

## **REGULAR SESSION**

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 3, 2010**

Chairman Blankenbush called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

### **ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS**

All members present.

### **PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR**

Wayne Zimmer, 139 Katherine Street, Watertown asked the Board to pray for his wife who is ill. He also expressed an objection to having wind farms in Jefferson County because the parts for the towers come from foreign countries.

Legislator Jennie Adsit recognized Merredith Rose Hatch, 9 years old from the City of Watertown, who was in attendance as Ms. Hatch completed a project called "Petals for Happiness"; the project involved obtaining donations of money and goods that enabled her, with the help of family and friends, to purchase and deliver potted plants to elderly in the community. She delivered 272 plants to the Samaritan Keep Home, 50 to the County Home (Whispering Pines), and 75 to the Meals on Wheels Program. The following representatives expressed their appreciation to Ms. Hatch and presented her with certificates from elected officials (as noted) who were also very proud to have Ms. Hatch in their constituency and felt she would be a great role model for other children: Adam Bateman o/b/o Governor Paterson, Steve Hunt o/b/o Congressman Owens, Doris McClellan o/b/o Assemblywoman Addie Russell, Legislator James St.Croix o/b/o Senator Aubertine, Mayor Graham from the City of Watertown, and Chairman Blankenbush from the Board of Legislators.

Whit Sprague, Cisco Representative, said he was here and available to answer any questions legislators may have with regard to the proposal to purchase a voice over internet protocol phone system. He informed the Board that Cisco would extend the pricing in the bid making it effective until the week after the September Board Session. He advised that the system has satisfied customers including some Jefferson County schools and many other offices across central New York, and has many capabilities.

### **READING OF MINUTES OF LAST SESSION**

The minutes of the July 6, 2010 Board Session will stand as presented in the absence of objection or correction.

### **PETITIONS, NOTICES AND COMMUNICATIONS**

A note of appreciation was received from the family of Stanley Overton for the Board's kind expression of sympathy at his passing.

Correspondence was received from Governor Paterson acknowledging receipt of Board Resolution No. 167 relative to Outdoor Wood Boilers.

Correspondence was also received from NYSAC Executive Director Steve Acquario acknowledging receipt of Board Resolution No. 167 regarding Outdoor Wood Boilers.

Correspondence was received from Senator Aubertine and Assemblywoman Scozzafava acknowledging receipt of Board Resolutions No. 135, 136, 137, 141, and 167.

Correspondence was received from the Jefferson County Bar Association recommending Timothy Farly for appointment to the Administrator of Indigent Defendants position.

### **STANDING COMMITTEES**

The Finance & Rules Committee reported favorably on resolutions referred from other jurisdictional committees.

### **COUNTY OFFICERS AND OTHERS**

The County Treasurer provided a report on investments and cash on hand as of July 31, 2010.

The County Administrator provided a report on budget transfers for the month of July, 2010.

The County Auditor provided a report on erroneous assessments for the month of July, 2010.

The 2009 Youth Bureau Annual Report was received.

### **LOCAL LAWS, RESOLUTIONS AND MOTIONS**

#### **Resolution No. 171**

#### **Amending the 2010 County Budget with Respect to the Self Insured Worker's Compensation Fund**

By Legislator: Scott A. Gray

Whereas, There is a need to increase the Legal Fees line in the 2010 Worker's Compensation Fund.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, That the 2010 County Budget is amended as follows:

#### **Increase:**

35-1436-1710.4411	Legal Fees	\$20,000
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**Decrease:**

35-1436-1710.4314	Insurance	\$20,000
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Seconded by Legislator: Robert J. Thomas

All members present voted aye.

**Resolution No. 172**

**Amending the 2010 County Budget with Respect to the  
Jefferson County Implementation Plan for Leandra's Law**

By Legislator: Philip N. Reed, Sr.

