

NORTH HORNELL

Grant secured for new fire truck

Pumper tanker, rescue equipment to be purchased

By Jason Jordan
The Evening Tribune

NORTH HORNELL — A grateful community gathered at the Hornell Volunteer Fire Company on Wednesday to hear some welcomed news.

New York State Senator Tom O'Mara (R-Big Flats) announced that he had secured \$215,000 funding to help the department purchase a new 3,000 gallon pumper tanker truck and additional rescue equipment.

"There's been some need expressed here by the chief in the department and we worked together," O'Mara said.

The money was made available through the 2017-2018 New York State Budget as part of the State Aid to Municipalities (SAM) program.

The new truck's primary purpose will be to allow the department to expand its fire coverage to areas where there are no fire hydrants by carrying an independent water source.

While the money in question is available, O'Mara warned that delivering the funds for the truck can be a drawn out process thanks to state bureaucracy.

"This is the first phase of this and it takes time to get these moneys to flow, but I'm please to get the ball rolling today," he said.

Before the deal is official, it must be approved by the State Comptroller's Office,



State Senator Tom O'Mara receives thanks from North Hornell Village Mayor John Falci while North Hornell Volunteer Fire Chief Mike Robbins look on during a ceremony announcing that funding had been secured for a new truck and rescue equipment. [JASON JORDAN PHOTO]

the Division of Budget, the State Attorney General's Office and the Governor's Office.

"We'll work with you every step of the way in the paperwork and the processing of this," he assured.

O'Mara then praised the volunteers in attendance for their service.

"It really is an honor, and one of the great privileges of the job I have to make announcements like this," he said.

North Hornell Village Mayor John Falci thanked O'Mara for his support, and outlined the need filled by the pending grant.

"We have a lot of responsibility here, with BOCES, the North Hornell School, Elderwood, and now the hospital coming into our

fire district," he said. "Much of the area is covered by hydrants, but we have a big area as far as land is concerned and this will certainly help."

Falci was especially thankful that rescue equipment could also be secured through the grant. The mayor cited a tragic accident in the spring at Kanakadea Park in which a young kayaker lost his life.

"This will make it easier to help victims and save some lives," he said.

The new equipment will include an inflatable boat and water rescue ropes.

Volunteer Fire Chief Mike Robbins said the grant helps fulfill a long term vision for the department.

"I'm very grateful to have received this opportunity

to enhance our firefighting and rescue capabilities. I am very excited to finally be purchasing a pumper tanker for the department. This is something we've been trying to accomplish for some time. Now, thanks to Senator O'Mara and Assemblyman Joe Errigo (R-Conesus), this is something that can finally be accomplished and become reality," he said.

Robbins also credited Errigo's constituent services representative Mike Palmesano for bringing the issue to the attention of legislators.

The chief hopes to place an order in the coming months, and to have the new pumper tanker on the road within the next calendar year.

Scientists: Massive iceberg breaks off

By Danica Kirka and Malcolm Ritter
The Associated Press

One of the biggest icebergs ever recorded, a trillion-ton behemoth more than seven times the size of New York City, has broken off of Antarctica, triggering disagreement among scientists over whether global warming is to blame.

The event happened sometime in the past few days when the giant chunk snapped off an ice shelf.

While such "calving" of icebergs is not unusual, this is an especially big one. It covers an area of roughly 2,300 square miles, more than twice the size of Luxembourg. Its volume is twice that of Lake Erie, according to Project MIDAS, a research group based in Britain.

It broke loose from the Larsen C ice shelf, which scientists had been monitoring for months as they watched a crack grow more than 120 miles long.

Scientists say global warming has caused a thinning of such shelves, but they differ on whether the latest event can be blamed on climate change.

The iceberg is considered unlikely to pose any threat to shipping. And since the ice was already floating, the breakup won't raise sea levels in the short term, the project said in a statement.

But it removed more than 10 percent of the ice shelf, and if that eventually hastens the flow of glaciers behind it into the water, there could be a "very

modest" rise in sea level, the project said.

Two other Antarctic ice shelves, farther north on the Antarctic Peninsula, collapsed in 1995 and 2002. That sped up the slide of glaciers, which contributed to sea-level rise, David Vaughan, director of science at the British Antarctic Survey, said in a statement.

"Our glaciologists will now be watching closely to see whether the remaining Larsen C ice shelf becomes less stable than before the iceberg broke free," he said.

Eric Rignot, a glaciologist at the University of California, Irvine, said the breaking off of the iceberg "is part of a long-term major loss of the ice shelves in the peninsula, progressing southbound and resulting from climate warming."

But Swansea University glaciologist Martin O'Leary, a member of the MIDAS project, called it "a natural event, and we're not aware of any link to human-induced climate change."

And a spokeswoman for the British Antarctic survey said there's not enough information to say whether the calving is an effect of climate change, though there's good evidence global warming has caused thinning of the ice shelf.

As for any danger to navigation, scientists said the iceberg will probably break up and its pieces will circle Antarctica for years or decades rather than drifting northward into shipping lanes.

