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911 Consolidation Study earns State Funding

Wampsville, NY – Today, Governor Andrew Cuomo announced the approval of grant funding to study the sharing of programs that could provide a more effective, consistent, and effective 911 services in Madison and Onondaga Counties.

The Regional Emergency Management Communications project was one of 12 projects approved through the Municipal Restructuring Fund (MRF) to streamline the delivery of local services and reduce future costs to local tax payers. Madison County was awarded \$50,000 to study the long-term delivery of emergency communications in both Madison and Onondaga County.

According to Madison County Board of Supervisors Chairman John Becker, “This grant will allow us to discover how we can better serve the residents of Madison County. The study will benchmark our 911 systems and seek out opportunities for improving our 911 services through partnering with Onondaga County”.

Madison County Director of Emergency Management, Ted Halpin, identified the key elements of the study to include:

1. Benchmarking the current 911 services of Madison and Onondaga counties
2. Considering the feasibility of partial or total consolidation into a Madison-Onondaga Regional Public Safety Communications Center
3. Providing a thorough cost-benefit analysis
4. Considering alternative options
5. Providing recommendation(s)

Halpin stated, “we are duty-bound to examine options as to how to provide the best emergency services possible to our residents and visitors. This study will provide us the information we need to make these improvements”.

Madison County Emergency Communications employs 18 people and receives approximately 32,000 calls annually. Currently the county has begun a draft Scope of Work that has been developed with the input from the 911 staff and our first responder community. The next step will be to bid for a vendor to conduct the study. That process takes several weeks.

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