Whereas, In November of 2009, New York State enacted a new anti-drunk driving law (Leandra's Law), which, effective August 15, 2010, will require ignition interlock devices on vehicles owned or regularly operated by individuals convicted of a misdemeanor or felony Driving While Intoxicated as a condition of probation or conditional discharge, and

Whereas, Each County was required to develop and submit a plan detailing its method of monitoring said conditions, and

Whereas, Jefferson County's Probation Department, with the endorsement of this Board of Legislators' General Services standing committee (the Probation Department's oversight committee), developed and submitted Jefferson County's Plan, and

Whereas, Said Plan places the responsibility of monitoring said conditions with the Probation Department and encourages the use of Conditional discharges rather than probation, and

Whereas, Said Plan has now been approved by the State of New York, and

Whereas, Said Plan also requires the addition of one new position in the Department, and

Whereas, Said addition requires that the 2010 County Budget be amended and that the new position be created.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, That the 2010 County Budget is hereby amended as follows to create a new probation officer position:

**Increase:**

01-3140-3140.1100.042	Probation Officer	\$19,000
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**Decrease:**

01-1910-1990.4963                      Contingent Account                      \$19,000

Seconded by Legislator:    Jennie M. Adsit

All members present voted aye.

**Resolution No. 173**

**Amending the 2010 County Budget in Relation to the Highway Department  
CHIPS Funding**

By Legislator:    Philip N. Reed, Sr.

Whereas, The New York State Governor and Legislature have reached an agreement on the State FY 2010-2011 Consolidated Local Street and Highway Improvement Program (CHIPS) funding level, which for Jefferson County is a \$332,648.83 increase over its 2010 budgeted amount, and

Whereas, The County Highway Superintendent has requested that this additional revenue be placed in the Department's paving and surface treatment accounts.

Whereas, In order to recognize and allocate the new funding it is necessary to amend the 2010 County Budget.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, That the 2010 County Budget is hereby amended as follows:

**Increase:**

Revenue:

05-9003-999.93501	Consolidated Highway Aid	\$332,648.83
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Expenditure:

05-9003-5112-4930	Paving County Roads	\$166,324.42
05-9003-5110-4482	Surface Treatment	\$166,324.41

Seconded by Legislator:    Jennie M. Adsit

Roll Call Vote

Ayes:                      St. Croix, Thomas, Nabywaniec, Ferris, Reed, Docteur, Gray, Drake, Zando,  
Fitzpatrick, Adsit, Burto, Behling, Ormsby, Blankenbush

Resolution passed.

**Resolution No. 174**

**Authorizing an Agreement with New York State Department of Transportation**

**for County Road 63**

By Legislator: Philip N. Reed, Sr.

Whereas, The New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) has submitted to the Board of Legislators a proposed agreement by which the County of Jefferson is to maintain .10 miles of secondary highway, pursuant to Highway Law 340-b, from STA 2+457 to STA 2+625 (excluding structure and structure appurtenance) known as County Road 63 (Massey Street Road) and to be designated as New York Project No. 7500.79, and said proposed agreement also provides for the County of Jefferson to request the NYSDOT to submit the aforementioned project with the recommendation that it be approved by the Administrator of the United States Federal Highway Administration, and that if such project is approved and constructed by the Department and the Administrator of the United States Federal Highway Administration, the County of Jefferson will thereafter at its own cost and expense maintain this project (excluding structure and structure appurtenance) in a manner satisfactory to NYSDOT and the Administrator of the United States Federal Highway Administration, or their authorized representatives, and make ample provision each year for such maintenance.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, That the County of Jefferson shall maintain such highway, pursuant to Highway Law 340-b, and guarantee the maintenance of such highway when constructed and will pay the cost of such maintenance and will maintain the project in a manner satisfactory to NYSDOT or its authorized representatives, and will make ample provisions each year for such maintenance.

Resolved, That NYSDOT submit such project to the Administrator of the United States Federal Highway Administration and recommend to him the approval of the same for construction with funds apportioned to the State for construction of Highways and related projects under the provisions of Federal Highway Acts, and

Resolved, That the Chairman of the Jefferson County Board of Legislators be and is hereby authorized to execute all necessary agreements subject to the approval of the County Attorney as to form and substance, and be it further

Resolved, That five (5) certified copies of this resolution be filed with NYSDOT.

Seconded by Legislator: Jennie M. Adsit

All members present voted aye.

**Resolution No. 175**

**Amending the 2010 County Budget to Recognize Insurance Recoveries  
and Allocating Same in Sheriff's Department Budget**

By Legislator: Philip N. Reed, Sr.

