brought up, such as issues with drainage and natural light. Some Committee members posed the possibility of building a new structure to house the Department of Social Services near the Jail, which, at a "guesstimate" might approach the same cost of re-habbing the third floor. It was also postulated that, long-range, should the Jail need to add another pod, more administrative space would also be needed. Then perhaps the 911 Office could use the upstairs with the added benefit of having this building occupied 24/7. (Another hypothesis: 911 might, someday, split from the Sheriff's Office.) Legislator Pullen noted that there are many possible uses for that space and suggested that Committee members might take a look at the space for themselves to give them a better perspective on what might be done with the space. Mr. Pullen also noted that, thankfully, the County is not under any type of mandate or deadline to do something with the space, so potential options can be reviewed and discussed. He also indicated that currently there is not enough information with which to make any decisions, noting that having the luxury of time allows for determining the best option in regards to the needs of the County as well as its taxpayers.

Records Storage-County Clerk Rob Christman

County Clerk Rob Christman addressed the group with an impassioned request to seriously consider erecting an additional storage building. He noted that many of the records for which he is responsible need to be kept into perpetuity and that despite the fact that the recently completed storage facility has alleviated the burden of storing these materials considerably,

there remains a great need for additional storage. He informed the group that his "big books" cannot be stacked on top of each other and that atmospheric conditions for storage must also be taken into consideration. He also indicated that this is a need that will not go away. He encouraged the group to visit Cattaraugus County's new DPW/Records Storage facility which is state-of-the-art with heavy cement floors to allow for forklifts to transport crates of records. Although he realizes that such a facility may not be in Allegany County's future, he respectfully requested that the Committee seriously take this need for additional storage under consideration. Much discussion followed. Members of the group wondered if it were time to request RFPs. County Administrator John Margeson indicated that it was not yet time, and recounted a conversation he had recently had with Mark Kukuvka, an Architect with LaBella Associates, Rochester, who noted that a state-of-the-art facility would cost somewhere around \$130-150 per square foot when the following were considered: staffing, sprinkler system, and prevailing wages, to name a few. However, if the County pursued a new storage facility in the same manner as the previous one where our own DPW did much of the work, it would decrease those costs considerably. In fact, the one we built (without internal storage racks) cost \$35 per square foot. It was quickly realized that without a specific configuration in mind, no decision could be made. Legislator Pullen did reiterate that Bond Counsel has determined that the leftover funds from the capital project could be used for this purpose. Legislator Pullen planned to meet with Deputy County Administrator Mitch Alger to come up with three or four viable options to be considered at next month's meeting and then determine the most cost-effective way (i.e., contract the construction out or utilize our own DPW) to get the project completed.

Following this discussion, one of the attendees at the meeting inquired about the operational status of the handicapped chair lift in the Court House. DPW was unaware of any issue and will look into it.

Communications-Related Matters

Legislator Pullen informed the group about the related but separate Radio Communications Task Force which is moving forward according to plan.

Legislator Sinclair noted that the CONXX Smart Technologies Report has been completed and that the Development Office is in the process of binding it. He added that the invoice has been sent to Mr. Margeson for final payment.

Legislator Sinclair also noted that we are still waiting to hear on the Connect NY application. His thinking is that the State has been hesitant to give out awards without knowing whether it would receive federal funding relief for Hurricane Sandy. Since the Committee last met, a \$51 billion package has been approved, so news may now be forthcoming.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 3:50 p.m. following a motion by Legislator Fanton, seconded by Legislator Graves, and carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Cynthia Santora, Secretary to the Clerk of the Board
Allegany County Board of Legislators

**FACILITIES & COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE
MARCH 6, 2013**

**** NOT APPROVED ****

Committee Members Present: D. Pullen, M. Healy, K. Graves, A. McGraw, F. Sinclair,
(Absent: G. Benson, D. Fanton, C. Crandall)

Others Present: M. Alger, L. Ballengee, D. Burdick, D. Button, K. Dirlam, J. Foels, V. Grant, D. Hanchett, J. Luckey, J. Margeson, T. Miner, B. Riehle, C. Santora, D. Scholes,

Media Present: B. Clark, *Olean Times Herald*; B. Quinn, *Wellsville Daily Reporter*

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Facilities and Communications Committee Chairman David Pullen.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Legislator Graves, seconded by Legislator Sinclair, and carried to approve the Facilities and Communications Committee minutes of February 13, 2013.

Facilities-Related Matters

Discussion of Possible Building for Use by Department of Social Services and Proposed Uses for Former Jail Area of County Office Building

Legislator Pullen asked Deputy Superintendent of Public Works Dean Scholes for updates regarding County facilities. Mr. Scholes informed the group that the District Attorney's former office (now County Attorney real estate) has had sheetrock installed and that DPW has been working with IT to install the data drops. He noted that the project is progressing well. He also noted that discussions regarding the elevator issues have occurred with DPW's Steve Brown, La Bella Associates' Gabe Antenucci, and NYS Building Code Compliance Officer Deborah Babbit. Mr. Scholes indicated that Ms. Babbit understood what we want to do and seems open to helping us.

Legislator Pullen then invited Social Services Commissioner Vicki Grant to join the group at the table for a discussion of space needs and possible solutions for DSS. Legislator Pullen indicated that once the elevator issue is resolved, there will be access to the top floor, offering approximately 16,000 square feet (including stairwells, utility rooms, etc.) that can be put to use in some manner. It is the purview of this Committee to determine possible uses for that space. One of the possibilities is use by DSS. One of the advantages to dedicating the third floor to DSS is that all DSS facilities and services will be located in one building. However, Legislator Pullen noted that a suggestion had previously come before the Committee to erect a dedicated building near the Jail. Legislator Pullen also cited the availability of flat land for parking near the jail should that be a viable option. Ms. Grant distributed a sheet listing the DSS Units: Services (31 employees), Temporary Assistance (45 employees), and Administrative Services (23 employees), as well as 14 additional employees who either interact with all units or are non-staff housed at DSS. In addition to reviewing that list, Ms. Grant explained the interrelationship between DSS and other County agencies such as Employment and Training, and how any move might impact those relationships. She went on to say that several units interact frequently with the Court System, and housing those units near the Jail would add to work and travel time, so her suggestion was to keep those units close to the Court House. When queried, Ms. Grant confirmed that the Temporary Assistance Unit experiences the most traffic. A question of security also arose. Ms. Grant would hope that any change would consider security issues for DSS personnel. She also indicated that she is aware of other counties which have split DSS sites and that such an arrangement shouldn't be problematic. Legislator Pullen

wondered if DSS could be moved outside of the Village without a waiver from the State and whether a referendum would be necessary. Finally, Ms. Grant directed the group's attention to a list of pros and cons she created noting that morale may be improved, stress reduced, and productivity improved with roomier facilities, but that if some or all of the DSS unit is relocated, travel time could be increased for those workers who need to interact with other County agencies and the courts and that DSS clients may be inconvenienced if they need to deal with more than one agency in more than one location. Legislator Pullen asked IT Director Deb Button if data connectedness would be a problem; she indicated she would double check, but she didn't think there would be any access problems. Legislator Healy commented that we're not in an immediate rush to make a decision and that government planning should be likened more to a game of chess than checkers. "We should be thinking 10-20 years down the road and not simply about the immediate issue at hand," he said. "We need to maximize our monetary expenditure and utilization of services," he added. Legislator Graves agreed, noting that we need to look at long-term problem solving and not rush into a decision. Legislator Pullen noted that we are not in an emergency situation that requires us to spend any money until we've reached a definite conclusion and consensus about the optimal efficiency of how to move forward. Finally, Ms. Grant voiced her concern that the new elevator configuration would usurp between two to four of her offices and she would need that space "made up" for DSS efficiency.

Communications-Related Matters

Presentation of Communications Report Prepared by CONXX for Allegany County

Development/IDA Director John Foels distributed the CONXX Report: *Allegany County New York Telecommunications: A Public-Private Partnership*. He went on to say that Allegany County had contracted with CONXX to create a report regarding the County's broadband communication as it exists now and what to do to position itself for the future. The executive summary, he said, outlines the course of what CONXX was asked to do by the Committee. Now, he said, the Committee should review the report, which he characterized as concise and direct, and decide how to proceed. One of the recommendations was that Allegany County should continue to seek grant dollars to help fund improvements in broadband for businesses and residences in the County. The really good news, he said, was the notification received from the Governor's Office the day before that the grant application Allegany County submitted for \$800,000 has been approved with a \$200,000 match from the County which had been approved several months ago. He noted that they need to work through contractual issues, but that Allegany County was one of the larger grant awardees. Legislator Pullen distributed a press release distributed by the County regarding the CONXX report; it did not include announcement of the grant award as that had not been announced at the time of the release. Legislator Pullen went on to point out the salient points in the announcement from the Governor's Office, including the overall broadband grant process and that it was aimed at under- or un-served areas as regards electronic communication. Page four, he pointed out, gives a description of the Allegany County grant. He noted here that CONXX had been very helpful in gathering data for the grant application. He continued, saying, items in the grant application had been identified as probable uses for the grant, based on equipment, installation, and other issues, which would allow the County to reach a larger portion of its population, including businesses, education, libraries, literacy, public, and healthcare facilities, as well as residences. It was a multi-faceted approach to broadband use, he said. Legislator Sinclair asked the Committee members to review the report and at next month's meeting discuss what the next steps might be. We also need to find out from Southern Tier West, which also received grant funding, he said, if Allegany County might benefit from those funds as well. Legislator Pullen commented that the CONXX report is a combination of broadband communication as it exists currently in the County and how we can position ourselves for the future. The good news, he said, is that the report gives us

a road map for what we want to do, although some of those goals may still be beyond our reach at this time.

