Minutes of the
State Interoperable and Emergency Communication Board

Wednesday, May 22, 2013
DHSES 1st Fl. Training Room, Albany, NY
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Board Members present:
Robert M. Barbato Chair and Director of the Office of Interoperable & Emergency Communications
William Bleyle Commissioner, Onondaga County 9-1-1
Steve Cumoletti for Joseph D’Amico, Superintendent, NYS Police
Eric Day Emergency Manager, Clinton County
Dan Healy for Brian Digman, NYS Chief Information Officer, NYS Office for Information Technology Services
Joseph Gerace Sheriff, Chautauqua County
Mark Fettinger for Michael C. Green, Commissioner, NYS Div. of Criminal Justice Services
Matthew Delaney for Jerome Hauer, Commissioner, Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Services
Brian LaFlure Emergency Manager, Warren County
Gary T. Maha Sheriff, Genesee County
John Bassett for Joan McDonald, Commissioner, NYS Department of Transportation
Kathryn Bohacek for Maj. Gen. Patrick A. Murphy, NYS Division of Military & Naval Affairs
Michael J. Primeau for Dr. Nariv R. Shah, Commissioner, NYS Department of Health

Board Members Absent:
Joel Eisdorfer Partner, Real Estate Development Company and Community Representative
Kevin Revere Emergency Manager, Oneida County
Richard Rotanz Executive Director, Applied Science Center
James Voutour Sheriff, Niagara County

Additional Speakers:
Stephen Bowman Director of Public Safety, Monroe County, NY (Retired)
Matthew Delaney Chief Radio Engineer, NYS Office of Interoperable & Emergency Communications
Frank Winters Director, NYS GIS Program Office

The second meeting of the calendar year for the New York State Interoperable and Emergency Communication Board (“Board”) was called to order at 10:11 a.m. by the Chair, Robert Barbato. Chairman Barbato welcomed the members and thanked them for attendance at today’s meeting.
Director Barbato announced the appointment by Governor Cuomo of new board members John Merklinger and Michael Volk. Both members will join us at our next meeting. After review, a determination was made that this Board is not subject to Project Sunlight reporting requirements. Finally, Mr. Barbato extended the best wishes of Commissioner Hauer, who is travelling today.

Minutes of the last meeting were reviewed. Gary T. Maha made a motion to accept. Steve Cumoletti seconded the motion, which was carried by all.

Matthew Delaney presented an update on the New York’s application for the State and Local Implementation Grant Program (SLIGP). New York recently submitted clarification answers, which NTIA requested of all applicants. Awards are expected in July. The State will use the funds to conduct outreach and education on public safety broadband and establish the potential user base for public safety broadband. Phase 2 of the award is to establish the state of infrastructure, site availability, networks and applications. Details on Phase 2 are TBD by FirstNet. Funds are not for equipment or network build-out. The FirstNet Board held its last meeting on April 23. An issue regarding transparency of the Board decision processes was raised. Further discussion on this topic took place during a teleconference on May 8. The next meeting of the FirstNet Board is June 4.

Robert Barbato provided an update of the status of the interoperability grants. Metrics regarding the grants were given to the group. The PSAP grants were awarded on May 1. Eleven counties received awards totaling $7 million for Consolidation, Improvements and Enhancements. Another thirteen counties shared $2 million in Sustainment grants. Sheriff Maha asked that reimbursement to counties be expedited, as this affects county funds. Mr. LaFlure raised a question about the possibility of funding up-front costs for counties that do not have money in the budget to wait for reimbursement from the State. Representative Cora Edwards (Sullivan County) informed the group about potential money for 911 centers from multiple funding streams, such as the USDA. Some in the group were unaware of this grant opportunity.

Steve Bowman, retired Director of Public Safety for Monroe County talked about the strategy Monroe County employed when developing its interoperable communications program. They focused on function, capabilities and operations, not on technology. Their goal is to synchronize systems so they can work together in the field. Having a change champion in County Executive Maggie Brooks and a multi-year plan was vital to their success.

Frank Winters, Director of the NYS GIS Program, presented an update of the function of the GIS office and how they are working to get ahead of NG 9-1-1 and its application in Street Address Mapping (SAM). This is connected with the work being done by the Board’s 911 Standards Subcommittee. The GIS Office would like to work with counties who want to verify accuracy of this project. As county mapping points are completed, this information will be shared with the counties. Additionally, GIS will assist counties by providing software to plot additional mapping points. Eric Day asked the GIS group to provide a recommendation to the Board for a statewide format plan that this Board could support.
Matthew Delaney informed the group on progress made by the Channel Naming and Use Workgroup. COML credentialing is moving forward. There are two technical assistance programs being provided by DHS OEC. A PSAP/911 Center pilot course will take place June 4 in Onondaga County. The TICP Update project, to update existing TICPs, is available for former UASIs. There may be availability for a few consortium groups to utilize this program as well.

Joseph Gerace stated that the 9-1-1 Standards Advisory Subcommittee has expanded its membership. The group is currently reviewing the effective 911 standards for update. June 16 is the deadline for changes from the group. They are focusing on Next Generation 911, as that will likely drive the direction of the 911 standards.

Brian LaFlure presented the Board with information resulting from the Public Safety Network Interoperability Working Group. Brian asked the Board to approve advancing a draft guideline packet to consortiums and interested parties. Sheriff Gerace motioned to distribute this draft and Mark Fettinger seconded the motion, which was approved by all.

In open discussion, Director Barbato indicated that administration of the state interoperable communication grants is being handled by the Grant Program Unit. Additionally, a survey is being prepared for agencies and counties to update their interoperable communications assets and capabilities. The last survey was a few years ago and information is outdated. The goal is to gather information so that results can help direct grant funds to investments where it would do the most good.

Sheriff Maha made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The Board meeting concluded at 12:10 PM.