Whereas, The Sheriff's Department is in receipt of insurance settlement checks for \$1,062.20 and \$856.60 for damage to patrol units, and has requested that the insurance settlement be used to supplement the departmental external fleet expense account.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, That the 2010 County Budget is hereby amended as follows:

**Increase:**

01-3110-3110.4310.002	External Fleet Expense	\$ 1,918.80
01-3110-999.92680	Insurance Recoveries	\$ 1,918.80

Seconded by Legislator: Jennie M. Adsit

Roll Call Vote

Ayes: Ferris, Adsit, Drake, St.Croix, Ormsby, Burto, Nabywaniec, Zando, Thomas, Reed, Gray, Docteur, Behling, Fitpatrick, Blankenbush

Resolution passed.

**Resolution No. 176**

**Authorizing Agreement for the Provision of Nursing Care to the County Jail**

By Legislator: Philip N. Reed, Sr.

Whereas, It is desirable to utilize Sibley Nursing Personnel Service, Inc. for the provision of supplemental nursing services for the County Jail.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, That Jefferson County enter into an agreement with Sibley Nursing Personnel Service which provides for nursing services to the County Jail on an as-needed basis to the Sheriff's Department during the period August 1, 2010 through December 31, 2011 at rates as listed below.

<u>Service Categories</u>	<u>Rates Per Hour</u>
RN - Specialty/Charge	\$ 55.50
RN	\$ 47.25
LPN	\$ 33.00

and be it further

Resolved, That the Chairman of the Board of Legislators be and is hereby authorized and directed to execute said agreements on behalf of Jefferson County.

Seconded by Legislator: Jennie M. Adsit

All members present voted aye.

**Resolution No. 177**

**Accepting Donation on Behalf of the Sheriff's Department  
and Authorizing the Implementation of a Project Lifesaver**

By Legislator: Philip N. Reed, Sr.

Whereas, The Sheriff's Department has received the offer of a \$10,000 anonymous donation for the establishment of a Jefferson County Project Lifesaver, and

Whereas, The Department has also received a donation valued at \$2,960, in the form of reduced cost or free supplies for the project, from Project Lifesaver itself, and

Whereas, Said Project Lifesaver allows for individuals who are at high risk to wander or become disoriented to wear wristbands that emit individualized tracking signals for quick recovery, and

Whereas, Said donation would cover the costs of approximately 10 said wristbands and associated equipment costs for a period of up to 4 years, and

Whereas, Appropriate clients would be identified by the County's Office for the Aging with assistance from other agencies, such as the Public Health Department, the Department of Social Services, and the Alzheimer's Association Central New York Chapter, and

Whereas, The Sheriff's Department may set fees for the use of said equipment or for the replacement of batteries, in order to continue said program without the use of County tax dollars, and

Whereas, The 2010 County Budget must be amended to recognize said donation, and

Whereas, The Sheriff's Department will gratefully acknowledge the donation and thank the anonymous donor and Project Lifesaver on behalf of Jefferson County.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, That Pursuant to County Law Section 215 (3), this Board of Legislators accepts said donations, and be it further

Resolved, That the 2010 County Budget is amended as follows:

**Increase:**

(Revenue)

01-3110-999.92705

Donations

\$10,000

(Expenditure)

01-3110-3110.2300	Technical Equipment	\$7,690
01-3110-3110.4111.002	Communications Equipment	\$1,200
01-3110-3110.4585	Departmental Supplies	\$1,110

Seconded by Legislator: Jennie M. Adsit

Roll Call Vote

Ayes: Fitzpatrick, Nabywaniec, Zando, Ormsby, Drake, Reed, Thomas, St.Croix,  
Behling, Ferris, Gray, Burto, Docteur, Adsit, Blankenbush

Resolution passed.

### **Resolution No. 178**

#### **Authorizing Jefferson County to be Lead Agency Under the State Environmental Quality Review Act for the Purpose of Conducting an Eight Year Review of the Jefferson County Southwest Agricultural District # 3, and Making a Determination of Non-Significance**

By Legislator: Barry M. Ormsby

Whereas, The Board of Legislators formally received notification from the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets to commence the Eight Year Review of the Jefferson County Southwest Agricultural District, No. 3 and

Whereas, The Eight Year Review process is an action subject to environmental review in accordance with Article 8 of the New York State Environmental Conservation Law "State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR)" Act, and

Whereas, An Environmental Assessment Form (EAF) has been completed which evaluates potential environmental impacts, expresses the County's desire to serve as lead agency, determines that no significant impacts will occur, and is incorporated in this resolution.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, That Jefferson County shall assume lead agency status for this action pursuant to SEQR and has determined that this is an unlisted action and will not have any adverse environmental impacts, and be it further

Resolved, That the Chairman is hereby authorized to sign the Environmental Assessment Form and forward same to NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets.