Legislator Pullen then noted that our most recent 911 grant application had been denied and asked Lt. Hanchett how we could refine our grant applications so we can receive more favorable responses from the State. Lt. Hanchett said that we just have to be persistent and keep trying for those grants for which we qualify. He added that for the first time, the Department of Homeland Security (through which the 911 Grant was funded) has offered to confer with the County and review our previous grant applications to help us in future funding rounds. He told the group that he will participate in a conference call next week and expects to receive some pointers that could help us land an award in the next round. Lt. Hanchett went on to say that they are working diligently toward obtaining additional frequencies from the FCC. He said that the FCC will auction frequencies because they are in such high demand. He also informed the group that Saia Communications would be in the County the next day to install a 300 mg separate licensed microwave hop from the County Office Building to the Jail to transfer data between the two locations. Currently, they are using a 10 mg hop which slows data transfer.

Legislator Healy thanked the Sheriff's Office, 911, and Lt. Hanchett in particular for initiating the County's involvement with CONXX which, as it turned out, was extremely helpful in getting the broadband grant.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 3:50 p.m. following a motion by Legislator Graves, seconded by Legislator Healy, and carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Cynthia Santora, Secretary to the Clerk of the Board
Allegany County Board of Legislators

**FACILITIES & COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE
APRIL 3, 2013**

**** NOT APPROVED ****

Committee Members Present: D. Pullen, M. Healy, D. Fanton, K. Graves, F. Sinclair, C. Crandall (Absent: G. Benson, A. McGraw)

Others Present: M. Alger, L. Ballengee, D. Burdick, D. Button, K. Dirlam, J. Foels, D. Hanchett, R. Hollis, G. James, J. Luckey, T. Miner, T. O'Grady, B. Riehle, T. Ross, C. Santora, D. Scholes, R. Swarthout

Media Present: No media present

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Facilities and Communications Committee Chairman David Pullen.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Legislator Graves, seconded by Legislator Healy, and carried to approve the Facilities and Communications Committee minutes of March 6, 2013.

Communications-Related Matters

Broadband- Economic Development/IDA Director John E. Foels

Economic Development/IDA Director John Foels addressed the Committee, discussing, in terms of Broadband, where we are now, noting that he's talked to the key players in partnership with us, including TVGA, New York State, CONXX, and some last-mile providers. He reiterated that the grant which we have received is meant to serve under- or un-served areas of Allegany County, whether residences, business, health care, or educational facilities. The projected number of underserved population was 17,000. Mr. Foels said that contracts and logistics on the money and how it will be spent need to be reviewed. Additionally, he said, we also need to have a plan which is well detailed and then we should see things begin to happen in the next 30-60 days. When queried, Mr. Foels said there is a map showing the underserved areas of the County, but that it is not entirely accurate because several different sources had been used to create the map. That is another area that needs to be refined, he said. He also indicated that we are not going to duplicate access where we know it already exists. The technology that is in place (or will be put in place) will allow us to utilize some of the infrastructure we can already avail ourselves of. He noted there are over 50 towers in Allegany County and that many of them are County-owned. "If we can take the fiber down, go up in the air, and beam it out, that's our plan," he said. "We will go to four corners and work our way in, going to the most critical areas. Although Allegany County is not in the telecommunications business, we are creating with this grant a spine from which end user providers can tap into and resell to the actual users. The grant is just to get it to the corners and have the last-mile providers pull it down from there." Mr. Foels added that there are several last-mile providers who have "popped up" in the past two months or so and who would like to have a portion of this and may also want to be involved at the Point of Presence.

Legislator Sinclair noted that although this has not been done by government in NYS before, there are examples in other states and anyone who is interested could probably go on web sites for that information to help us determine our path. He went on to say the connectivity will not be entirely wireless—running fiber to a location is the optimum, because we don't want to blanket the County with microwave radiation.

Mr. Foels went on to say that the County needs to work on the business model, but we should be sensitive to the fact that if revenue streams are available, we should take advantage of them, even though that's not the main priority. This project should give us long-term, almost unlimited access to bandwidth at a very reasonable cost.

Chairman Crandall noted this project is important because Broadband is vital to recruitment and retention of people to Allegany County. All these things play into people's decision whether or not Allegany County is a place to be.

Legislator Pullen went on to say that right now we will try to stretch that \$1 million as far as we can. In the future, there will have to be components that will need to be replaced as well as upgrades to keep the system state-of-the-art and to keep us "in the game." Hopefully, there will not be continual coming back to the (County) well, but that a combination of savings and possible revenue stream will keep the system viable. If there is a revenue stream, Legislator Pullen indicated he anticipates it to be modest, but sufficient to carry the load going forward.

Facilities-Related Matters

Updates on Renovation Projects

Deputy Superintendent of Public Works Dean Scholes provided an update on current and (immediate) future construction projects, saying that the County Attorney's additional office space is going well and should wrap up in approximately three weeks. He indicated he is pleased with the progress. Additionally, the work on the break room in the DPW area should be completed in mid-May. When that is finished, the crew will head to the Probation Department for its renovation. He also indicated there remains some work to do on the Maintenance Building, but has been waiting for the weather to break because items like an exhaust fan require a worker to be on the roof, and he didn't want that occurring while there was still snow. He is targeting the end of June to have that work completed. Mr. Scholes had nothing new to report on the Jail elevator as Deborah Babbitt, the State Code Enforcement Officer who was going to help the County secure a waiver to be able to open up the elevators has been out of work for a while, so DPW is awaiting her return. The elevator battery back-up device has been installed, and all elevators are now under contract with Otis for inspection. Legislator Pullen noted that he and Mr. Scholes will do a "walk-through" of the top floor of the County Office Building (former jail) to determine exactly what is usable up there. There have been suggestions regarding its potential usage, but challenges also accompany those suggestions, so no decision has yet been made regarding its use. In other matters, Mr. Pullen noted that it had been brought to his attention that a deadline was approaching in relation to using the remaining funds from the bonding on the Courthouse project. County Treasurer Terri Ross indicated that the end of this year is the "wrap-up" deadline. The general rule of thumb is that when the final contractor is paid (which has been done), the capital project is closed, and any remaining borrowed monies get moved into the Debt Service Fund. Currently, the remaining money is somewhere over \$200,000. It was previously noted that a storage facility to hold court records would be an approved use of this money; however, the County's financial consultant interpretation is that the bond resolution was very specific to its purpose and that a storage facility offsite would not be covered with the resolution. Ms. Ross suggests, if this is the route the County would like to take, we should ask for an opinion in writing from Bond Counsel to back up that use of the bonded money. Ms. Ross went on to inform the Committee that when a project is closed and the funding came from a bond, any leftover borrowed money is closed to Debt Service for paying the debt. Her suggestion is to let it fall to Debt Service and appropriate it toward 2014's bond payment. This would reduce what is needed from the General Fund and those dollars could be used for another purpose or project. Both she and the Budget Officer/County Administrator recommend this strategy. Legislator Pullen's reservation is that the strategy may pay the bonds and reduce

our expense for one year, but at the end of that year, we still have to make that up. Ms. Ross also cautioned the group regarding the potential for Federal sequestration. One of the things being considered is a reduction on any interest subsidy on Build America Bonds, which were used for the Courthouse project. Although it is her opinion that will not happen, if it should, the County will lose some of its interest subsidy, so it would be prudent to have the funds in Debt Service to cover that.

Although no formal action was taken, the consensus of the group is that it needs to seriously consider another storage building, but there are some specifics that need to be determined before that can occur. Some of the issues to be considered include how much, in the way of current (and future) material needs to be stored, how big the building should be, what configuration it should take, how much it would cost, and where it would be located. Several suggestions regarding location were mentioned, including near the Public Safety Building or near the most recent storage building at the Landfill. DPW was asked if it had a suggestion for the location. DPW Superintendent Guy James indicated that there may be future plans for a County facility of some sort in the general area of the Landfill although there is nothing definitive at this time. Legislator Graves mentioned the restriction of not building in areas where Indian artifacts have previously been discovered. Legislator Healy brought up the possibility of a road relocation that might mean moving or razing a building constructed where the new road might need to go (using County Road 48 as a potential example). All eventualities must be taken into consideration before a decision can be made. Legislator Pullen indicated that what is needed is a proposal for purchasing or having a contract from someone to build something similar to the last facility. It was suggested that research into other government entities' storage facilities (e.g. Cattaraugus County's facility) might be a worthwhile endeavor.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m. following a motion by Legislator Fanton, seconded by Legislator Healy, and carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Cynthia Santora, Secretary to the Clerk of the Board
Allegany County Board of Legislators

FACILITIES & COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

MAY 1, 2013

** NOT APPROVED **

Committee Members Present: D. Pullen, M. Healy, G. Benson, D. Fanton, K. Graves, A. McGraw, F. Sinclair, C. Crandall

Others Present: M. Alger, D. Burdick, K. Dirlam, J. Foels, G. James, J. Luckey, B. Riehle, C. Santora, D. Scholes

Media Present: B. Clark, *Olean Times Herald*

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Facilities and Communications Committee Chairman David Pullen.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Legislator Fanton, seconded by Legislator Graves, and carried to approve the Facilities and Communications Committee minutes of April 3, 2013.

