February 2, 2012

Honorable Mayor
Common Council

Dear Honorable Mayor and Common Council:

Communication from the Fire Chief requesting the purchasing agent be directed to waive formal bidding and proceed with the acquisition of radio infrastructure equipment for the expansion of the fire department radio receiver system from TX/RX Systems of Angola, NY.

Working closely with Radio Tower personnel, a list of filters and cavities have been developed to expand the current fire department radio receiver network as part of our fireground repeater network. The filters and cavities are absolutely necessary for the operation of this equipment. We have already acquired the radio receivers necessary for the expansion of this system and the filters are another component in the process.

Going back to the late 1970's, the radio technicians for the City of Racine and Racine County standardized on filters and cavities made by TX/RX Systems of Angola, New York, for the radio infrastructure that supports all Public Safety Communications in the City and surrounding areas. The reliability of the equipment is outstanding and the workmanship is likewise at a very high-quality level.

This long term relationship with TX/RX Systems has allowed the radio technicians to develop spare parts inventories based on system designs incorporating these filters and cavities. When a component in the system fails due to a natural disaster (lightening strike) the destroyed components can be readily and quickly replaced with spare parts putting those Public Safety radio systems back on line within hours of the damage.

We are requesting, on behalf of the Radio Tower, that formal bidding be waived and the Purchasing Agent be directed to work with TX/RX Systems for the necessary equipment.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Hansen,
Fire Chief