Seconded by Legislator: Robert D. Ferris

All members present voted aye.

### **Resolution No. 179**



**Adopting Modifications Pursuant to the Eight Year Review of the Jefferson County  
Southwest Agricultural District, No. 3**

By Legislator: Barry M. Ormsby

Whereas, The Board of Legislators formally received notification from the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets to commence the Eight Year Review of the Jefferson County Southwest Agricultural District, No. 3, and

Whereas, In accordance with the provisions of the New York State Agriculture and Markets Law, Article 25AA, as amended, a review notice was published and the Jefferson County Southwest Agricultural District, No. 3 was placed on file with the County for a thirty (30) day review and modification period, and

Whereas, During the review period, 5,637 acres of land were requested to be added and 658 acres of land were requested to be removed from the District, and

Whereas, The District and proposed modifications were referred to the Jefferson County Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board for its review and recommendations, and

Whereas, The report of the County Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board with its recommendation to modify and re-establish the district for eight years has been duly received by this Board of Legislators, and

Whereas, A public hearing was held on June 21, 2010 at which time consideration was given to the original Agricultural District, the recommendation of the County Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board, and the proposed modifications to the District.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, That, pursuant to Section 303 of the New York State Agriculture and Markets Law, the Jefferson County Board of Legislators does hereby modify and re-establish for a period of eight years the Jefferson County Southwest Agricultural District, No. 3, to consist of 74,560 acres of land. The modified boundary is depicted on a set of maps entitled Jefferson County Southwest Agricultural District, No. 3, 2010.

Seconded by Legislator: Robert D. Ferris

All members present voted aye.

Chairman Blankenbush entertained a motion to waive Standing Rules 35, 60 and all other appropriate rules in order to introduce two additional resolutions for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Burto seconded by Legislator Docteur and unanimously carried.

**Resolution No. 180**

**Memorial for Stanley F. Overton**

By Legislator: Michael W. Behling

Resolved, That a suitably inscribed memorial page be set apart in the 2010 Journal of Proceedings in memory of the late Stanley F. Overton who died July 13, 2010 in Lorraine, NY. Mr. Overton served as Supervisor of the Town of Worth from 1959 - 2007, and at the time of his retirement was the longest serving town executive in New York State.

Seconded by Legislator: Robert J. Thomas

All members present voted aye.

### **Resolution No. 181**

#### **Appointment of Administrator for Defense of Indigent Defendants**

By Legislator: Robert J. Thomas

Whereas, Pursuant to Resolution 164 of 1965, Jefferson County employs a part-time Administrator of Indigent Defendants who maintains the rotating lists of attorneys willing to represent defendants who qualify but are unable to obtain representation from the Public Defender's Office, and

Whereas, Also pursuant to Resolution No. 164 of 1965 a recommendation has been received from the Executive Committee of the Jefferson County Bar Association for appointment to the position of Administrator of Indigent Defendants.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, That Timothy Farley, Esq. be and is hereby appointed as the Administrator for Defense of Indigent Defendants at the pleasure of the Executive Committee of the Jefferson County Bar Association.

Seconded by Legislator: Philip N. Reed, Sr.

All members present voted aye.

Chairman Blankenbush advised that Information Services Director Gregory Hudson would now be doing a presentation concerning a proposal to purchase a new voice over IP phone system.

Mr. Hagemann advised that with the many discussions recently about the voice over internet protocol telephone system he felt it was important to highlight the system so everyone is clear as to the scope of the project, the savings associated with it and the advantages of considering the proposal. He stated that no decision has to be made tonight on this purchase as Mr. Sprague indicated the prices are good until after the September Board Session which means the matter can go through the jurisdictional committee (Finance & Rules).