Facilities-Related Matters

Deputy Superintendent of Public Works Dean Scholes updated the Committee on the progress of the Department's current projects.

The County Attorney's Office (formerly the District Attorney's Office) is progressing well. Mr. Scholes noted that the target date for completion is May 10, and that it seems as if they are pretty much on target. He was also appreciative of the work IT had done for the electronics needs.

Mr. Scholes said that he had contacted Jim Griffith, Cattaraugus County's Clerk and Records Management Officer to tour the new Catt County records storage facility located in the basement of the DPW Building. He is planning to observe the climate control, shelving, cataloging, etc. The tour is scheduled for Thursday, May 9, at 10:30 a.m. He invited those who wanted to accompany him to be ready to leave from here between 9 and 9:15 that morning.

Mr. Scholes also noted that Steve Brown had met with LaBella regarding the elevator project, saying that the construction documents should be completed by the second week of June, allowing us to put the project out for bid in late June or early July. It was estimated that \$20,000 had already been invested in this project. Mr. Scholes predicted that he would have some drawings to show the Committee in a month or a month-and-a-half.

Legislator Pullen opined that this is a prudent project as it will allow accessibility to the top floor of the building for whatever (if any) use may be determined for it. It will also alleviate problems should the current (sole) elevator be out of service for whatever reason.

Legislator Fanton inquired about the number of times the Jail septic system is pumped. Mr. Scholes indicated that to his knowledge, it is scheduled to be pumped one time per year (or as needed) at a cost of about \$6,000. It was mentioned that there is some misinformation out there, indicating that the Jail is pumped three or four times per year. Mr. Scholes will follow up on this to be sure. Additionally, Legislator Fanton brought up the issue of a possible sewer hook-up between the Jail and the Village of Belmont in preparation for the time when the leach field will be full. Legislator Fanton would like the Committee to get serious about pursuing this issue. County Administrator Mitchell Alger was asked to check with the Village to ascertain the status of this issue. He was asked to invite the Town and Village to attend a Facilities meeting as well. Legislator Healy requested that the Town of Amity be kept apprised of any action on that front. County Planner Kier Dirlam indicated that in his recollection, LaBella may have done a preliminary engineering study prior to the building of the Jail and upon locating that information will forward it to the County Administrator.

Additionally, Legislator Fanton gave a brief overview of a discussion held at the previous meeting (Public Works) with Dianne Baker, Cooperative Extension Executive Director, noting that she had been requested to ask her Board if it would be interested in purchasing the building where Cooperative Extension is housed as County employees are no longer housed there. Additionally, Superintendent of Public Works Guy James was asked to evaluate the short- and long-term viability of keeping that building. Legislator Pullen, who had had a brief conversation with Ms. Baker between meetings, suggested she report back to the Facilities & Communications Committee next month on the response to the building issue.

Communications-Related Matters

Legislator Pullen requested an update on Communications-related issues, which in this case, primarily dealt with Broadband. County Administrator Alger noted that Mr. Dirlam and he had held a discussion with Richard Zink of Southern Tier West to determine that there would be no duplication of services as STW had also received a sizable Broadband grant. Allegany County was assured that there would be no duplication. At this point, Mr. Alger said, we are simply waiting for a contract and directives from the State before we proceed. TVGA Attorney Jill Sawyer attended a training in Albany on our behalf, said Mr. Alger, and we hope to get good feedback from her.

Good of the Order

Legislator Pullen informed the group of a USDA Broadband and Rural Development Roundtable to be held at Alfred State College on Friday, May 10, from 10 a.m. to noon. He suggested that those who could attend might find it helpful to do so.

Chairman Crandall drew the Committee's attention to, and recommended they read, an article that Clerk of the Board Brenda Rigby Riehle had put in Legislators' mailboxes regarding where the United States stands worldwide, how other countries have easily surpassed us, and why the U.S. is in this position.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 3:26 p.m. following a motion by Legislator Fanton, seconded by Legislator Healy, and carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Cynthia Santora, Secretary to the Clerk of the Board
Allegany County Board of Legislators

**FACILITIES & COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE
JUNE 5, 2013**

**** NOT APPROVED ****

Committee Members Present: D. Pullen, D. Healy, G. Benson, D. Fanton, K. Graves, A. McGraw, F. Sinclair, C. Crandall

Others Present: M. Alger, L. Ballengee, S. Brown, D. Button, K. Dirlam, J. Foels, K. Hooker, T. Hopkins, G. James, D. Lavery, T. Miner, B. Riehle, T. Ross, C. Santora, D. Scholes, R. Swarthout, R. Whitney

Media Present: B. Clark, *Olean Times Herald*

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Facilities and Communications Committee Chairman David Pullen.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Legislator Healy, seconded by Legislator Graves, and carried to approve the Facilities and Communications Committee minutes of May 1, 2013.

Facilities-Related Matters

Former Jail Elevator Work

Deputy Superintendent of Public Works Dean Scholes reported to the group that he continues to work with Gabe Antonucci from LaBella; DPW likes the proposals, but some bid documents are not yet complete. A conference call is scheduled for June 6 to help clear up any outstanding issues. Mr. Scholes invited interested parties to view the plans for the elevator in the DPW office. Additionally, he indicated that LaBella's suggestion to add a third door for a one-hour fire rating seems redundant, but DPW hoped to also get that clarified during the conference call.

Sewer Line Connection from Public Safety Building to Village of Belmont Sewer Line

Mr. Scholes reported on a meeting he and County Administrator Mitchell Alger had had with Terry Smeltzer from the Village of Belmont regarding this issue. Mr. Scholes indicated that Mr. Smeltzer is happy to work with Allegany County and that the Village's upgrades to their wastewater treatment plant will accommodate the Jail (Public Safety Building). Two options for achieving this outcome were discussed: 1-obtaining a right-of-way from the Railroad and hook the system up at Maple, thought to be the simplest option; and 2-go down Route 19, but this might necessitate establishing a new district which would be an additional expense. Legislator Fanton suggested that DPW contact the Railroad and see if Allegany County can obtain access to a right-of-way to Maple. He recommended that the County begin this process as soon as possible. Discussion included the question of whether the vibrations from the trains would affect the pipes, perhaps causing premature breakdown. Superintendent of Public Works Guy James indicated this is a question which would be asked once contact with the Railroad had been made. A motion to begin the process by contacting the Railroad and talking to the Village of Belmont engineers to obtain rough cost estimates for this project was made by Legislator Fanton, seconded by Legislator Graves, and carried.

Inspection of Cattaraugus County Records Storage Facility in Little Valley

Mr. Scholes reported on the tour of the Cattaraugus County storage facility in Little Valley that he, Mr. James, and Legislators Pullen and Fanton had taken in May. Mr. Scholes distributed photographs of the 13,000 square-foot facility, noting that one full-time and one part-time employee work in the records storage facility. The system that Cattaraugus County has set

up includes forms to be filled out by people requesting files and forms for the disposition of files. Additionally, there is an annual pro-rated fee charged to each department based on the amount of space it uses. The fees pay for the operation and maintenance (including staff) of the record storage area. The fee schedule also serves as an incentive for departments to cull their records on a regular basis. Jim Griffith, the Cattaraugus County Clerk, believes that the County will never need to build another facility; in fact, he thinks that the system that is in place will allow for the facility to work into perpetuity. It was noted that Southern Tier West may have an employee who could help us, or direct us, on how to proceed with our need for more storage. Legislator Pullen asked County Administrator Mitch Alger to call Richard Zink at Southern Tier West to determine if this is the case. It was also mentioned that perhaps NYSAC (New York State Association of Counties) could offer some insight as well.

Ongoing Renovation and Upgrade Projects in County Office Building

Mr. Scholes noted that the County Attorney's space renovation has been completed and that it turned out very well. County Attorney Miner confirmed that assessment. Currently, there is some work being done in the DPW conference room which, Mr. Scholes said, should be completed within two-three weeks. Following that, work will begin on the Probation Office.

Main County Campus Parking Lot Retaining Wall Facing on Wells Lane

It had been brought to Committee members' attention that the retaining wall that faces Wells Lane can be considered an eyesore to the public and that perhaps something should be done about it. During discussion of this issue, it was noted that the wall still seems to be structurally sound, and that the vegetation that is growing rampant was thought to serve as an "eyesore" concealment. Mr. James noted that there had been budget requests submitted over the past 12 years to address the issue, but they had always been cut from the final budget. Legislator Fanton suggested investigating whether a substance called "gunite" could be used to upgrade the wall's appearance. Mr. James indicated he would investigate this possibility as well as its cost.

Communications-Related Matters

Attorney-Client Session

The Committee entered into attorney-client session at approximately 3:50 p.m. on a motion by Legislator Fanton, seconded by Legislator Graves, and carried.

The Committee exited attorney-client session at approximately 4:20 p.m. on a motion by Legislator Healy, seconded by Legislator Graves, and carried.

