

# New Information and Cooperation in Hancock County

The Hancock County Sheriff's Office has been utilizing the Spillman software reporting system since 1988. The program later grew to accommodate information and reporting sharing between the Sheriff's Office, The City of Ellsworth and ultimately the Hancock County RCC as it came into existence.

In early 2015, the Sheriff saw an opportunity to grow the system county wide by sharing the software and its capabilities with the Towns of Bar Harbor, Mount Desert, Southwest Harbor and Bucksport. All of these municipalities were running independent software with information and data that could not be shared with other agencies.

With this vision in mind and knowing the benefit to all law enforcement, the Sheriff reached out to these communities and began the building process. With cooperation and a shared vision by the municipal police chiefs, a funding source was identified through Hancock County EMA director Andrew Sankey. Director Sankey produced a grant proposal through Maine Emergency Management which was ultimately approved and the majority of the funding was obtained by spreading the cost over a three year period.

In May of 2016, Spillman software was installed in these communities dispatch centers and cruisers. A multi jurisdiction training for all dispatchers and officers was conducted at the Ellsworth Middle School. On May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016 the software went live for the first time. On that day, every major law enforcement agency in Hancock County was operating on Spillman CAD. The 911 calls received by the RCC were immediately seen by the appropriate dispatch agency and ultimately resulted in a faster, smoother response by law enforcement, fire and EMS services as needed.

After the completion of the project, it can be seen as nothing but a success. By having the vision, cooperation and sharing of resources, the public is seeing the success of this program. This program would not have been possible without the ability to successfully navigate the needs of every municipality in Hancock County that employs its own police force. The municipalities also had a hand showing their support as every community providing local support and the initial funding for licensing for the software. Together a much higher level of emergency response is being provided to the citizens of Hancock County.

Along with the Spillman software sharing, the Hancock County Sheriff's Office was awarded grant funding to establish a new RIDE team. The RIDE team is made up of officers from the Hancock County Sheriff's Office, City of Ellsworth, Towns of Bar Harbor, Mount Desert, Bucksport and the Maine State Police. As a result of the establishment of this new program, a multi agency task force was created to enforce the drunken driving laws of the State of Maine. The team moves into areas which have been identified as having a high area of need or a large event planned. By utilizing officers from the multiple agencies, sufficient staffing can be obtained at a level not possible previously to address these needs. This would not be possible without the collaboration of the Sheriff, County Commissioners, municipal

officers, and the police chiefs of the municipalities involved. This is just another example of working together toward a common goal.

In May of 2016, Sheriff Scott Kane spoke to the leaders of many of the municipalities in Hancock County regarding the heroin epidemic that all of Maine is facing. Specifically he spoke to them about local efforts regarding enforcement and treatment of this scourge that we all face. During this presentation, Sheriff Kane spoke of his desire to bolster enforcement efforts by obtaining a K-9 and implementing a K-9 program within the Sheriff's Office that has never existed. The media provided coverage for this event and printed a story about the Sheriff's goals. Within three days, a concerned citizen contacted the Sheriff about his desire to establish a K-9 program in Hancock County. After speaking with the Sheriff, a group of citizens band together and raised \$20,000 and presented this money to the Hancock County Sheriff's Office as the seed money needed to begin the K-9 program.

All of these efforts represent a renewed movement toward a team approach involving law enforcement, community leaders and their citizens. By banding together, sharing visions and resources, we are able to provide public safety at a higher level than ever before.

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