Mr. Hudson outlined the costs associated with obtaining the new system which is

\$926,131 for instruments, switches, routers, software and a back engine to run everything, and he is also proposing a local telephone service switch to something such as Time Warner and has a quote of \$28,800 that would bring first year cost total to \$954,931. Mr. Hudson detailed current annual costs that total \$242,245 and include Verizon local calling \$162,603, Creg Systems Maintenance (not needed for new system) \$53,779 (\$35,000 maintenance contract + additional services, number reflects 2009 actual) 911AI \$12,863 (this service is included in new system); AT&T Long Distance Cost \$5,000 (actually represents cost savings with reduced cost for regional and long distance calling, based on review by Time Warner); and energy savings \$8,000 with new equipment.

Mr. Hudson related that with the new system there is an annual maintenance fee of \$55,574 which would cover all maintenance from hardware to technical support and any software upgrades, plus \$28,800 for local calling for a total annual cost of \$84,374 for years two, three, five and six. Every fourth year there would be an increase in the maintenance fee to \$88,317 as certain Cisco equipment is on three year maintenance contracts. With that scenario by year six the new system will have paid for itself, we will save approximately \$160,000 in annual costs thereafter and would have greater functionality with regular software upgrades which will keep our system permanently current. He said from a strictly dollars and cents point the proposal makes sense, and from a practical sense also as the system would constantly be upgraded.

He said the current (Nortel) phone system maintenance does not include software upgrades and has not had such an upgrade since 1982 and there have been downtime issues that have no explanation. He said while Nortel was purchased by Avaya the system itself is near obsolete and while it can still be upgraded to a certain point it will only become increasingly difficult to maintain, find parts for and will not have the functionality of the new system.

Mr. Hudson advised that beyond the hard costs and the six year payback the benefits of the new system are that the County could move forward with arraignments at the jail through the phone system and significant cost savings could be realized as transportation of inmates for arraignments would no longer be necessary. He also demonstrated a "soft phone" (hands free) function which is currently installed in the vehicle of the Director of Emergency Management, and of the Sergeant of the Road Patrol who both love it. He said there are many advantages to going with a modern system that has these kinds of cost saving options. He said it is possible to switch to Time Warner, keep the current system and save money, however the phone system would still need to be replaced at some point.

With regard to questions about the 911ai function, Mr. Hudson stated that it was not the County's intention to take that function away from anyone, it can still be done at the Public Safety Building, but County offices would no longer need it. He suggested that if the Watertown City School District, or any other school, business, etc. wanted it they could negotiate with the vendor for that service. He understood that it is being offered to individual households for free but was not sure how long that would continue.

Mr. Hagemann explained that there have been great strides in the I.T. Department in the past few years and part of that is the need to upgrade our technology in many locations as we are

a \$200+ million organization with 800 employees at several locations, and with any infrastructure change there is a significant cost. He said through the budget process during the past several year funds have been set aside in a capital account for such upgrades and the County will continue to do that as there are large expense projects that still need to be addressed, such as upgrade of the financial system. He said there have been several initiatives completed and several yet to be done, but a discussion about a phone system upgrade in a general sense was held with the I.T. (Ad Hoc) Committee, and a more detailed discussion was held with the Efficiency (Ad Hoc) Committee still in a generic sense as it happened to run parallel to what that Committee was addressing. He stated that this was not an attempt to criticize a phone system as it has worked, but it was an attempt to address a need that had come to fruition and was a move in the right direction. He related that until tonight the time frame for viability of the competitive bids had run out but with an extension now through the September Board Session there is more time for examination and questions to be answered. He acknowledged that it is an expensive phone system and is a major investment but is a major investment of what is already in the budget; it is state-of-the-art and will still be in six years when it is paid for and beyond that, which is not the case with the current phone system.

Legislator Gray questioned the the initial purchase of Cisco equipment that is installed in the Historic Courthouse and its relation to the Workplace Grant equipment. Mr. Hudson advised that an upgrade to the Employment & Training system was bid and the bids were not awarded. Subsequently, as the situation evolved, the equipment for both the Employment & Training Grant and additional County equipment to test the system was purchased off NYS Contract, therefore there was no need to rebid. Mr. Hudson stated that the Employment & Training equipment could be installed tomorrow in that facility and brought online ASAP, in accordance with the Grant requirements.

Legislator Gray questioned the denial of a FOIL request that was made by CREG Systems saying the specific County equipment could not be differentiated from the Employment & Training equipment. Mr. Hagemann stated that the backbone to run the Employment & Training system is installed in the County Office Building, as was planned from the beginning, and the phones stand ready to be installed at Employment & Training which was planned for the Fall, assuming the County purchase of a phone system was already accomplished. However, all of the equipment for both projects was purchased as a whole for economy of scale, not pieced and paceled out.

