



WESTCHESTER COUNTY  
**FIRE ADVISORY BOARD**

4 Dana Road, Valhalla, NY 10595

**Henry P. Bergson**  
hank@hbergson.com  
President

**George Tockstein**  
georgetock@aol.com  
Vice President

**David Klaus**  
dpklaus@us.ibm.com  
Secretary

**Westchester County Fire Advisory Board  
Meeting Minutes  
March 22, 2018**

Attendance: Hank Bergson, Commissioner John Cullen, Deputy Commissioner Jennifer Wacha, William Dingee, Chief Volk, Dave Klaus, John Marshall, Joe Iantorno, Robert Outhouse, Rich

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Chairman Hank Bergson opened the meeting at 7:38 PM.

There was a motion made and seconded to approve the January minutes, all voting aye. The next meeting will be on September 27, 2018 at 7:30 PM at DES.

The County Executive has asked for a roster of all the Boards, there have been no changes. Unless you hear otherwise please keep attending. This is a joint meeting of the Fire Advisory Board, EMS Board, Fire Coordinator and EMS Coordinator. There will be a presentation of the new Radio System Project

**Radio project status update – Tom Raffaelli – Information Technology.**



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## Radio Projects Status

March 22, 2018

Thomas Raffaelli

914-995-5912

trr1@westchestergov.com

**Changes from last presentation are highlighted**



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## Radio Projects Steering Committee

- \* Meets monthly.
- \* Chaired by the Director of Operations
- \* Commissioners from all involved County departments.
- \* DOIT Radio Group is responsible for project management of all major radio projects:
  - \* SICG3 (Microwave & VTAC)
  - \* Radio systems replacement project
    - \* UHF Trunked System
    - \* F1/F3 Conventional System
    - \* VHF Low Band Paging System



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## Statewide Interoperable Communications Grant SICG Round 3

### Funding:

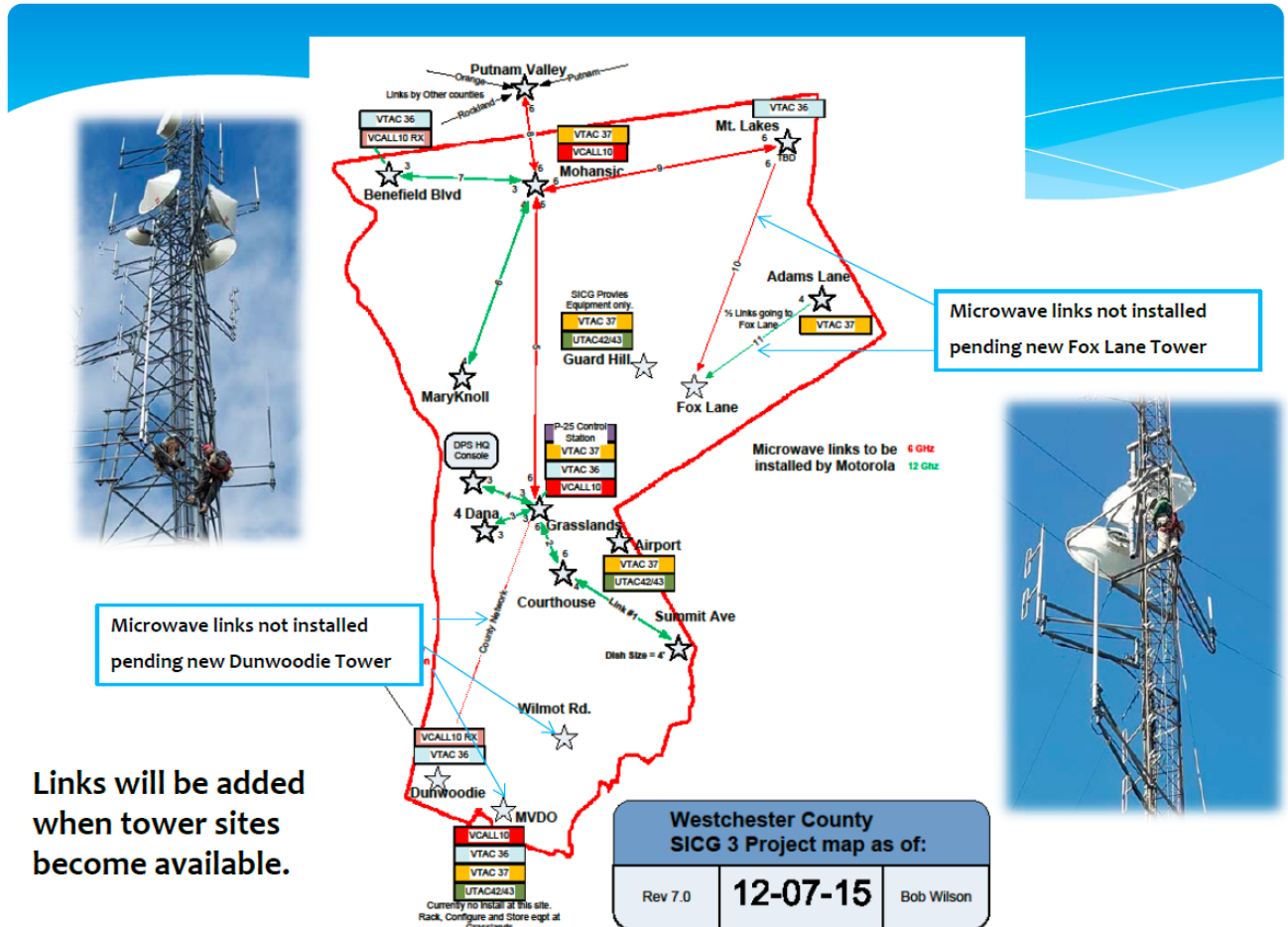
- NYS Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (DHSES)
- DES obtained award of \$5,991,125.