Three-year Agreement between Allegany County & ION for Managed Internet Services

Following much discussion regarding the pros and cons of committing to a three-year contract, Director of Information Technology Deb Button requested a resolution authorizing Allegany County to enter into a three-year agreement with ION for Managed Internet Services. This would increase County bandwidth from 6 MB/s to 100 MB/s. This would be approximately 17 times faster than we currently enjoy for less money. This allows for faster downloads which would benefit several departments that currently run programs for the Internet, for example, Probation, OFA, County Treasurer, Sheriff's Office, to name just a few. Additionally, this agreement will result in a decrease in the annual budget by \$9,458. The request was approved on a motion by Legislator Sinclair, seconded by Legislator Healy, and carried. **Prepare**

Resolution

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 4:20 p.m. following a motion by Legislator Fanton, seconded by Legislator Graves, and carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Santora, Secretary to the Clerk of the Board
Allegany County Board of Legislators

**FACILITIES & COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING
JUNE 24, 2013**

**** NOT APPROVED ****

Committee Members Present: D. Pullen, M. Healy, G. Benson, D. Fanton, K. Graves, A. McGraw, F. Sinclair, C. Crandall

Others Present: M. Alger, D. Burdick, D. Button, K. Dirlam, J. Foels, R. Hollis, T. Hopkins, G. James, K. LaForge, R. Lynch, T. Miner, B. Riehle, T. Ross, C. Santora, D. Scholes, N. Ungermann

Media Present: B. Clark, *Olean Times Herald*

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 3:20 p.m. by Facilities and Communications Committee Chairman David Pullen.

Executive Session

The Committee entered executive session at 3:22 p.m. on a motion by Legislator Graves, seconded by Legislator McGraw, and carried, to discuss the history of a particular corporation. The Committee exited executive session at 4:04 p.m., following a motion by Legislator Graves, seconded by Legislator McGraw, and carried.

Letters of Intent for Broadband Grant Administration

A motion was made by Legislator Graves, seconded by Legislator Healy, and carried authorizing the County Administrator to issue letters of intent relative to the \$1 million Connect NY Broadband Grant Program once an agreement with New York State is in place. The letters of intent should be issued as follows:

- TVGA Consultants for grant administration
- Southern Tier West for project administration for approximately 18 months
- Conxx Smart Technologies for final project design/implementation

Prepare Resolution

Legislator Sinclair wanted the record to reflect that he does not agree with issuing a letter of intent to Southern Tier West, but that he supports the motion because he does agree with other two-thirds of it.

Legislator Pullen requested that the Chairmen of the two most involved Committees, Planning & Economic Development and Facilities & Communications be kept in the loop by the County Administrator and the County Attorney so all groups can work together to move this project forward.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 4:05 p.m. following a motion by Legislator Graves, seconded by Legislator Healy, and carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Cynthia Santora, Secretary to the Clerk of the Board
Allegany County Board of Legislators

FACILITIES & COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE
JULY 3, 2013

**** NOT APPROVED ****

Committee Members Present: D. Pullen, M. Healy, D. Fanton, K. Graves, A. McGraw, F. Sinclair (Absent: G. Benson, C. Crandall)

Others Present: M. Alger, D. Button, K. Dirlam, J. Foels, R. Hollis, T. Hopkins, G. James, K. LaForge, M. McCormick, T. Miner, B. Riehle, C. Santora, D. Scholes, R. Swarhout

Media Present: B. Clark, *Olean Times Herald*; B. Quinn, *Wellsville Daily Reporter*

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Facilities and Communications Committee Chairman David Pullen.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Legislator Graves, seconded by Legislator Fanton, and carried to approve the Facilities and Communications Committee minutes of June 5, and 24, 2013.

Facilities-Related Matters

Executive Session

The Facilities & Communications Committee entered executive session to discuss the proposed lease of real property at 3:01 p.m., on a motion by Legislator Graves, seconded by Legislator Healy, and carried. The Committee exited executive session at 3:27 p.m., on a motion by Legislator Graves, seconded by Legislator Sinclair, and carried.

County Building Elevator

Deputy Superintendent of Public Works Dean Scholes updated the Committee on the progress regarding the elevator in the County Office Building. He said that there was a preliminary design, but after talking with Legislator Healy, determined that Mr. Healy's suggestion to open up the lobby space on the ground floor had merit, and would now have LaBella incorporate those ideas into a new plan. Mr. Healy suggested that by opening up that downstairs space, the lobby area would be visible from the bubble, increasing safety and response time should an untoward incident occur. Originally, said Mr. Scholes, a third door was going to be added, but now is the time to consider this alternate change in order to save money down the road. He added that one of the offices in the Public Defender's office may need to be moved to facilitate this change. He added that he has spoken to a variety of Department Heads who might be affected and they all understand and are in agreement with this proposed change. Legislator Pullen concurred that this change makes sense and that it also makes sense to consider doing this now than at some time in the future at even greater cost. His opinion was that it should not add too much to the cost of the project, and that if it is worth doing at all, it is worth doing right. The Committee determined that at this point, there is no need for official action, but that it authorizes the Department of Public Works to have the LaBella engineers and architects prepare a plan to reflect the proposed changes. Mr. Scholes indicated that he has been in discussion with LaBella and that this change will most certainly bring the project over the determined budget. He will proceed with this activity and report back to the Committee. Legislator Healy also suggested that when the plans arrive, perhaps the Sheriff's Office and those that work at the security desk take a look at the plans before they are implemented because they might be able to offer some insight or suggestions regarding the security.

Finally, Mr. Scholes said that the rehab in the Probation Department will begin July 22.

Communications-Related Matters**ION Connection**

Legislator Pullen asked IT Director Deb Button about the status of the ION connection that had been authorized previously. Ms. Button responded that ION is working on the equipment and are almost ready to drop it in and turn it on. When she has the exact date, she will tell the Committee.

Alfred Tower

Legislator Pullen asked for an update regarding the Alfred Tower. County Attorney Tom Miner indicated he is waiting to see the most recent contract and had asked Lt. Dan Hanchett to pass it along to him.

Previously, Mr. Miner noted, the propagation maps he had seen continued to show coverage gaps, and the vendor could not guarantee resolution of those gaps by taking the steps the County had proposed. He would very much like to see new propagation maps. It was noted that at the last Board meeting, some issues arose that were going to help reduce the costs and improve coverage for this project when the County learned it could use a tower it used to use in the past. Additionally, it was noted that costs would be reduced because a reduced amount of equipment would be needed. It was noted that at that time those proposed issues seemed to alleviate Legislator O'Grady's (also Alfred Chief of Police) concerns regarding coverage. It was determined that no action was necessary from this Committee at this time, but that in order to move forward with this plan, Mr. Miner and Lt. Hanchett need to be clear on the terms of the contract. Mr. Alger noted that Mike Saia (of Saia Communications, the vendor) had put in the form of a letter some guarantees of coverage which to him (Mr. Alger) seemed good. Although some comments were made suggesting that you can never be sure about coverage until equipment is in place and being used. Mr. Miner would like to see that updated letter and new coverage maps (propagation studies). Currently, the issue still sits on the table at the Board level.

Head Emergency Services Dispatcher Randy Swarthout, when queried about his knowledge of this issue, said that he has not been heavily involved with this project, but would follow up with Lt. Hanchett. He also informed the group that there would be a complete County-wide reprogramming because of a glitch with the FCC regarding radio frequency. The work will begin July 8 and continue for about a week. Programmers and vendors will be on site, beginning with the southern part of the County and working their way north. He assured the group that there will be virtually little down time for the system. He also stated that he felt that the new frequency will be better for public safety than the one the County had previously.

Broadband Grant

Legislator Pullen told the group that he had seen the drafts of the letters of intent prepared by the County Attorney that the Committee had authorized at its June 24 meeting and which had subsequently been sent out by the County Administrator. He was told that the letters had been sent out, and that now we are waiting to get the agreements back from the three consultants: CONXX, Southern Tier West, and TVGA. He added that he hoped we could begin moving forward. He asked if there were any new developments. County Administrator Alger said there was nothing new to report, that he would like to convene a meeting similar to the initial meeting that had been held and get the three groups together to determine the direction of where we want to go. Mr. Pullen agreed that we need to be moving as expeditiously as possible. He asked that Mr. Alger copy everybody in to find a time when most would be available and to pull in as many of the County personnel as possible. He also asked if the County had received any paperwork from the State. Mr. Alger indicated that in speaking to Richard Zink (Southern Tier West), he learned that we would probably see some paperwork in

August. However, he added, he had also received conflicting information from different people in the State that he had spoken with.

Economic Development/IDA Director John Foels told the group that Sam Hoyt, Regional President for Empire State Development (ESD) had been in the area recently on another matter, but asked how the County was doing with the Broadband grant. Mr. Foels told him that we could use his support. Mr. Foels said Mr. Hoyt is very interested in our progress, and that he will be watching closely as we move forward.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 3:50 p.m. following a motion by Legislator Graves, seconded by Legislator Healy, and carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Cynthia Santora, Secretary to the Clerk of the Board
Allegany County Board of Legislators

**FACILITIES & COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE
AUGUST 7, 2013**

**** NOT APPROVED ****

Committee Members Present: D. Pullen, M. Healy, G. Benson, D. Fanton, K. Graves, A. McGraw, F. Sinclair, C. Crandall

Others Present: M. Alger, L. Ballengee, D. Burdick, D. Button, K. Dirlam, M. Evans, J. Foels, D. Hanchett, G. James, T. Hopkins, T. Miner, B. Riehle, T. Ross, C. Santora, D. Scholes, R. Swarthout, R. Whitney, R. Zink (Guests: D. Kartchner & B Risse from CONXX)

Media Present: B. Clark, *Olean Times Herald*

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 Sinclair, and carried to approve the Facilities and Communications Committee minutes of July 3, 2013.

