

ATTACHMENT 3

LETTER TO CITY OF PALM COAST
DATED NOVEMBER 20, 2013

Administration
1769 E. Moody Blvd Bldg 2
Bunnell, FL 32110



www.flaglercounty.org
Phone: (386)313-4001
Fax: (386)313-4101

November 20, 2013

Mr. James Landon
City of Palm Coast City Manager
160 Cypress Point Parkway, Suite B-106
Palm Coast, FL 32164

Dear Mr. Landon:

I am writing in response to the recent email you sent to Ms. Phyllis Downes, our accounting clerk in the Emergency Service Department (attached).

In that email you discussed the informal working group that was set up under the leadership of Undersheriff Staley to work through the concerns with the 911 system (phone system) and related CAD system vendor, New World Systems. We have heard your concerns and, as you know, we too share many of the same frustrations with the current CAD system. We also understood why you refused to follow through with paying your previous commitment (no formal agreement - half of the \$7,500 run card project) until the other current CAD system issues are resolved or it is decided to migrate to a different vendor. Having said that, I am confident the informal working group will begin to develop solutions in the coming months and we will ultimately end up with a better 911/CAD system.

I am concerned, however, that you are applying your frustration with a completely separate phone/internet emergency communication system to the 800 MHz Emergency Radio System and the formal 800 MHz agreement between the City and County. You are also stating the City is defaulting on the interlocal agreement. As you know, the 800 MHz agreement does not provide for the City to unilaterally not pay due to concerns with another system or to create new terms for payment that are not provided for in the agreement. It should also be noted that City is currently in default of its agreed upon obligations and owes the County two payments of \$300,000 for a total of \$600,000.

The problem with this approach is that the 800 MHz system on which the interlocal agreement is based, operates fairly well and likely performs much better and less costly for the City than the City's previous stand alone, million dollar plus, radio system. Also, in searching our records on this issue we do not have any outstanding complaints on the 800 MHz system from the City.

Charles Ericksen, Jr.
District 1

Frank Meeker
District 2

Barbara Revels
District 3

Nate McLaughlin
District 4

George Hanns
District 5

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To refresh our memories on the purpose of the interlocal and City's contributions, the interlocal agreement was entered into to allow the City's migration onto the countywide radio system and to provide additional system growth capacity that was given up by the County to allow the City to come on the system. By giving up this County capacity without the need for an immediate system expansion, it made it affordable for the City to easily come onto the system. At the time, the County had capacity for all of the current system users and planned capacity for the growth of those users for many years to come. By allowing the City's public/utility workers to severely cut into that planned capacity, it necessitated a much earlier expansion of the system. Besides the initial capacity used, it was also anticipated that the City of Palm Coast would grow and increase radio users much more rapidly than the other entities already on the system; thereby burning through remaining user capacity at a much quicker rate. The City's funding was primarily to address these capital capacity issues no different than the use of capacities at a utility plant, plus also addressing new technology upgrades that will help with capacity and performance.

In the coming months, we will be forming an 800MHz ad hoc group that will be looking at the 800 MHz system for both its expansion and upgrading to the latest technology. In the meantime, my professional staff will be happy to brief you and your staff further on this issue and some of the long-term system issues we will all be facing. Should you choose to have a presentation from my staff, you will have direct information from the County as operator of the system and a much better understanding of how capacity and technology are somewhat interconnected; i.e., besides regular expansion, new technology will increase system capacity.

The County runs and operates the system daily and can advise you that the premise and general direction when the interlocal was crafted in 2009 has not changed despite what someone may have brought to your attention. All the users will be asked to be part of the working group. The anticipated expenses are expected to easily surpass \$3 million. As an example, the initial cost of the County's 800 MHz backbone system was approximately \$6.5 million. We do fully understand the terms of the agreement and plan to follow them accordingly, unless you are choosing to default and effectively cancel the agreement, as stated in your email.

It should also be noted that the County pays for all the ongoing 800 MHz backbone expenses for the City and all other users, which is in excess of \$400,000 annually, plus the ongoing annual debt service for the system of over \$800,000. Additionally, the County pays for all the ongoing maintenance and operational costs of the backbone E911 system and CAD system as well. For full disclosure, we do receive E911 grant funds for the 911 portion of system. With regard to decision making, ultimately, the County Commission will have to make a decision on

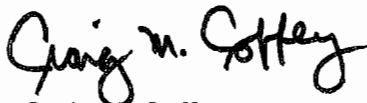
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changes to the 800 MHz system, which the Commission will ultimately have to fund. However, we will do that with input from all users, including our partners like the City of Palm Coast.

In light of these facts, I would ask you to reconsider your position and bring the City contractual obligations current. However, if it still is the intent of the City to default on the agreement (as stated in your email), because the agreement is really between the two governmental bodies, I would ask that the default be formally ratified by the Palm Coast City Council and that you follow the proper notice requirements outlined in the agreement.

For future reference, I would have been happy to at least discuss the issue with you at one of our meetings and will still be willing to do so in the future.

Sincerely,



Craig M. Coffey
County Administrator

Attachments:

Email from Mr. Landon
2009 City and County 800 MHz Interlocal Agreement

c: Flagler County Commissioners
Palm Coast City Council
Palm Coast Executive Team
Sheriff James Manfre
Undersheriff Rick Staley
Al Hadeed, Flagler County Attorney
Don Petito, Flagler County Fire Chief