Legislator Gray questioned if Mr. Hudson was opposed to accumulating a cost savings instead of purchasing a new phone system. Mr. Hudson advised that he was not opposed to simply switching the local phone service to Time Warner and accumulating savings, but was being proactive as he believed he was directed to do, instead of reactive, and as the County's Information Techonology Director was recommending that a new phone system be purchased. If allowed to continue he believed the County would be spending money to put band aids on a system that would need replacement in the not too distant future anyway.

Legislator Gray questioned the difference in the four year proposed phone system purchase that was outlined in initial discussions that had no annual costs vs. the now six year proposal with \$55,000 annual costs. Mr. Hudson stated that the four year proposal was meant as

an apples to apples comparison with the current phone system which has no software upgrades and did not include maintenance from Cisco as we are not obligated to buy it, so in four years the County would again be where it is at today with an outdated system. He said the six year proposal was meant as an apples to oranges comparison to keep the system up to date.

Legislator Gray stated that the Time Warner representative he contacted stated that there was no proposal on the table from them regarding local phone service. Mr. Hudson stated that he worked with a Time Warner representative a year ago on this project who gathered all of the County's information from telephone bills to extensions, etc. and then submitted a proposal that could have been signed the next day and the service would have began, however she left that employment a few weeks ago. He said the representative that Legislators Gray and Blankenbush spoke with also quoted a rate of \$399/month for a 16 month period but wants to do the exact same exercise and analysis. Legislator Gray questioned if the rate includes regional and long distance costs, and Mr. Hudson said that portion was not included in the rate but was noted on the spreadsheet as an additional \$5,000 cost estimate from the former representative after reviewing our usage. Legislator Gray suggested finding out what the true Time Warner costs will be before moving forward.

Legislator Gray expressed reservations about tying any savings gained from switching the telephone service to the equipment purchase. Mr. Hudson reiterated that either way a cost savings will be realized, however it was his recommendation, as I.T. Director that a phone system be purchased now to alleviate the problems being experienced.

Discussion ensued between Mr. Hudson and CREG Systems Representative Chris Allen regarding specific telephone system problems experienced by the Public Health Department. Mr. Allen clarified that only parts of the telephone system are from 1982, the core processor, the things that run the system - the memory and the hard drive- have all been maintained and upgraded and are current equipment.

Legislator Ferris appreciated Mr. Hudson's foresight in proposing a new system saying that it looks like a great system and understood that money has been allocated for that purpose. He also understood Legislator Gray's point in saving money, and wanted to look into the phone system in more depth himself before making a decision.

Legislator Reed stated that he was on the Information Technology Ad Hoc Committee four years ago when there was first talk about the phone system replacement moving forward, and is conscious of money spent for that purpose being taxpayer dollars. He said legislators can agree to disagree while keeping sight of the fact that this is public dollars. He provided background in that the phone system was purchase by resolution in 1982 at a cost of \$380,000, which probably seemed like a lot of money at the time and in 1988 the County standardized with a northern telecom system through a no bid not to exceed price agreement with Creg Systems as a sole provider. At that time concerns were expressed that a competitive bid process was not used and the County was locking itself into Creg Systems for all repairs and parts. He did not believe that it was possible now to bid a system that is fair to *every* vendor but the Board needs to decide what is best for the future. He did not believe anyone has deliberately put us in a position to take business away from a local vendor and spend \$1 million. He said Mr. Hudson

has made great strides upgrading the equipment and improving the efficiency of that department without using the Cadillac model, and has generally exhibited frugality in purchases. He felt it was important to listen to all parties in making this decision, the old vendor, new vendor and the I.T. Director who has proven he can do his job. With regard to the 911AI piece he said it is his understanding that the piece of equipment that provides the service can stay where it is and people can subscribe to it if they want it.

Legislator Behling stated that throughout his years of working with Mr. Hudson he has developed a lot of faith in Mr. Hudson's ability, and while they may not have always agreed, an equitable solution to any problem that has been proposed to him was found. He said vendors come up with solutions, the I.T. Director makes recommendations, and the Board makes the choice and allocates the money. He suggested that people rarely keep the same cell phone for a number of years due to technology changing and this is no different.