Facilities-Related Matters

DPW Reports

Deputy Superintendent of Public Works Dean Scholes gave the Committee an update on current County projects. Among the updates: there has not been much movement on the elevator project as the engineer at LaBella with whom we've been working has been out on paternity leave. Mr. Scholes expects his imminent return at which time the project will resume. Additionally, Mr. Scholes said the renovation work in the Probation Department has begun with wiring and IT needs; bracket installation for the walls and ceilings has also begun. As regards the old Community Church (site of the former museum), Mr. Scholes said there are still numerous items in the basement which need to find homes before anything can be done. Discussion regarding the actions the Planning & Economic Development Committee has taken regarding this issue followed. Legislator Sinclair noted his Committee had requested an inventory from County Historian Craig Braack which is still in progress. However, Mr. Sinclair added, Mr. Braack is not aware of anything of exceptional value in the basement. Until the inventory from Mr. Braack can be reviewed, no action can be taken. Legislator Healy proposed exploring the possibility of erecting a memorial at the site of the church after it's razed, perhaps with an etching of the building to honor a structure which has deep roots in the community. He suggested Mr. Crandall could estimate a cost for such an item. Legislator Graves then asked about progress on the Board of Elections building. Mr. Scholes said that he was hoping to have three or four quotes for the project by August 19. County Administrator Alger added that since this is the busy season for contractors, it has been difficult to obtain quotes. Once they are available, however, he will then approach the building's owner about repairs and renegotiating a new contract. Finally, the topic of the Cooperative Extension building arose. Superintendent of Public Works Guy James noted that at the previous meeting (Public Works) retiring Cooperative Extension Director Dianne Baker had distributed a letter and list of work to be done on the building as determined by a local contractor. The estimated cost for the repairs would be \$40,000. At this time, Legislator Sinclair inquired whether the Allegany County Board of Legislators had any input regarding Ms. Baker's replacement, and was told that it had no role in the selection. It was reiterated that the County wishes to support Cooperative Extension endeavors, and that \$40,000 seemed reasonable for the list of repairs. However, that estimate

would only hold true if Cooperative Extension owned the building. Should the County retain ownership, it would need to go through a competitive bid process which would surely increase that estimate. It was also noted that the location of Cooperative Extension is beneficial because of its physical proximity to the Soil & Water Conservation District, the USDA NRCS (Natural Resources Conservation Service), and the Farm Service Agency. Mr. James noted that there was no need to take any action at this time, but that he offered the information merely as a "heads-up."

Belmont Sewer

Legislator Pullen then inquired about the status of the possibility of the Jail being hooked into the Belmont sewer system. Mr. Scholes reported that the MRB Group is still working on a current feasibility study and that he had searched for previous feasibility studies and came up empty. Mr. Alger reported that in conversation with former County Administrator John Margeson, he learned that when the Jail was built, the life expectancy of the septic system was projected to be 20 years. Currently, that is believed to be optimistic since the system is often ill-used by inmates. It was noted that pumping the system twice a year is a step the County takes to help prolong the life of the system.

Communications-Related Matters

Broadband Grant/State Contract

Legislator Pullen informed the Committee that the County had received the state Broadband contract, but that the contract (as well as collateral information) must be back in Albany by August 24. Mr. Alger noted that prior to that date, the County needs to establish a capital account for the project; appropriate the \$200,000 matching funds (which he recommends taking from the Contingency Account); approve the agreements with Southern Tier West, TVGA, and CONXX; authorize Chairman Crandall to sign and execute the agreement; and approve the County Administrator's submitting the completed paperwork and the \$250 submission fee which he will take from his budget.

Attorney-Client Session

The Committee entered attorney-client session at 2:29 p.m. on a motion by Legislator Fanton, seconded by Legislator Graves, and carried.

The Committee exited attorney-client session at 2:55 p.m. on a motion by Legislator Graves, seconded by Legislator Healy, and carried.

Establishment of Capital Account

Following attorney-client session, County Administrator Alger requested a resolution establishing and funding a capital account for the \$1 million Connect NY Broadband Grant Project. The \$800,000 from New York State should be accepted and appropriated to H1997.200 (Connect NY Broadband Grant Project – CFA #21283) with a like sum to Revenue Account H1997.3097.00 (State Aid – Connect NY Broadband Grant). The County's \$200,000 match will require a transfer of \$200,000 from A1990.429 (Contingency) to H1997.200 (Connect NY Broadband Grant Project) and revenue account H1997.301 (Connect NY Broadband Grant – County's Share).

Additionally, the resolution should authorize the County Attorney to draft agreements with CONXX, TVGA, and Southern Tier West for their respective services; authorize Chairman Crandall to sign and execute the agreements; and authorize the County Administrator to submit the application at a cost of \$250 in order to move ahead with the

project and to draft the appropriate paperwork to accompany the submission on behalf of the County. The request for resolution was approved on a motion by Legislator Sinclair, seconded by Legislator Graves, and carried. **Refer to Ways & Means**

CONXX Services re: Grant

Legislator Pullen then introduced two members from the CONXX team to the Committee: Bill Risse, Manager for Municipal Projects, and David Kartchner, Executive Vice President. Mr. Risse took the floor first to tell the Committee that he and Mr. Kartchner had begun doing site survey work at specific locations, talking to specific organizations, and looking at the County-owned towers to establish their suitability for the equipment already there or additional equipment that may be necessary. He noted that they are putting together a plan that will mirror what they had prescribed in the report submitted earlier this year, eventually coming up with an equipment list that the County could then use to obtain the appropriate equipment per public procurement rules. Subsequently, they will determine together exactly how that equipment will be installed. He added that they are working closely with the County's 911 Team which informed them of plans to apply for funding to expand their communication resources, so he felt we are at a point where we're both expanding to the same purpose: to serve County government, economic development, education, and public safety. His team will look at gaps, especially as they pertain to 911, and at extending broadband to the under- and un-served parts of the community. He noted that the feedback they have been receiving from the locals is that they have some service, but not enough to meet their needs, which validates the supposition that the community is ready to use more connectivity versus what is here now.

Mr. Kartchner also addressed the Committee, saying that he had visited nine different towers used by public safety the day before as well as other locations that might be useful for filling in some of the holes that might exist in the current infrastructure. In his opinion, all of the towers are very suitable for this endeavor. Per this initial review, Mr. Kartchner did not see any loading or crowding issues in terms of the current equipment or in terms of being able to accommodate any new equipment necessary to provide the projected services. He went on to say that the projected design will provide significant improvement in reliability over the current land over radio system. With what he called "diverse routing," there will be no single points of failure in the network. Right now, he added, there are multiple single points of failure that could take out a tower and cause an area to go dark in terms of public safety. The new system will address this as well as provide Broadband coverage. He noted that there are other tower resources available in the County which could be used to expand the system. He said he was very encouraged by what he had seen so far, and that the project is very doable. He added that he could foresee no real roadblock to making this a reality.

Legislator Pullen asked who the last-mile providers might be or if any had been identified. Mr. Kartchner noted that in previous, similar projects in which CONXX has been involved, the last-mile providers surfaced at the appropriate time. Mr. Risse did add, however, that at a recent Wireless Internet Service Providers (WISP) meeting, he entered into casual conversation with at least three last-mile providers who seemed to be interested in pursuing this project at the appropriate time. He noted that there is diminished risk for last-mile providers when entities, such as Allegany County, provide the bedrock of the system, and that acts as an incentive.

There was some discussion on what actually constituted an "under-served" and "un-served" populace. It was suggested that those terms be determined and spelled out when dealing with the State in order not to have any misunderstanding regarding the County's carrying out its charge appropriately.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 3:25 p.m. following a motion by Legislator Graves, seconded by Legislator Healy, and carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Cynthia Santora, Secretary to the Clerk of the Board
Allegany County Board of Legislators

**FACILITIES & COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE
SEPTEMBER 4, 2013**

**** NOT APPROVED ****

Committee Members Present: D. Pullen, M. Healy, G. Benson, D. Fanton, K. Graves, A. McGraw, F. Sinclair, C. Crandall

Others Present: M. Alger, D. Button, K. Dirlam, R. Hollis, T. Hopkins, G. James, R. Lynch, T. Miner, B. Riehle, C. Santora, D. Scholes, R. Swarthout (Guest Vali Ciobanu)

Media Present: B. Quinn, *Wellsville Daily Reporter*

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 3:35 p.m. by Facilities and Communications Committee Chairman David Pullen.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Legislator Graves, seconded by Legislator Sinclair, and carried to approve the Facilities and Communications Committee minutes of August 7, 2013.

Facilities-Related Matters

DPW Reports

Public Safety Building Waste Disposal

Deputy Superintendent of Public Works Dean Scholes distributed a proposal submitted by MRB Group for a study regarding a potential sewer connection from the County Jail into the Village of Belmont Sewer System at a cost of \$26,500. Because MRB Group performed the design work at the Village Wastewater Plant and, in fact, evaluated potential future sewer flows from the County Jail when it performed the engineering study that preceded the wastewater facility upgrade project, MRB Group is regarded as being highly knowledgeable about and familiar with the needs of the County and the Public Safety Building and how the sewer connection might be achieved. Because of the previous work MRB Group had done for the Village, this was the only quote pursued. It was also noted that the Village of Belmont had been greatly pleased with that company's work. Chairman Crandall noted that the County is aware that the Jail's waste removal system will need attention soon, but that we need a plan to address this situation. He suggests moving ahead with the study while we remain in a situation that does not require emergency action. Legislator Pullen noted that seeing as MRB Group possesses familiarity with the Village of Belmont system, rather than seeking quotes from other firms, which would make it virtually impossible for them to compare or give the same quality results, Mr. Scholes was authorized to accept the proposal from MRB Group subject to approval by the Ways & Means Committee on a motion by Legislator Healy, seconded by Legislator Graves, and carried. **Refer to Ways & Means**

Elevator Update

Mr. Scholes also brought the Committee up to date regarding the progress on the elevator situation in the County Office Building. In conversations with LaBella and various County employees, two designs were developed. One design came in at a cost of \$155,265; the second at \$199,000. Mr. Scholes distributed the designs to Committee members and explained the differences and the potential "displacements" which might occur and which have already been planned for. Despite the Committee's preference for the second, more expensive, design, the projected cost was off-putting. The consensus of the group was that perhaps some of the work, probably the demolition portion, could be done in-house. The Committee directed Mr. Scholes to

bid both designs two ways: work being done by the County and the construction firm, and work being done without County assistance.

