
VILLAGE OF SUGAR GROVE BOARD REPORT

TO: VILLAGE PRESIDENT & BOARD OF TRUSTEES
FROM: PATRICK J. ROLLINS, CHIEF OF POLICE
SUBJECT: DISCUSSION: VILLAGE OUTDOOR EMERGENCY WARNING SIREN SYSTEM WITH ANTICIPATED CHANGES TO INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENTS
AGENDA: MAY 21, 2024
DATE: MAY 14, 2024

ISSUE

Should the Village discuss the Outdoor Emergency Warning Siren System with anticipated changes to intergovernmental agreements and utilizing advanced technology to deliver services.

DISCUSSION

Background: The Village of Sugar Grove Emergency Management oversees the Outdoor Emergency Warning Sirens. The Emergency Management function falls under the police department. Sugar Grove owns and maintains through paid vendors the six outdoor emergency warning sirens along with associated hardware components for the system. Back in 2001 the Village of Sugar Grove entered into an intergovernmental agreement with the City of Aurora for the primary activation role of the sirens through their dispatch center. The Village of Montgomery, City of Aurora, and the Village of Sugar Grove Emergency Warning Sirens were controlled/activated by Aurora Dispatch. All the sirens in the three communities are activated together with a "master switch". In 2014, Chief Rollins worked on having the Village of Sugar Grove activate Sugar Grove sirens independently from the other two communities with Aurora being the back-up plan in case we were unable to activate for operational reasons. In essence, Sugar Grove can today, independently activate the six Sugar Grove outdoor emergency warning sirens and one shared siren between us and Aurora. Depending on how a storm or event was traversing through the geographic area of the three communities, it was best to have control over what was passing through Sugar Grove.

The Sugar Grove Police Department has been working over the past year on fully controlling the siren activation, as the City of Aurora desires to focus on their communities' siren protocols. Included in this fiscal year's budget capital fund has monies set aside for the police department to explore advanced technology to assist with the outdoor emergency warning siren activation. Staff would still be primarily

responsible for activating the sirens. However, technology exists with new hardware and other components allowing the National Weather Service to send a signal when our area is under certain conditions.

Our existing vendor has submitted a quote for the system upgrade with the amount included in the approved budget, approximately \$30,000. Staff continues to work through some logistical items, including the desire to take over/maintain a shared siren that resides in Sugar Grove, that the City of Aurora currently maintains. Discussions are scheduled between the two entities on how best to proceed. However, no monies were budgeted for managing/taking over this single site that Aurora has covered the costs for in the past.

Note: Standing up a new emergency warning site for future reference is approximately \$25,000 per site (today's dollars). Any growth/expansion of our community, an assessment will need to be evaluated for emergency warning siren coverage/placement.

Staff is looking for direction from the Village Board on how to proceed with building out the new hardware components and integration with our police radios, along with negotiating with the City of Aurora on the shared siren site.

COST

To Be Determined

RECOMMENDATION – That the Village Board provide feedback to staff.