Legislator Gray clarified that he has no issues with Mr. Hudson and fought very hard to get him in that position and commended the work he has done to date. However, he did not agree with this one upgrade as the timing and economy are not right and the County is facing challenging budget deliberations for 2011. He did not agree the bid process was fair, he felt it was designed around Cisco equipment and could not see spending \$1 million on a phone system right now. He would rather see serious discussions concerning changing service as that is very important that we have reliable phone service, and then see the savings prove themselves out. Mr. Hudson pointed out that if the County does nothing there will be no savings. Chairman Blankenbush stated that since the bid prices were extended the Board has the next 30 days to examine the issue further.

Legislator Fitzpatrick stated that there should have been better communication with this issue in terms of numbers but if it costs a little bit more for the safety of the residents then she is willing to spend it but if it can be taken care of and the safety remains then she would be o.k. with what we have. She wanted the matter to be taken care of with fairness, without being too political, and what is best for the County without friendships being broken.

Legislator Ferris said all electronics have are consumable and wondered if the life span of the system had been calculated where software or firmware for the phone system will no longer be available, or a comprehensive plan to replace it. He also asked if some of the phones could be purchased over the next few years and implemented slowly. Mr. Hudson did not actually sit down and do calculations on each piece of equipment, he based his recommendations on what he has seen and the problems being experienced that he believes will come to a head. Mr. Hudson advised that he is not a "phone" guy but was speaking as an electronics and computer guy. He said we could buy instruments and switches on a yearly basis and there will be a portion of what is in the bid that the County would need to buy up front that he believed approximately was \$400,000 in back end equipment. Mr. Sprague said the proposal is a brand new network for \$400,000, and \$500,000 + is of the phone system and the SL services. Mr. Sprague said the new network helps computers work faster will help the data center issues as the County does new servers and new applications.

Legislator Ferris inquired as to who owns the fiber optics that run between all the

buildings as that was not noted in any of the numbers. Mr. Hudson advised that the fiber optic to the Historic Courthouse, the new Courthouse, and DSS the County owns; fiber optic to Public Health, Highway and hopefully soon the PSB is leased through WestelCom; Recycling PTP VPN from Time Warner Cable, Airport is PTP VPN over a DSL line. He said these costs will not change with a new phone system as data is also run on those lines, but there are obviously other costs and savings but it may not all be phone system related. He said the only difference would be that presently there are different phones for different locations, what would be gained is a unified system that is all centralized the the County Office Building. Efficiencies can be gained by being able to push a button and change locations or services of a phone number which has to be physically done at present.

Chairman Blankenbush asked if the maintenance fees for Creg Systems have changed over the 28 years that we have had the system. Mr. Hudson stated that the annual maintenance fee of \$35,000 has not changed over the past eight or nine years that he is aware of. He noted that the \$53,000 cost noted in the plan varies from year to year but he needed to choose a year for comparison purposes. Mr. Sprague advised that the \$55,000 annual fee includes a subscription service for software so that upgrades are included, there is a five year option and a single year option. He stated that the base maintenance cost is under \$50,000, but the UCSS is a three year cost option that you wouldn't have to buy, but it would entitle you to upgrade every piece of software as long as you keep the subscription service.

Chairman Blankenbush inquired if Mr. Sprague's organization does the installation and maintenance or if they subcontract for that piece. Mr. Sprague indicated that for this bid they partnered with CDW, they are a Cisco gold partner and their job is to install and support the systems. He said their system is a little different in that after the system is installed I.T. staff here would end up supporting it so there would be no one onsite. Chairman Blankenbush asked if CDW was a catalogue company. Mr. Sprague said they have multiple business and they are a catalog company as well, and they are one of Cisco's largest resellers and have a complete integration arm that goes out and does integration services. He explained that they are similar to Creg Systems in that they are an integrator as Creg Systems is possibly with Via; they have lots of engineers that have been certified, they know the systems backwards and forwards and they support it.

Chris Allen stated that in the past the County never elected to pick up software upgrades for the Nortel system even though they were proposed many times over the years. He said had that been done, the current system could do many of the things that are proposed for the new system, with certain hardware upgrades as well. Chairman Blankenbush asked him to clarify the \$53,000 annual maintenance fee. Mr. Allen advised that the annual maintenance is \$35,000 base cost for 24/7 service with \$16,000 for voicemail, and any moves, adds or changes (MACs) that the County calls Creg Systems and asks them to do (moves phones, run wires) are extra. Chairman Blankenbush asked if Mr. Allen ever recommended that the County go with Time Warner, Mr. Allen advised he did not make that recommendation.

