

Emergency Response Oversight Committee

February 22, 2023 (In-Person / Zoom)

Meeting Minutes

Facilitator: Jessica Verfuss, Deputy Director, Department of Emergency Response

Notetaker: Geri Lockwood, Department of Emergency Response

- In-Person Attendees: Mike Stitley, TC Department of Emergency Response (TC DOER)
Geoff Dunn, TC Department of Emergency Response
John Halaychik, TC Department of Emergency Response / Communications Center Manager
Justin Vann, TC Department of Emergency Response
Jessica Verfuss, TC Department of Emergency Response
Dan Cornell, TC Probation
Josh Nalley, Ithaca Tompkins International Airport
Jason Cawley, NYSP Troop C Zone 3 (SP)
Patrick Wiater, NYSP Troop C Zone 3
David Kemp, NYSP Troop C Zone 3
Vince Monticello, City of Ithaca PD
Rob Covert, Ithaca Fire
- Virtual Attendees: Tim Bangs, Commercial Ambulance Service, Bangs Ambulance
Chris Saxon, TC Department of Emergency Response
Matt Van Houten, TC District Attorney
Loren Cottrell, TC Information & Technology Services (ITS)
Jenn Olin, TC Sheriff's Office (TCSO)
Josh Tagliavento, Dryden PD
Troy Boice, Groton PD
Jerry Wright, Village Police Chiefs
Mark Conrad, Cornell University (CU)
Dan Maas, Cornell OEM
Tom Dunn, Ithaca College Campus Police
Samm Swarts, Ithaca College (IC)
Kobie Brooks, Cayuga Medical Center (CMC)

Call to Order: Jessica Verfuss began the meeting at 10:05 a.m.

Changes to Agenda (if necessary):

- a. No changes.

Old Business:

- a. Reimagining Public Safety:
 - No update.
- b. Policy Updates:
 - Jessica requested that all Agreements be signed (completely, if possible) and returned to Geri Lockwood as soon as possible
- c. PowerDMS:
 - John Halaychik reported that it's ongoing, and a better update will be available at the next meeting.
- d. Agreements (to be signed by AJH)
 - Dk f
- e. Cyber Security – NetMotion:
 - Jessica has been working with Kim Moore, in ITS, to get TOUCH up and running. Due to the limited number of licenses, they will be limited to Chief Officers and fire or law enforcement Supervisors. Justin Vann will be assisting with getting this up and running.
 - Loren Cottrell had nothing else to report at this time.

New Business:

- a. Channels in Fire / EMS Radios:
 - A discussion took place regarding Dryden FD having Dryden and County law enforcements programed in their radios. LE Subcommittee had previously voted to have this removed, but DFD would like to keep it. Mike Stitley stated that this needs further discussion and review, as well as possibly and MOU allowing all FDs to have this option (for listening, only). Jenn Olin made a motion to allow this, seconded by Tom Dunn – motion carried. Mike added that this will take time to set up, and it will be brought to the next Chief's Meeting.
- b. New Member Probation – Vote / Approval):
 - Since TC Probation is now on our system, John made a motion to approve Dan Cornell, Director, as an EROC Member, seconded by Jenn Olin – motion carried.
- c. DWI Details:
 - Jessica requested that law enforcement agencies notify the Dispatch Center of DWI Details in advance, so they can plan and staff accordingly. John Halaychik requested at least a couple of days' notice for staffing purposes. A discussion took place regarding the events, and law enforcement will try to keep radio chatter to a minimum during the events.

Standing Sub-Committee Reports (Members):

- a. Law Enforcement (LE):
 - Jenn reported that the last meeting was held on December 15, 2022, and the situation with the Dryden FD law enforcement radio channel was voted on.
 - John gave them with an update on Tompkins County's Towing Policy.
 - Jenn provided a brief update on the Mental Health (MH) Pilot Program. Since the two MH Clinical positions were not filled, they will be reposted by TC Whole Health. It is hoped to roll out the program in April. The MOU and Policy are in the final stages. Currently, the positions will work 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, with additional FTE's in the 2024 Budget.
- b. Fire and EMS:
 - Tim Bangs stated that the sub-committee needs to reorganize and meet on a regular basis. He asked law enforcement if they are doing okay with staging. Vince Monticello gave an example of a recent staging situation. A pretty lengthy discussion took place regarding EMS staging for law enforcement calls, and its position with the Closest Car Agreement. John had a concern that the decision may not be the same across law enforcement supervisory personnel. Jessica mentioned that maybe the Closest Car Policy should be reviewed at a Law Enforcement Sub-committee meeting. Jerry Wright expressed concerns that the 3:00 p.m.-11:00 p.m./overnight law enforcement staff for the Village of Cayuga Heights are sometimes called to assist in the City of Ithaca, where they have no jurisdiction, leaving the Village of CH with no coverage. Rob Covert added that EMS staging depends on if it's a life-saving situation. Tim added that the scenes need to be safe for EMS staff to enter.
- c. Dispatch:
 - John announced that there are changes to the hiring of personnel for the Dispatch Center – a temporary reprieve from the Civil Service process to increase staffing. Emergency Services Dispatcher Trainee positions have been added to our Department, with 17 interviews scheduled to fill the five (5) vacant positions.
 - The American Red Cross Heroes Lifeline Award will be presented in May to four of our Dispatch Team who were involved in saving the life of a heart attack victim at the airport last April.
- d. Training:
 - Jessica announced that the OEM website, dhses.ny.gov/dhses-training, lists upcoming training sponsored by them, and DoER will be hosting a couple of the sessions.
- e. Information Technology Administration:
 - Loren announced that, after 26 years with Tompkins County, Greg Potter's last day is today. He invited anyone interested to stop in at their office this afternoon, from 1:00-3:00 p.m., for a farewell get-together. He also stated that he'll be the Interim Director.

Announcements (Personnel, Events, Projects, etc.):

- a. BUC:
 - Nothing new to report.
- b. DoER Data Analyst:
 - This was an internal promotion, and the candidate will be spending 50% of their time handling discoveries for law enforcement, and 50% working with Doer Administration on operations.
- c. DoER EMS Program Manager:
 - A candidate has been hired and will begin around the second week in March.
- d. DoER Emergency Services Dispatcher Trainees:
 - When these positions are filled and the Dispatch Center is fully staffed, the EMS station will be split into a stand-alone Call Taker position and an EMS station.

Adjourn:

- Next meeting scheduled for May 17, 2023, 10:00 a.m., DOER Lee Shurtleff Conference Room, in person and virtual.
- The meeting ended at 11:05 a.m.

/gll, 02/22/2023