

Subject: Digital Radio Fiasco

From: Frank Benn <11-17@nsfd.net>

Date: 12/13/2015 1:38 PM

To: Isabella County Admin <admin@isabellacounty.org>, 11-0 Dave Livermore <nsfd110@yahoo.com>

BCC: Frank Benn <fbenn@bennsci.com>

Dear Ms. McAvoy

I am currently in my 37th year of service with the Nottawa-Sherman Fire Department. **As of this writing, Nottawa-Sherman Fire Department personnel have responded to 413 emergencies in 2015.** Our department has 20 active members, all of which I trust with my life. They are dedicated, well trained in fire fighting and emergency medicine and they are licensed state and nationally. They sacrifice much from their personal lives to serve our community. **This is about their safety.**

This morning, less than a mile from our fire station, Chief Dave Livermore could not clearly communicate with Central Dispatch using his hand-held transceiver. He had to contact the dispatcher with his cell phone. Because Chief Livermore is of the opinion that you are a competent and honorable person, I feel obligated to bring my concerns to your attention before I attempt to force a solution via litigation.

I think that a thorough investigation by a competent attorney will show that Isabella County has wasted a huge amount of money on a digital radio system that is far less reliable **in the Nottawa-Sherman FD coverage area** than the analog system we had prior to the fall of 2014. **If other fire districts had coverage issues, they should have been addressed for those districts, only.** We, the Nottawa-Sherman Fire Department, had a reliable system before Isabella County officials destroyed it.

The degraded communications system threatens the personal safety of all Nottawa-Sherman Fire Department personnel and the citizens we serve. We strongly feel that county officials are indifferent regarding our welfare. This indifference is perceived as a betrayal and disrespect for what we do and the personal sacrifices we make as volunteers.

We are sometimes dispatched to domestic environments that, unknown to dispatch personnel or us, can turn ugly very quickly. Many of us have concealed pistol licenses and are armed wherever it's legal. This is a fact that we would rather not have to reveal when on an emergency scene. **We desperately need reliable hand-held radio communications so we can at least give the appearance of having law enforcement backup.** Nothing calms a rowdy bystander or family member like the voice of a dispatcher announcing that an officer is en route. This type of situation is only one of many in which we need reliable hand-held radio communications. For more examples, click on the link provided in the last paragraph.

I would appreciate your comments on possible solutions and a timeline for remedying the problem. Meanwhile, I am actively seeking the assistance of a law firm from outside Isabella

County. Be assured that I have the financial resources to pursue this matter. If you doubt my commitment to the safety of our firefighters, feel free to contact Chief Livermore or anyone else that knows me well, including my wife.

This situation has existed for over a year. It is only a matter of time before an injury, severe loss of property or a death occurs as a result of the indifference of our county officials. At that point, you will wish you had fixed the problem in a timely manner.

If you are interested in reading some background information and more my personal perceptions in this matter please click on the link below. It will take you to a Web page I am preparing in the event I feel the need to take this issue to the public.

http://www.bennsci.com/digital_fiasco.html

If you would like to know more about the sacrifices required of a Nottawa-Sherman firefighter, go to our Web site at <http://www.nsfed.net> and click on the link below "Want to be a Nottawa-Sherman firefighter?".

Respectfully,

Frank E. Benn

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Frank Benn
Firefighter/EMT
N.S.F.D.

The only thing more expensive than education is ignorance.
- Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790)

The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is
for good men to do nothing.
- Edmund Burke (1729-1797)

A MAJOR INCENTIVE FOR CRIMINALS:
Law abiding citizens are almost always unarmed.

THE SAFEST PLACE TO COMMIT A CRIME:
A "no gun zone".

"The right of self-defence never ceases. It is among
the most sacred, and alike necessary to nations and
to individuals..."
-James Monroe,
President of the United States, 1818.

Smith & Wesson: One of the best life assurance
companies in the world.

<http://www.bennsci.com>

Yellowstone National Park pictures.

<http://www.nsfed.net>

Nottawa-Sherman Fire/Rescue

<http://www.appletreequilts.com>

Machine quilting services & more.