Board of Elections

Board of Elections Trailer Issues

Board of Elections Commissioner Rick Hollis distributed photos documenting the damage done to the BoE trailer as it sat outside the Friendship Shop. Rocks had been thrown at it, causing dents and a hole which have been repaired. Mr. Hollis worried about the potential for this sort of activity to occur again if the trailer cannot be garaged when it is not in use. Additionally, he noted, the elements will wreak damage on the trailer as well. His goal is to protect the \$11,000 investment the County has made in purchasing this trailer. He requested that a garage be located for the trailer. It was decided that there are no available sheltered parking areas owned by the County at this time. However, it was suggested that the trailer be parked at the Public Safety Building with other County-owned trailers. That might prevent damage from vandalism if not from the weather. County Administrator Mitchell Alger will have a conversation with the Sheriff to arrange this. Mr. Hollis was directed to park the Board of Elections trailer in the Public Safety Building lot on a motion by Legislator Sinclair, seconded by Legislator Graves, and carried.

Mr. Hollis then went on to inquire if any progress had been made with the BoE building. Mr. Alger addressed that issue, saying he had received one quote which seemed too low, but was expecting another quote in the near future. When he has received the second quote, and informs the Committee of costs, etc., Mr. Alger will then approach the landowner to work out a new lease agreement. Mr. Alger was authorized to negotiate for a long-term lease agreement with the landowner following the appropriate repairs on a motion by Legislator Fanton, seconded by Legislator McGraw, and carried.

Mr. Hollis then inquired about the status of the wall which had loose bricks. Mr. Alger said that to the best of his knowledge, that wall is several layers thick, so that even if the integrity of the outer wall is breached, the building remains structurally sound.

Communications-Related Matters

Broadband Grant Project Update

Mr. Alger began his report by thanking County Planner Kier Dirlam, CONXX, Southern Tier West Executive Director Richard Zink, and Legislator Fred Sinclair for their assistance in preparing the necessary paperwork that was due to the State in August. He explained that two members from Empire State Development, Angela Liotta and David Salway, have been very helpful in addressing the concerns we had, e.g., the number of households reached with this project. Mr. Dirlam noted that the key is not to say that 17,000 Allegany County residents will sign up for Broadband, but that service will be made available to 17,000 people, or whatever number is eventually settled upon. Mr. Alger went on to say that the project schedule is on target and that CONXX has started the design work.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m. following a motion by Legislator Graves, seconded by Legislator Healy, and carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Cynthia Santora, Secretary to the Clerk of the Board
Allegany County Board of Legislators

**FACILITIES & COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE
OCTOBER 2, 2013**

**** NOT APPROVED ****

Committee Members Present: D. Pullen, M. Healy, G. Benson, D. Fanton, K. Graves, A. McGraw, F. Sinclair, C. Crandall

Others Present: M. Alger, L. Ballengee, D. Button, K. Dirlam, T. Hopkins, G. James, B. Kelley, T. Miner, B. Riehle, T. Ross, C. Santora, D. Scholes, R. Swarthout

Media Present: No media present

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Facilities and Communications Committee Chairman David Pullen.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Legislator Graves, seconded by Legislator Sinclair, and carried to approve the Facilities and Communications Committee minutes of September 4, 2013.

Facilities-Related Matters

DPW Reports

Deputy Superintendent of Public Works Dean Scholes was called upon to update the Committee on current DPW projects. Mr. Scholes said the work in the Probation Department is coming along nicely. Two offices are nearly completed, and they look very nice. He said the Department seems to be pleased with the results.

Mr. Scholes reported on the MRB Group feasibility study regarding linking the Jail to the Village of Belmont Waste Water Treatment System. The Committee had previously requested some type of deadline for the study. Mr. Scholes said MRB promises an end-of-November completion date.

On the matter of the elevator, Mr. Scholes said that Gabe Antonucci is working on the floor plan for the elevator as well as on trying to determine which of the work can be done by DPW in a cost-saving effort. Mr. Scholes said he expects more concrete information by next month's meeting.

Proposed Space Changes in Public Defender's Office

Public Defender Barbara Kelley attended the meeting to get an answer to her question regarding how the new elevator will impact her office space. She had been told, she said, to expect J.R. to have to vacate his office. Ms. Kelley would hope that his relocation would be only temporary and not too distant from the office. Public Health Director Lori Ballengee has graciously offered the use of her area's small conference room as a temporary location for J.R. until a more permanent solution can be found. At this point, there is no permanent solution at hand. It was brought up that once the elevator project is completed, that would make access to the top floor a reality, and then perhaps the Committee can decide on how to use that area. Ms. Kelley added that she has recently been permitted to hire a new part-time secretary and that she will shortly be submitting a grant application which would allow her to hire an additional attorney. These two actions will mean even more space needed for her office. At this time, however, only the temporary space solution is confirmed.

Communications-Related Matters

Head Emergency Services Dispatcher Randy Swarthout told the group that issues in this area are ongoing. However, he said, the Radio Communication Task Force members have announced the meeting date for informing local municipalities, fire and emergency service

personnel, and law enforcement personnel of the findings and actions of the Task Force. Wednesday, October 16, at 7 p.m. in the Genesee Valley Central School Auditorium has been scheduled for introducing the Policy Agreements and Contractual Agreement for purchase of radio equipment. In addition to those Legislators who were members of the Task Force, others were encouraged to attend. Additionally, it was reiterated that Lt. Hanchett had recently submitted a grant application for approximately \$5.9 million to increase towers and other needs for the 911 System. He was told he could expect to hear something about the grant award around Christmas. Mr. Swarthout indicated that CONXX had not wanted to collaborate on the grant application. Legislator Pullen said he would look into that issue.

Old Business

Legislator Pullen lauded the work of the Task Force and the cooperation of the multiple groups represented on it. He added that he hoped the meeting scheduled for October 16 would lead to buy-in from the municipalities and emergency and fire services.

Chairman Crandall told the group that he'd recently attended a NYSAC meeting where he learned of a federal emergency broadband communication system, a stand-alone emergency communications system, which is in the planning stages at this time. However, he said, with the upgrades we are doing to our system in the County, it seems we will be in line with this emergency system once it's in place.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 3:25 p.m. following a motion by Legislator Graves, seconded by Legislator McGraw, and carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Cynthia Santora, Secretary to the Clerk of the Board
Allegany County Board of Legislators

**FACILITIES & COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE
NOVEMBER 6, 2013**

**** NOT APPROVED ****

Committee Members Present: D. Pullen, M. Healy, D. Fanton, K. Graves, A. McGraw, F. Sinclair, C. Crandall (Absent: G. Benson)

Others Present: D. Button, S. Decker, K. Dirlam, M. Evans, J. Foels, D. Hanchett, G. James, T. Miner, C. Santora, R. Swarthout, R. Zink (CONXX Guests: D. Kartchner, B. Risse)

Media Present: No media present

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Facilities and Communications Committee Chairman David Pullen.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Legislator Graves, seconded by Legislator Sinclair, and carried to approve the Facilities and Communications Committee minutes of October 2, 2013.

Facilities-Related Matters

Superintendent of Public Works Guy James addressed the Committee, telling the members that four of the offices in the Probation Department are complete save for the doors, but they have been delivered and he expects them to be installed next week. Offices five and six are under construction. He invited Committee members to visit the area to see “before” and “after” versions of the offices. He said the project is moving along well.

Mr. James went on to report that M.R.B. had looked at the Jail system and the Village of Belmont system and had taken elevation photographs to help prepare the proposal. Mr. James added that M.R.B. rep(s) would be willing to attend the December Public Works and/or Facilities meetings to present a draft proposal.

Finally, Mr. James distributed a revised schedule regarding work on the elevator, noting that work is behind the point at which DPW thought it would be by this time. LaBella anticipates bid documents to be ready by mid-December. However, LaBella had been on premises today looking at power and other technical and logistical issues. Representatives will also be available to attend the December meeting.

Communications-Related Matters

Lt. Hanchett reported that there have been no issues regarding the 911 System and that things are working smoothly.

Legislator Pullen reported that County Administrator Alger had had some dealings with the state, saying the County has spending authority on the grant despite the fact that the contracts are not signed.

Mr. Pullen went on to report on a conference he had attended in Albany, where, he said, major providers complained that their share of the marketplace is not as large as it had been, apparently because they are competing with one another. “Our problem isn’t competition,” he told them, “it’s lack of services. None of you are providing adequate services in Allegany County, so we have applied for and received this grant and are trying to put in our own system because you won’t. I’m not happy with what you’re doing. Competition is nice, but only in theory at this point,” he added. These remarks generated discussion. Subsequently, several suppliers approached Mr. Pullen regarding what they could provide for the County. Mr. Pullen took their cards and will follow up with them. Additionally, Margaret Tobin from the Governor’s Task Force on Economic Growth and Activity spoke to Mr. Pullen, saying their research indicates what he

said, not what the others were saying regarding the “haves” and the “have nots,” and the Governor wants to address that rather than hone in and refine things for those who are competing for pieces of the pie.

