

## M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: September 28, 2004

TO: The Board of Supervisors

FROM: Richard M. Miller, Fire Chief

SUBJECT: Trunked Radio System

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I would like to bring you up to date on activities and actions to date on the trunked radio system project with York County.

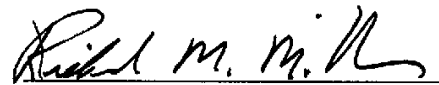
Since my last report, many components of this major project have been completed. Below I have outlined some of those major milestones:

- C **Federal Communications Commission (FCC) radio frequency licensing:** Final FCC licensing has been granted to the two counties to operate on the 800-MHz frequencies.
- C **Tower site construction:** Towers have been constructed at the Regional Jail, the Landfill, Berkeley School, and the EOC site in Toano. The tower at Hankins Industrial Park had been delayed by the Virginia Department of Historical Resources over concerns of visual impact on historic Toano, particularly the Hickory Neck Church. I met with representatives of the James City County Historical Commission and the Hickory Neck Church seeking their support for the radio project. Each provided a letter of support to the Department of Historical Resources without hesitation. After a second review by the State Department of Historical Resources, the project was approved. Construction is expected to begin in October. York County has experienced some delay on the construction of their tower in Poquoson. Construction of that tower is expected to start in October as well.
- C **Microwave system:** The microwave system was inspected at the factory in May and its performance meets our expectations. Construction of the microwave system on the towers that have been completed will begin in October.
- C **System staging and plant inspection:** Staff from both counties conducted systems overview acceptance testing in June. A secondary visit to the factory to follow up on system components not ready for testing was completed the last week of June. All equipment has been shipped to a staging point in Hampton and components have been installed in the equipment buildings at the base of each tower constructed to date. Equipment not ready for installation is being held in staging areas.
- C **Emergency Communications (9-1-1) Center:** Our architect has submitted site plans for review of the 9-1-1 Center at the EOC site. The Development Review Committee (DRC) approved the site plan pending compliance with all staff recommendations on the site plan. The architect continues to work with Development staff to comply with all site plan development requirements. Issues that are causing some difficulty include temporary parking for EOC staff while construction is underway and storm water management. This delay is not anticipated to slow down the process for systems acceptance and implementation, particularly since York County has been designated as the prime site (as the prime site, it will house all of the major integral components that will operate this regional system). An issue of concern is the significant price increases being experienced in steel and concrete in construction projects.

- C **“Subscriber” (mobile and portable radio) equipment and channel mapping:** The staffs of both Counties are in the process of finalizing planning for the removal of existing equipment and installation of the new equipment. Training of staff on how to use the new equipment has been identified and will be conducted prior to cutover.

As you can see, there are a number of complicated tasks occurring in conjunction with York County, other localities, and the vendors. While I have described in general terms some of the work on the major components of this project, it should be noted that each of these pieces have hundreds of details that must be addressed to ultimately realize a good end product. Staff is working diligently to ensure every detail is thoroughly and completely addressed. It is anticipated that final local system acceptance testing will occur in spring 2005 and that the system will be fully operational by the end of the second quarter of 2005.

I will be glad to answer any questions.



Richard M. Miller

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