



Grant allows Cheektowaga to install security cameras at Town Hall


By **Jim Herr** - September 10, 2018



Chronicle file photo of the Cheektowaga Town Hall.

CHEEKTOWAGA – The Town of Cheektowaga will use a Critical Infrastructure Grant from the Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Services to outfit the town hall with a security camera system.

The town board selected their current security vendor, Buffalo Security & Fire Co. for the provision of the professional video surveillance cameras.  

“We are lacking security as far as cameras go in this building,” said Councilmember Linda Hammer. “We decided to use the money to secure this building to better protect its workers and the public that come in.” 

The security system will not exceed the \$50,000 award. The system will be purchased by piggybacking off a federal and state bid award.

Preventative security measures at the town hall are almost non-existent. When the rare need arises, employees in the building rely on a police response from officers on the road and the station next door.

There are no concrete bollards, no metal detectors, no x-ray machines, or armed guards; measures the City of Buffalo took after a 2014 audit by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. The added security came with an \$800,000 price tag.

Cheektowaga Town Board meetings are secured by a contingent of Cheektowaga Police officers, but meeting attendees are not required to go through a metal detector to enter council chambers. Ms. Hammer says the cameras are a start.

“It’s preventative. We don’t want an incident to happen here,” she says. “As for now, that’s the way we’re going to go. I haven’t heard of any plans to expand it as of yet.”

West Seneca Town Board meetings are held in the town's courtroom, and visitors must pass through a metal detector.

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