Following his remarks, Legislator Pullen turned the meeting over to Mssrs. Risse and Kartchner of CONXX.

Presentation and Update by CONXX Re: Broadband Grant Project

Bill Risse, Manager for Municipal Projects, began the presentation, saying that NYS is very aggressive in recognizing Broadband as a necessity in rural areas, not only for business, but also for quality of life. The carriers are not always interested in serving rural areas, but there seems to be a growing level of awareness that people are trying to take control of their own infrastructure, and New York State is trying to help with that and strike a balance between having a place at the table for the carriers and creating alternatives for communities that aren't as well served.

Mr. Risse went on to say that he and Mr. Kartchner had done a lot of research, met with department heads and agencies, and revisited the physical infrastructure in the County to confirm what was in the preliminary study presented earlier this year. Mr. Kartchner would, he said, share those findings and their vision for the future, but he cautioned, everything won't be achieved with one grant or in one construction step. “We're going to talk about a Master Plan and what is immediately achievable and the impact it will have,” he said.

Mr. Kartchner began by telling the assemblage that CONXX based its work on the following premises:

- to use as much of the existing infrastructure as possible that the County has already invested in to create this vision of Broadband in Allegany County; i.e., to do as much as we can, spending as little as we have to, in order get the coverage and capabilities that we want.

- whatever we do in this first stage, we will do as much as we can and as we add to it as additional money and opportunities come along, that we don't need to re-invent the plan or revise numerous parts of the plan, but just keep going and preserve the investment that's been made while continuing to enhance and build on the already well-thought-out platform.

In today's presentation, you will see the evidence of that philosophy in that design.

The first things we looked at were the existing County sites; this is where we have current County-owned assets where 911 already operates.

The goal, he said, is to replace the backbone radios which will increase the backbone capacity up to 20 times the current 45 megabits. The second thing is to change the design of the backhaul to a ring configuration which eliminates as many single points of failure as we can, making 911 network more reliable than it is today. The current design, he said, is a hub-and-spoke pattern; the new design will be a ring with one or two spurs or short hops, so there will be two paths to every tower. Lastly, there will be a high capacity connection between the Corbin Tower and the Court House. That's the connection that will support the Broadband network.

Mr. Kartchner then projected a map of a recent propagation study on each tower showing where coverage is best and where it is spotty or non-existent. He predicts that coverage for the two systems, emergency and Broadband, will be equivalent. The two systems can operate in a parallel fashion during the changeover so there is no down time to the system.

There are still some marginal or no coverage areas in the 911 system, he said, and the same will be true for Broadband. However, there will be options to correct that as we grow. He noted he has reviewed the FCC database of towers as well as the list the County put together. He said that he likes to look at locations where there are existing towers because where there are towers, there are access roads and power. Whether we may be able to use an existing tower, or need to build a new tower next to an existing tower, costs are lower where

infrastructure already exists, which is a way of minimizing costs and maximizing what is spent on infrastructure. "We need to evaluate where to locate additional resources in order to fill in the gaps," he said. He added that more propagation studies will be done over the course of the next week to see what will give the best coverage to improve the overall utility of the network.

The ring-based design will give redundancy to the entire backbone to get coverage in the entire County for a first-class communications network. He indicated he felt confident that the budgets are going to work and accomplish all we wanted to get done with this design. In the next 30-60 days, the design will be completed, and he will provide RFP drafts to the Committee and others so we can move into the construction phase which they would like to see begin in Spring of 2014.

He went on to say that the FCC has approved a new frequency range called "white space" which is actually the unused television spectrum which got freed up when television went digital. There's lots of this space in Allegany County, he said. White space frequency is largely unaffected by leaves and trees and can provide broader coverage than any wireless broadband spectrum that's been available up to this time. This is a low-powered but powerful system in terms of bandwidth capacity. The FCC rules have been beneficial and will revolutionize what will be available for rural Broadband projects like this one.

Mr. Kartchner then displayed some equipment that will be used in the system. The first item was a white space base station radio which will have a coaxial cable running from it up the tower and the antenna. The initial configuration would consist of three base station radios per tower where each one can support 30-50 customers. Additional radios can be added as demand requires.

The subscriber (end user) will have an outdoor radio mounted on a "J arm" such as those used by satellite companies, with an Ethernet cable from the radio into the house; outside a small directional antenna will provide Broadband connection to the backbone. The indoor component, the size of a small brick, has a power plug on one end and an Ethernet connector that goes to the radio, and a port that goes to a wi-fi router, computer, or switch. It is pretty easy and basic to install. The antenna, which is reminiscent of the TV antennas of old, is a nice small size which works nicely for up to five miles to provide Broadband connections. Larger antennas will be used where greater distances are required.

The initial design shows eight towers. The farther from the tower an end user is located, the slower the speed will be. Each tower is configured like a carrier's central office (like AT&T and Verizon, for example) and use Multiprotocol Label Switching (MPLS) which is what all the carriers use in their backbone. This will allow the County to run government, public safety, hospital, residential, etc. securely and effectively over the same backbone. Public Safety, of course, will be the priority over all else.

Development Director John Foels pointed out the role that ION is playing (or will play) in this project. "ION is the front door to this [project] and without that, this configuration probably wouldn't be as robust, but the fact that ION is in Allegany County and is willing to work with the system [is of benefit to the County]."

When asked about attracting last mile providers as well as where in the process the County stops and last mile providers begin, Mr. Kartchner said, "There are a number of different areas where we can tie this network into ION and are looking at these different options as part of our plan and design. After we verify some issues with ION, we will work with the [Facilities &] Communications Committee and make recommendations on how we open up to connect ION to provide the internet bandwidth that will come to this network. There are service providers who are interested in coming in to deliver services to Allegany County residents," he added. "The mechanism by which that will work is service providers will have a contract with whatever entity

the County will set up to oversee this network; it could be the County, it could be a contractor like CONXX, but it will likely be some sort of authority that is yet to be determined. There will be interface between government ownership (Allegany County) and the service provider which will have a wholesale service schedule that they will be able to base their pricing on for the end user. Those revenues will then come back to support the network; it will operate sort of like a non-profit organization. We want the network to be self-supporting, so it's a benefit to the County and the community, and not a burden."

The issue of a business plan came up during the discussion, and it was determined that it is essential that the cost of service be market competitive. Mr. Kartchner also said that the "intent of this design is to offer unmetered Broadband, so consumers just pay a monthly fee as opposed to paying for each time you used it –like streaming, etc."

Legislator Sinclair expressed his opinion that it's not too early for the County to start discussing how to manage this system so we are ready to hit the ground running when the system is in place and ready to be provided to customers.

Mr. Kartchner said that "design, equipment, business plan, price points are all areas that still need to be discussed and decided."

At the end of the meeting, Legislator Pullen thanked Legislator Sinclair, County Planner Dirlam, Development Director Foels, and Lt. Hanchett for their knowledge and continued help and support during this process.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m. following a motion by Legislator Graves, seconded by Legislator Healy, and carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Cynthia Santora, Secretary to the Clerk of the Board
Allegany County Board of Legislators

**FACILITIES & COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE
DECEMBER 4, 2013**

**** NOT APPROVED ****

Committee Members Present: D. Pullen, M. Healy, G. Benson, D. Fanton, K. Graves, F. Sinclair, C. Crandall (Absent: A. McGraw)

Others Present: M. Alger, D. Button, D. Decker, K. Dirlam, M. Evans, D. Hanchett, T. Hopkins, G. James, T. Miner, B. Riehle, C. Santora, D. Scholes, R. Swarthout, R. Zink

Media Present: B. Quinn, *Wellsville Daily Reporter*

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at approximately 3:05 p.m. by Facilities and Communications Committee Chairman David Pullen.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Legislator Graves, seconded by Legislator Fanton, and carried to approve the Facilities and Communications Committee minutes of November 6, 2013.

Facilities-Related Matters

Project Updates

Elevator

Deputy Superintendent of Public Works Dean Scholes presented a diagram illustrating the current proposed configuration of the ground floor as it relates to the elevator rehab. Mr. Scholes was hopeful that the project could be bid by January 1. However, it was determined that the allotted budget for the project would not cover the cost of "Version 2" as proposed. In order to remedy that, DPW requested a transfer from the capital fund from the Public Works Committee which was approved contingent upon approval of "Version 2" by the Facilities & Communications Committee. *[At the Public Works Committee meeting held just prior to the Facilities & Communication meeting, Mr. James requested a budget transfer of \$73,000, contingent upon approval by the Facilities and Communications Committee, from H5931.200 (Friendship Culvert-N. Branch) to H5633.200 (County Building-Jail Floor Renovation).]* There was much discussion and speculation on "tweaks" which could be made to the design. Much of the discussion was out of the purview of the Committee as it involved how the Sheriff's Office would like security to be maintained. Mr. Scholes indicated he had had discussions with the Sheriff's Office and that "Version 2" offered the best "fit." Approval to pursue "Version 2" of the plan as presented was granted on a motion by Legislator Sinclair, seconded by Legislator Graves, and carried.