### • Scope:

- Implement a microwave network as backup to fiber network. (Allow for system redundancy)
  - Funding and time limitations prevented microwave installation at several sites.
- Installed VTAC National Interoperability Channels. (multiple sites)
- Establish microwave link with Westchester, Rockland, Putnam, and Orange Counties (Future system capabilities)

### • Current Status:

- Equipment installed at all sites.
- Microwave links are in-service as hot standby to fiber network
  - Already provided system redundancy during a fiber failure.
- VTAC repeaters are active but not carrying traffic pending final acceptance testing.
- **Anticipated closeout is third quarter 2018.**





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## New Radio System Near Term Challenges

- \* Most County radio infrastructure will reach end of life by Dec. 2018. Includes:
  - \* Fire/EMS/DOT UHF trunk system.
  - \* 60 Control dispatch / paging system (including consoles).
  - \* County Police dispatch and interop systems (F1/F3).
  - \* Radio network portion of the Transportation CAD/AVL system.
- \* Solution: County has negotiated a “Best Efforts” maintenance contract extension with Motorola until Dec 2019.





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## New Radio System Near Term Challenges

- \* **T-Band (UHF) frequencies will be withdrawn in 2023.**
  - \* Used in 11 metropolitan areas nationwide.
  - \* Current federal law says all public safety users must vacate these frequencies.
- \* **Solution**
  - \* New York area first responder entities petitioned elected officials to change the law.
  - \* County Executive sent letters to elected officials to voice the County's concerns about the loss of T-Band
  - \* Deputy County Executive spoke with representatives from the U.S. Department of Commerce conveying the same concerns
  - \* Replacement plan includes a potential move to 700 MHz (decision to be made in 2020)
  - \* **H.R. 5085 was introduced by Representatives Eliot Engel and Lee Zeldin on February 27, 2017. If enacted as drafted, the Act would repeal section 6103 in Title VI of P.L. 112-96 which would allow us to stay on T-Band**



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## New Radio System Near Term Challenges

- \* VHF (Low Band) Paging system requires modernization and expansion.
  - \* Limited availability of Low Band pagers and base station transmitters.
  - \* Improve signal saturation locally.
  - \* Solution:
    - \* Working with a consultant to find suitable frequencies.
    - \* Replacement system included in the radio replacement plan
    - \* Will not address other paging bands or independent systems





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## Fire, EMS, DOT Radio System Replacement (BIT 32)

- \* Approved for \$30M Over 5 Years
  - \* Sufficient for Stages 1 & 2 if UHF frequencies are kept
  - \* Fire/EMS/Transportation UHF Trunk System
  - \* 60 Control Dispatch Consoles
  - \* Fire Paging System (Low Band Replacement)
  - \* County Police Dispatch and Interop System (F1/F3)
  - \* Voice Portion of Transportation CAD/AVL System



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## Replacement System Construction in Three Stages

- Stage 1 (2018-2019)
  - Replace mobiles, portables and control stations
  - Replace existing trunk system with new UHF P25 Phase 2 equipment
  - Replace existing F1/F3 conventional system with new VHF P25 Phase 1 equipment
  - Utilize existing sites
  - Maintain same coverage
  - Implement new paging system (multi site / multi frequency).
- Stage 2 (2020-2023)
  - Add sites to achieve “on-street” portable coverage
  - Move County DPS to the trunk system
  - Move to 700 MHz if T-Band will be reallocated
  - Add additional paging sites if required.



# WESTCHESTER COUNTY FIRE ADVISORY BOARD

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## Replacement System Construction in Three Stages

- Stage 3 (2024-2028)
  - Continue to add sites to achieve “in-building” portable coverage for light and medium buildings
  - Large buildings may require individual solutions
  - Invite local police departments on to the trunk system
  - Decommission low band paging system when all users have moved to the new system or when base stations cannot be repaired or replaced

**NOTE: Fire Ground Frequencies & Operations  
Remain Unchanged**





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## Timeline

- \* RFP responses received on January 16, 2018
  - \* Harris, Inc.
  - \* Motorola Solutions, Inc.
- \* Response analysis in progress
- \* Vendor selection in Second Quarter of 2018
- \* Stage 1 completed by December 2019





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## New SICG Formula Based Grant

- \* Purpose:
  - \* Fill interoperability communication gaps.
- \* Funding: Awarded April 2017 by NYS DHSES OIEC
  - \* \$677,239.00
- \* Project:
  - \* Purchase and install "All Band" radios in specified response units that support mutual aid in other counties and states.
    - \* FD/EMS Agencies/Officers that frequently respond to contiguous county areas (Putnam / Connecticut)
    - \* Fire / EMS Coordinators, etc.





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## SICG – Formula Based Grant (cont.)

- \* Equipment: Motorola APX 8500 mobiles:
  - \* All Band Radios.
  - \* Unit must operate with existing and future system (APCO P25).
  - \* Install unit w/ accessories.
  - \* Identify other specific requirements.
    - \* Dual Head
    - \* Control Mic
    - \* Etc.
- \* Approximately 65 units can be purchased. (~\$10K each)



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Questions?





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At the end of the presentation Commissioner Cullen said the process is open, please call Chief Volk with any questions. President Bergson asked that input or requests about the radio system be made through the respective Boards represented here and they will bring it back to the County. This is a large and complex project and will take time to work through the process. The presentation will be available on the website - <https://emergencyservices.westchestergov.com/images/stories/Radio%20System%20Update/RadioSystemUpdate3.22.18.pdf>

There were no further questions. A motion was made and seconded to adjourn, all voting aye. The meeting adjourned at 8:24 PM. The next meeting will be held on September 27, 2018 at 7:30 PM at DES.