

Law Enforcement, And Public Safety Committee Special Meeting Minutes

DATE & TIME: July 8, 2024 – 4:45 PM
LOCATION: Legislative Chambers, 6th Floor, County Office Building, Kingston
PRESIDING OFFICER: Chair Hansut
LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Michael Tierney, Legislative Support Specialist
PRESENT: Chair Hansut, Legislature Chair Criswell, Deputy Chair Hewitt, Legislator McCollough
ABSENT: Legislator Walls, Legislator Maloney
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes

OTHER ATTENDEES: Legislators Collins, Litts and Nolan, Bob Troncillito (Marlboro Hose), Frank Banks (Fire Advisory Board), Sam Appa (Ulster Hose), Jim, Bracca, UC Commissioner), Craig Kelly (Public), Chris Carney (NYSTEC), Ashley Carey (Emergency Service), Andrew Cafaldo (Emergency Service), Michael Medisco (Emergency Service), Pamela Finnerty (Emergency Service), Steve Peterson (UCDES), Rick Alfandre (Alfandre Architecture), Tom Chesser & Luis Rodriguez (The Palombo Group), Jamie Capuano (Deputy County Executive), Everett Erichsen (Director DES), John Montagnfz (GPI), Christopher Young (Urban Architects), Dennis Doyle (Director Planning), Rob Parete (UCDPW), Dean Rylewicl (UCDPW), Donald Quesnell (Budget), Michael Gaffney (UCDES), Alan Macaluso (UCIS)

Chair Hansut called the special meeting to order at 4:51 PM and Chair Criswell lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Presentation and Update – Ulster County Government Operation Center – Director Everett Erichsen

Upgrading 911 center in Ulster County, NY.

- Director Erichsen explained why a project started and why now.
- Director Erichsen highlighted the importance of a functional 911 system in Ulster County.
- Dispatchers play critical role in emergency response, providing life-saving instructions over phone.

Improving 911 center operations during COVID-19 and future disasters.

- Director Erichsen discussed the importance of gathering accurate information in emergency situations, including the use of standardized protocols and technology integration.
- Director Erichsen highlighted the need for mental health support for dispatchers and employees in 911 centers, who deal with stressful situations on a daily basis.
- Director Erichsen highlighted the importance of continuity of operation during disasters.
- Director Erichsen emphasized importance of adequate staffing in EOC.

Limitations and gaps in Ulster County's emergency operations center.

- Director Erichsen highlighted the importance of resiliency in the new facility.
- Director Erichsen emphasized the importance of EOC activation for various threats and incidents in Ulster County.
- Director Erichsen highlighted limitations and gaps in the current EOC facility.

Designing a new 911 call center with resiliency and green features.

- Christopher Young from Urban Architects thanked legislature for invitation, provides project update
- Christopher Young highlighted site selection, infrastructure, and utilities for new call center
- Christopher Young discussed potential uses for 57 acres of land, including solar farm and building footprint.
- Christopher Young outlined five major areas of focus for the project: piece app, EOC, IT, GIS, and AV equipment.
- Christopher Young described the layout of the Emergency Operations Center (EOC), including command centers and personnel stations.
- Christopher Young discussed building systems, including air conditioning and plumbing, which are critical for the EOC's operations.

Designing a resilient, energy-efficient building with IT infrastructure.

- Speaker detailed building resilience, energy efficiency, and security measures.
- Speaker highlighted the resilience and energy efficiency of the proposed building design.
- Jamie Capuano discussed the benefits of moving the IT infrastructure to a centralized location, reducing outages and critical incidents.
- Design team aims to complete 10% remaining work on construction documents with value engineering and DC impact discussions.

Contaminated soil and construction delays for a new facility.

- Speaker explained that the site has contamination from historic pesticide use, primarily in the top 6 inches of soil.
- Remediation will involve stripping and stockpiling contaminated soil and using it in berms or protective topsoil lens.
- Christopher Young outlined project timeline with potential delays and cost escalation.

Building design, technology, and security for a new 911 center.

- Director Erichsen discussed the building's longevity and expansion possibilities.
- Legislator Collins discussed growth of AI complexity and cloud computing, with considerations for on-premise vs. cloud storage.

Emergency operations center and community outreach for construction project.

- Director Erichsen explained how the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is used for various county departments.
- EOC is activated at different levels based on emergencies, with the possibility of increased usage in the future.
- Director Erichsen highlighted the challenges of remote collaboration and the benefits of having dedicated space for training and exercises.

Emergency management center location and redundancy.

- Legislator Nolan emphasized the adaptability of the chosen site for the new facility.
- Christopher Young mentioned backup location for call center, similar to Honda Pilot with two seats.
- Director Erichsen discussed regional backup center for all counties, with goal of 10 dispatchers on duty.
- Discussion of remediation methods for contaminated soil at a construction site.

Adjournment

Motion Made By: Deputy Chair Hewitt
Motion Seconded By: Legislator McCollough
No. of Votes in Favor: 4
No. of Votes Against: 0

TIME: 5:51 PM

Respectfully submitted: Lizvett Bost, Legislative Administrative Assistant
Minutes Approved: August 7, 2024