Legislator Thomas stated that that he was glad the matter was going back to Finance & Rules for further discussion, but felt it should be wrapped up before we have a public safety emergency.

Legislator Docteur inquired if Mr. Hudson had an annual labor cost for when his employees moves phones, voicemails, etc., and further inquired if it could equate to a personnel cost savings in terms of positions through attrition in future budget years. Mr. Hudson stated that approximately 3/4 of a person is currently utilized in that manner but he could not commit to how much that would change with the new system.

Legislator Reed clarified that he has never heard anything bad about Creg Systems as a vendor and could understand being defensive about their product but he never heard an alternative to what we have from that vendor, which he thought was the point of meetings held over the past month. He was not sure how we set up a bid or go forward as it will always be comparing apples to oranges with this type of equipment. He understands the concerns about spending money but he did not want to be pigeonholed into saying that if you vote for this you vote for higher taxes as that can be said for buying anything expensive such as a dump truck. He felt there were a lot of good, valid points and wondered how we move forward. He said it is frustrating to say we could have been saving money through a service change or an upgrade, etc.

Legislator Gray stated we could have been saving money by changing service, and felt the month extension on the bid prices was quite expedient for the County to do business. He stated that there are two policy decisions, one in evaluating the change in service from Verizon to Time Warner, and the other is the purchase of the equipment, that could include a proposal from the current vendor as to what they can do that compares with the Cisco bid.

Legislator Reed pointed out that Mr. Hudson, after only 2 years in the position, brought forward a cost savings that could have been realized a long time ago, and expressed concern that for a fair bid if we just go to the current one and say what can you do for us. He stated that he has been unable to tell when anything to do with the phone system was ever bid out.

Legislator Gray advised that is why he does not believe it can be done in 30 days as the objectives have to be examined and bid out in a fair manner.

Legislator Burto suggested that the Chairman appoint a couple legislators to work with Mr. Hudson on this item and move this along.

Chairman Blankenbush advised that the dormant I.T. Ad Hoc Committee could be resurrected and the Efficiency Ad Hoc Committee did look at it and endorsed it without seeing all the figures and all the arguments, so either could take a more indepth look.

Legislator Ormsby inquired if the County has the expertise in house to put a bid spec together. Mr. Hudson advised that at this point in time we can't write a bid that will cover everyone unless you either throw out the investment that we currently have in the Cisco equipment or put a clause in that Cisco has an advantage because we will be asking every other vendor to supply what Cisco has already supplied. Mr. Hudson it may have began wrong but we have a significant investment in Cisco equipment.

Mr. Hagemann stated that in the next 30 days a decision has to be made because there was a competitive bid; if we don't accept the bid then another decision will have to be made as



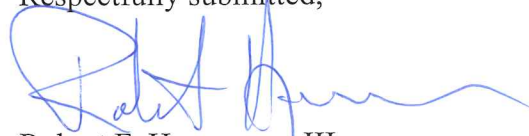
to the direction to go in. Legislator Gray was in favor of rejecting the bid as he was not sure such a large decision could or should be made in 30 days.

Legislator Docteur said many issues were looked at by the Efficiency Committee over a six month period and he doesn't profess to be an expert on the VOIP system as more information on this issue has come out since that time, but felt the need to defend their decision.

Chairman Blankenbush felt more direction was needed in terms of what to do next as there has been good discussion tonight. He stated that the Board needs to examine whether to reject the bid, rebid, or do nothing, and wanted to have that direction by Finance & Rules because he did not want to be having this exact same discussion in September. He appointed Legislator Gray, Reed and Ferris to an Ad Hoc Committee to take as much time as they need within the next thirty days to hold meetings and get a recommendation together so that everyone knows what is planned and he did not want to keep talking about this for 30, 60 or 90 days.

There being no further business of the Board, on a motion by Legislator Ferris seconded by Legislator Thomas and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Robert F. Hagemann, III', with a long, flowing horizontal line extending to the right.

Robert F. Hagemann, III  
Clerk of the Board