Wray: Russia-Trump campaign probe no witch hunt

FBI Director nominee shows distance from Trump during hearing

By Sadie Gurman and Eric Tucker
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Donald Trump's pick to lead the FBI broke with the president in key areas Wednesday, rejecting the idea that an investigation into possible coordination between Russia and the Trump election campaign is a "witch hunt" and promising not to cave to any pressure from a White House that has challenged boundaries with the nation's top law enforcement agency.

Christopher Wray, the former high-ranking Justice Department official whom Trump nominated last month, told senators at his confirmation hearing that he would never let politics get in the way of the bureau's mission. And he said he "sure as heck" would not offer a pledge of loyalty to the president.

Asserting his independence, he said, "My loyalty is to the Constitution and the rule of law. Those have been my guideposts throughout my career, and I will continue to adhere to them no matter the test."

Wray's responses seemed to satisfy both Democrats



FBI Director nominee Christopher Wray testifies at his confirmation hearing before the Senate Judiciary Committee on Wednesday on Capitol Hill. [PABLO MARTINEZ MONSIVAIS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS]

and Republicans on the Senate Judiciary Committee, many of whom signaled their support for him.

Wray, 50, would inherit the FBI at a particularly challenging time given Trump's abrupt dismissal of James Comey, who was admired within the bureau. Yet the hearing, the first public window into Wray's views since his selection, was largely devoid of fireworks in keeping with what friends and supporters have described as the nominee's low-key, disciplined style.

His reserved approach could bode well for the

agency at a time when its work has been thrust into the center of a political maelstrom.

But, Wray said, "Anybody who thinks that I would be pulling punches as FBI director sure doesn't know me very well."

After Trump dismissed Comey on May 9, the ex-FBI director said that the president had asked him to pledge his loyalty during a dinner at the White House months earlier. He also said Trump had encouraged him to end an investigation into the former national security adviser, Michael Flynn.

Wray said he got no demand for personal loyalty, nor would he pledge it.

The back-and-forth with lawmakers focused extensively on the Russia investigation, with Wray repeatedly voicing his respect for Robert Mueller, the former FBI director selected in May as the special counsel to oversee the probe.

Trump has repeatedly derided that investigation and other probes, using such words as "hoax" and "witch hunt." But Wray said he would reject any efforts to interfere with Mueller's work.

"I do not consider Director Mueller to be on a witch hunt," he said under questioning from Republican Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina.

He also said he had no reason to doubt the assessment of intelligence agencies that Russia had interfered in the U.S. election through hacking, a conclusion of which Trump has been dismissive.

And when asked about emails released a day earlier showing that Donald Trump Jr. was willing to take help from Russia during the campaign, he said any foreign efforts to meddle in an election should be reported to the FBI rather than accepted.

Wray, who most recently has enjoyed a lucrative legal career at an international law firm, also faced questions about his work as a Justice Department official in the Bush administration. He served the government at a time when harsh interrogation techniques were approved within the department for terror suspects captured overseas, though Wray said he was never involved in signing off on those methods.

Although Trump as a candidate professed support for waterboarding, Wray said he considered torture to be wrong and ineffective. "The FBI is going to play no part in the use of any techniques of that sort," he said.

He also was questioned

about his relationships with Comey and Mueller. Trump allies have said Mueller's closeness to Comey shows he can't lead an unbiased probe. But Trump nominated Wray despite his having worked with both men.

Wray at times sought to distance himself from Comey, who was widely criticized for publicly announcing that Hillary Clinton shouldn't face criminal charges for her use of a private email server.

Pressed on how he would have handled the situation, he said he couldn't imagine holding a news conference about someone who had not been charged, noting Justice Department policies against doing so.

Wray was at the department in 2004 when Comey, temporarily serving as acting attorney general in place of the ailing John Ashcroft, was prepared to resign during a dispute with the White House over the reauthorization of a domestic surveillance program. Wray said he, too, was willing to resign along with Comey and other Justice Department officials — not because he knew the substance of the dispute but because of the quality of the officials who were prepared to leave.

"Knowing those people and having worked side-by-side with those people ... there was no hesitation in my mind as to where I stood," he said.



MOVIE 1: PG <i>Despicable Me 3</i>	MOVIE 2: PG13 <i>Dunkirk</i>	MOVIE 3: PG13 <i>Spider-Man: Homecoming</i>	MOVIE 4: PG13 <i>War For The Planet Of The Apes</i>
JULY 14 & 15: 12:45P 3:15P 6:15P 8:45P	ADVANCED SHOWING JULY 20: 8:15P	JULY 14 & 15: 12:00P 3:00P 6:00P 9:15P	JULY 14 & 15: 11:45A 2:45P 5:45P 9:00P
JULY 16 & 17: 1:30P 4:45P 8:15P		JULY 16 & 17: 1:15P 4:15P 8:00P	JULY 16 & 17: 1:00P 4:30P 7:45P
JULY 18: 12:45P 3:15P 6:15P 8:45P		JULY 18: 12:00P 3:00P 6:00P 9:15P	JULY 18: 11:45A 2:45P 5:45P 9:00P
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