

Town Wide Radio System Committee
Saturday, May 5, 2018
Municipal Office Complex
1 Plains Road MOC 4
8:00 AM
Special Meeting
Approved

Committee members Present: Craig Mansfield, Kevin Cavallo, Joe Szczech, Bruce Dutch, Emmett Lyman, Ray Swol, Robert Bennett (departed 8:40)

Guests Present: Dave Moffett

1. Called to order at 8AM by Craig Mansfield
2. Discussion on Middle School site

Craig explained to the committee that he had received a phone call on Wednesday from Brian Reas (Superintendent of Schools) inquiring about the status of the tower and why we had Call Before You Dig out and were doing Geo testing before the tower was approved by the BOE.

Craig reminded Mr. Reas that the committee present to the BOE twice and at the second presentation on August 2017 the BOE voted unanimously to support the tower. Craig explained to Mr. Reas that the tower had been approved through P&Z and the committee was well underway to build the tower site in the summer.

Mr. Reas asked why the tower site had been moved on the property. Craig assured Mr. Reas the proposed location for the Tower conforms to the location that was presented to the BOE at the August presentation. Craig also reminded Mr. Reas that this location went through review and approval by P&Z.

Craig noted that he questioned Mr. Reas on why this was coming up now that the committee was so far into this project. Mr. Reas stated that the BOE had not approved the project just voted to "support it" but expected the committee to come back to the Board with an additional presentation.

David Moffat explained that changing the tower location at this point will blow the budget by 150,000 to 200,000 dollars. On top of all the design changes and additional geo testing, a 200-foot Tower becomes very highly regulated (FAA) and expensive.

Committee discussed the fact that the meeting is on videotape and the video tape shows it was made very clear the location of the site, the reason for this location and that once receiving support from the BOE that night the project would be going to P&Z as soon as we can get it onto the agenda.

Mr. Reas had told Craig that he planned to bring the tower up at the BOE meeting on Tuesday Night for additional discussion. Craig noted he cannot make this BOE meeting due to other commitments and others would need to attend. Kevin noted that his wife had received a note from Mr. Reas that was sent out to parents. The committee reviewed the letter.

Additionally, the committee reviewed the meeting minutes from both the BOE and P&Z related to the tower.

See excerpts from BOE and P&Z minutes below:

**East Haddam Board of Education Regular Meeting Minutes
Nathan Hale-Ray High School Cafeteria August 22, 2017**

V. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS:

c. Information/Sharing:

Mr. Perry welcomed Craig Mansfield who gave a presentation on the status of the radio towers in the district for emergency services. He presented a proposal for one tower to be located on the middle school campus and asked the board for their approval before the committee goes to planning and zoning. A copy of the presentation is available at Central Office.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS:

b. MOTION: To support the Radio Tower proposal on the Middle School property was made by Mr. Piscioti and seconded by Mrs. Alt.
FAVOR: (7) All Present **OPPOSED:** (0)

ABSENT (1) Werner ABSTENTIONS: (0)

**Planning and Zoning Commission,
Town of East Haddam Land Use Office
Regular Meeting Minutes October 24, 2017**

B) New - #17-08 – Town of East Haddam, 73 Clark Gates Road, construction of an Emergency Management communications tower. Assessor’s Map 73, Lot 59.

First Date: October 24, 2017

Last Date: November 27, 2017

Craig Mansfield explained hurricane Irene made the town aware that their communication system did not support this large scale event. A committee was formed to research how best to upgrade emergency management communications. The middle school property would be partnered with the Buckley Hills site in Colchester. The 160 foot tower will be located behind the middle school near the garage. It has been approved by the Board of Education. Access will be through the emergency access road. There will be an 8 foot fence, and it will not affect the ball fields. The cabinetry would be locked and there will be no exposed electricity.

A letter from Matthew and Nicole Locke dated October 15, 2017 opposing the Emergency Management Communications Tower was reviewed. Mr. Mansfield explained the letter referenced an IP system. He stated an IP system was not realistic for this project.

Mr. Gillis asked who would own the tower. Mr. Mansfield replied the town.

Mr. Curtin opened the hearing to the public. There were no comments. Motion by Mr. Matthews, second by Mr. Gillis and unanimously passed to close the public hearing.

Motion by Mr. Gillis, second by Mr. Matthews and unanimously passed to approve application #17-08 – Town of East Haddam, 73 Clark Gates Road, construction of an Emergency Management communications tower. Assessor’s Map 73, Lot 59.

The committee agreed that our presence at the BOE meeting will be to answer questions but to reiterate that the tower was fully supported on August 22, 2017 by the BOE, approved for construction by P&Z on October 24, 2017 and moving forward.

This site is critical to providing coverage into this area of town and for the safety of Emergency Responders. Kevin, Joe and David will attend Tuesdays BOE meeting.

The next meeting will be scheduled based on outcome from meeting.

David Moffat noted that this delay by the BOE will have a detrimental effect on the schedule and ability to get this work done over the summer.

Motion to adjourn 8:55 by Bruce Dutch, second by Joe Szczech. Motion passed unanimous.

Submitted by:

Emmett Lyman
Committee Secretary
5/24/18