

PUBLIC SAFETY & EMERGENCY SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
May 11, 2009
5:00 p.m.

The Public Safety & Emergency Services Committee of the Broome County Legislature met on May 11, 2009 in the Kresge Story Telling Room, 1st Floor, Broome County Public Library, 185 Court Street, Binghamton, New York.

Members Present: R. Materese, (Chair), M. Diffendorf, J. Marinich, S. Messina, S. Buchta (for M. Whalen)

Members Absent: none

Others Present: B. Chellis, Emergency Services; D. Fauci, County Executive's Office; D. Harder, Sheriff; M. Kalka, M. Gerchman, Budget; B. Klipsch, J. Garnar, M. Nirchi, E. Denk, C. Marion, J. Kamin, Legislature

The Committee meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 5:28 p.m. A motion was made by Mr. Marinich to move the Agenda, seconded by Ms. Messina.

The Committee took the following action with regard to the matters before it:

#2 RESOLUTION ADOPTING LOCAL LAW INTRO. NO. 6 OF 2009, ENTITLED: "A LOCAL LAW OF THE COUNTY OF BROOME, NEW YORK PROHIBITING THE USE OF WIRELESS HANDSETS TO COMPOSE, READ, OR SEND TEXT MESSAGES WHILE OPERATING A MOTOR VEHICLE."

Carried Ayes-5, Nays-0

#7 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT FOR THE READINESS AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT FOR SCHOOLS PROGRAM

Carried Ayes-5, Nays-0

#8 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AMENDMENT TO THE AGREEMENT WITH TRI COUNTY COMMUNICATIONS FOR PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF A REPLACEMENT MICROWAVE SYSTEM FOR THE FOR OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES FOR 2009

Carried Ayes-5, Nays-0

#30 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT WITH VERIZON BUSINESS SERVICES FOR THE LEASE AND MAINTENANCE OF EQUIPMENT FOR THE OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES FOR THE PERIOD 2009-2013

Carried Ayes-5, Nays-0

#44 RESOLUTION AMENDING THE 2006 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM FOR THE EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT PROJECT

Carried Ayes-5, Nays-0

The Chairman asked Mr. Chellis, Emergency Services to give an update from the Fire Advisory Board regarding a State required CDL permit/fee encountered by Fire Fighters.

The Committee learned that a state law requires all firefighters (paid and volunteer) who operate a fire truck to have a Commercial Driver License (CDL). In order to obtain a CDL, people have to go through several hours of training, some of which is not offered in Broome County very often, and pay a substantial amount in fees, possibly up to \$500.00.

Mr. Chellis said that although this law was enacted in 2005 many people around the state have learned about the requirement only recently. Mr. Chellis stated that the United States Department of Transportation began attaching a CDL requirement to certain grant programs and that New York State regulated beyond what was necessary by applying it to firefighters driving fire trucks. There is an exemption that allows firefighters without a CDL to drive fire trucks when "responding to emergencies". This narrow exemption makes it difficult to conduct trainings and even fuel the vehicles. Mr. Chellis has been in contact with state officials to see if the requirements can be relaxed or firefighters can be exempted at all other times.

Some Legislators speculated about whether funds could be provided to minimize the impact on municipalities, fire companies, and firefighters.



There being no further business to come before the Committee at this time, a motion was made by Mr. Marinich, seconded by Ms. Messina, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 5:58 p.m.