Jail Feasibility Study

Mr. Scholes indicated that MRB was unable to send a representative to the meeting; however, MRB had looked at four options regarding sewer options at the Jail. Options 2 and 4 were eliminated either due to cost or difficulty in executing. The two remaining options, 1 and 3, were illustrated in the diagrams prepared by MRB and distributed by Mr. Scholes. Mr. James indicated that DPW was not seeking any action from the Committee at this time, but simply wanted to apprise Committee members of the information regarding the project (and the associated costs) received thus far. Mr. Scholes added that the final report should be available around December 18. Mr. Scholes went on to discuss the remaining two options: Alternative 1 would include a grinding station at the Jail (a new grinder could be put in place, but initially, would try to use the existing grinder). The line would run through the fields behind the Jail to Hood Road and connect to a location on Hood Road. The estimated cost of this alternative

would be \$622,000. The second option, Alternative 3, would require the same grinding station as Alt 1, but the line would run along the east side of NYS Route 19 to Hood Road and would require a small submersible lift station. The cost for this alternative would be \$803,000, but there would be an opportunity for 22 town residents to connect to the new sewer, with the possibility of those 22 residents to fund the \$181,000 difference in the project cost if they desire public sewers. According to the memo from MRB distributed by Mr. Scholes, "Under alts 1 and 3, there would be the need to upgrade the Village pump station located at Fairview Street before additional growth at the Jail facility. This would be a minor pump equipment upgrade and although this cost is factored into the estimates for Alts 1 and 3, it is anticipated this upgrade would not need to occur in the near future.

"Preliminarily, the report will recommend the 22 Town residents in question be canvassed to determine if public sewers are desirable at the estimated yearly cost per household. If these residents do not desire public sewers, then Alt 1 will become the recommended choice."

Mr. James reiterated that no decision needed to be made at the meeting, but requested that Committee members review the options, generate some questions, and reconvene to discuss the issue again. Legislator Fanton reminded the group that the County still needs to negotiate rates with the Village of Belmont. Legislator Sinclair said that he would like to see a provision for the Jail leach bed to remain functional in the event there is ever a problem with the new system. It was stated that that could probably be done. Legislator Hopkins questioned the cost difference between the 4" and 8" pipe as well as whether a 4" line vs. an 8" line would limit capacity. Chairman Crandall added that the system needs to be able to handle the potential of 300 beds at the Jail. Mr. James explained that the cost of the 4" vs. the 8" pipe would be minor as the most costly aspect of the pipe line is putting the pipe in the ground. Legislator Healy noted that if the County does lean toward Alt 3, perhaps we "should look at extending the line down to the southern border of our property." He also suggested that grants and other funding sources should be explored.

Before leaving the facilities-related discussion, Mr. Scholes informed the Committee that DPW has assigned a Maintenance Assistant to the Jail which needed some extra help out there because of ongoing issues that are occurring.

Communications-Related Matters

Announcement Regarding Receipt of \$5.9 Million Grant

Legislator Pullen invited Lt. Hanchett to share the good news: Allegany County has learned that the SICG (Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Services Statewide Interoperable Communications Grant) grant submitted by the Sheriff's Office for \$5.9 million for the radio infrastructure in the County has been approved. Lt. Hanchett did not know when the funds would be received, but noted that he was happy with the news. Legislator Pullen commended Lt. Hanchett and the Sheriff's Department for their efforts.

Broadband Grant Update

Legislator Pullen told the Committee that CONXX, which serves as the County's consultant and agent on the Broadband grant has been working on the design for the system that will serve the County. He added that CONXX has put together a preliminary budget proposal that will address the design. Bill Risse, Manager for Municipal Projects at CONXX, then addressed the Committee to update its members on the activities it has been undertaking on the County's behalf since the last meeting. After congratulating Lt. Hanchett on receiving the new grant, Mr. Risse distributed a document illustrating the viable communication paths and the not-so-viable paths. The green chart, he said, represents an engineering study of all the paths that are currently possible between County-owned and non-County-owned towers in the

County. The engineering, he added, decides whether or not a path is viable. The black-and-white illustration below the first was a sample showing whether or not a line-of-sight path exists between two towers (the sample presented showed one that did not). He indicated that this has been done as a base project for the County's wireless network as applied for in the Broadband grant. CONXX must identify whether there are towers that exist that may be used, underutilized, or abandoned that 911 can evaluate for use and see if they can acquire, lease, foreclose upon the owners to gain permission to use those towers. The County could solve problems for the tower sites rather than acquire property and build from scratch which is a tremendous multi-year undertaking. This information helps in the design of the backbone network.

Next, Mr. Risse distributed a draft budget document based on the engineering study. The engineering study, he said, confirms that this will work. While reviewing the budget sheet with the Committee, Mr. Risse said that the front of the page deals with the backbone of the system while the reverse side deals with information last-mile providers need to have. The budget provided two options for the County to consider: the first is a 300 Mbps backbone; the second is a 1Gbps backbone which can be upgraded to 2 gigs. The first would probably serve the County's immediate needs adequately, said Mr. Risse. However, the second option allows the system to grow.

The next section deals with protective enclosures for the equipment, he said, which would allow for weather protection and heat and humidity control enclosures at a cost of \$8,000 per site. (This budget allocation is made assuming no existing enclosures exist.)

The following section deals with the CONXX Management Platform which allows any authorized person to look at, monitor, and check every component on the network. It allows one person to manage everything proactively. (There is an annual management fee.)

The next section deals with the installation of equipment based on CONXX's estimate of hours and expertise required to install these kinds of equipment, he said. The engineering, he added, must be done specific to the licensing to run on the microwave frequencies CONXX recommends.

Another section deals with the shipping costs for such heavy equipment; there are no warehousing costs included, based on the assumption that there is a location in the County where the equipment can be stored safely.

On the reverse side of the sheet, Mr. Risse explained, the top two categories are options to consider: Radwin 5000C 3.65 or 5GHz 3-sector Array or Carson White Space 600MHz 3-sector Array. The Radwin, he explained, is a radio system put on each tower that can link to users on the ground. The lower the frequency, he noted, the more penetration through buildings and trees, but the less data through point typically achieved. If there is a clear view, you might set it to five gigs and enjoy a lot of through play. If transmission needs to go through a lot of trees on the ground, you may select 3.65 for better transmission and reception. That's why there is an option under that category. The stated price makes the assumption that the equipment that will be installed on every tower.

On the other hand, the Carson White Space equipment achieves the same purpose, but is a lower frequency radio that has a superior ability to penetrate buildings and trees and to follow the curvature of the earth. The bottom line, he said, ranges between \$780,000 and \$962,000, installed. The reality, he said, is that in his opinion, he doesn't think it will be all white space or all Radwin, and that a mix of the two will probably lower the projected final costs, allowing that money to be used in another aspect of the project.

Mr. Risse went on to say that what he presents today is a design that has been affirmed through the engineering process. These are the specs they would bid to build it. Some additional discussion needs to take place, he added, then Allegany County will presumably go

ahead and put procurement documents on the street so others can bid on this. CONXX, he said, is satisfied that it has brought a project to the County that is essentially within the budget, so it is a doable project for the grant that the County has. He added that perhaps the new 911 grant can pay for some of the work thanks to the convergence of the two networks. That is, both grants support community Broadband, government communication, and public safety.

Legislator Pullen indicated that potential Internet Service Providers (ISP) will take what the County puts on the towers (that's what we are giving them as an advantage/incentive which, if the ISP needs to build all that backbone is the typical deterrent to their wanting to come into an area) which will allow any of about half a dozen or more different technologies to work with our backbone (365, white space, 900 MHz, 2.4 MHz, etc., to name a few) which will therefore not limit ISPs. This will even allow for a mix/match of technologies and providers. We are creating a robust, redundant full-service network.

Some discussion followed regarding how the system would manage to be self-sustaining and what type of entity (IDA, non-profit, Local Development Corporation, or CONXX itself) would manage the system followed. That entity will be the user interface between the County and the ISP, he said. "We're talking about an open access network that uses U.S. branded equipment to hook onto so the end user can be facilitated with maximum ease and great efficiency."

Mr. Risse suggested that there needs to be a meeting to discuss specifics and get final approval to create the technical specification document so the County can bid the backbone.. The first thing is to go through the NYS Broadband Office and NYS Wireless Internet Service Providers Association (an association of companies that do this type of work) and tell them the backbone will be in place and this will be a simple "hand-off." Mr. Risse believes these conditions will generate interest in ISPs. CONXX can serve as an ISP as a last resort, but that is not what it would, ideally, want to do. CONXX is committed to the project, and wants to help the County grow its system.

Approval for CONXX to move forward with the design of the Broadband backbone was given on a motion by Legislator Graves, seconded by Legislator Sinclair, and carried.

Legislator Sinclair suggested to the Committee that it seriously consider going with the stronger backbone, that is, the 1 gigabyte expandable program. Also, he said, the County needs to decide the outlook of the "bunker" and bring it in line. He added that we need to decide where the point of connection will be, citing Belmont or Alfred as the two best anchors. He would also like to see ION notified regarding where the County is at this time so it has the opportunity to compete for some part of this system if it wishes. Also, he said, that information should be sent to them sooner, rather than later. Legislator Sinclair also expressed his appreciation at serving on the Committee under Legislator Pullen's leadership, adding he is thrilled with the way this project is going. Legislator Pullen thanked Legislator Sinclair for his service to the Committee.

Chairman Crandall added the comment that the County Attorney should be involved in the process as he believes the County will own the equipment and there is some question whether it can be turned over to an entity.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m. following a motion by Legislator Graves, seconded by Legislator Fanton, and carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Cynthia Santora, Secretary to the Clerk of the Board
Allegany County Board of Legislators