

TOWN OF BOXBOROUGH, MA
Public Safety Communication Committee (PSCC)
MINUTES – Wednesday, September 9, 2015 at 8AM at Town Hall

1. The meeting convened at 8:05 AM at Town Hall, Hilberg & Morse Rooms. Present: Chairman Malcolm Reid, members George Elenbaas, Frank Hubley, Jeanne Steele Kangas, Eric Wong, Maria Neyland, Absent: John Rosamond, who sent an email message to the Chair. Also present: Police Chief Warren Ryder and Fire Chief Randy White, Selectman Jim Gorman, and Town Planner Adam Duchesneau. Also: Neighborhood residents Frank Coolidge, Andrew Bernard, and Matt Fearer.
2. Jeanne Steele Kangas agreed to serve again as Clerk.
3. The Minutes of the September 3, 2015 meeting were approved.
4. The Chairman asked members if there were any other sites for the pole and antenna that should be considered, outside of the Middle Road site. Frank Hubley stated that he didn't have enough time to get his 'homework' done-- best estimate of the cost to construct a 100' monopole at Liberty Fields.
 - a. 45' Propagation study at Middle Road. Chief Ryder noted that the propagation study presented at our last meeting on September 3rd ("Police Talk-Out") does address the 45' antenna, as the antenna would run up the length of the pole, and the propagation study was for Police Talk-Out at 30' and Fire Talk-Out at 35'. Frank Hubley noted that "Talk-Out" means from the base to the receiver.
 - b. 100' propagation study at Liberty Field. Chief Ryder presented a new propagation study, "VHF Portable Radio Coverage, Police, Talk-Out", showing the Middle Road and Liberty Square (Liberty Fields) sites, showing the Middle Road site at 30' and the Liberty Fields site at 100'. Jim Gorman stated the handout is confusing and that a study showing each site separately would be better. Members concurred. Chief Ryder explained that the "Reliability Displayed" at 95% means that the communication in the remaining 5% is not clear, and has garbled, fuzzy or missed words. Chairman Reid stated that we need to be prompt in our deliberations. Maria Nyland added that we need to know what we want to make our decision, and that separate maps of propagation studies are needed, and Windermere site should be included. Jeanne Kangas asked if anyone had determined that there is any municipal land at the Windermere site, isn't it all Conservation-protected? Town Planner Adam Duchesneau stated that possibly the 24' wide road is still municipal land. Jim Gorman added that a "paper road" is there, where a Subdivision may have been planned; but Jeanne stated she believed that it is all Conservation land now. Chairman Reid observed that we would

need any pole to be away from the boundary line by its height, anyway. George Elenbaas stated that the site is too iffy to be considered. The Committee decided not to continue considering the Windermere site.

- c. Issues related to 100' monopole at Liberty Field. Mac Reid asked if so, where would a second pole be located that the Liberty Fields site would require. George stated that we asked for this propagation study to see if a Liberty Fields site would be a viable option, and it looks like the answer is No. Chief Ryder added that even if we installed a 100' monopole, it would be 20' lower than the Middle Road site (440' vs. 460'), meaning that is the difference in elevation between a 45' pole on Middle Road and a 100' pole at Liberty Field; and that the site would cost us an estimated \$200,000 more than the Middle Road site. Chairman Reid asked the visitors to comment. Andrew Bernard stated that safety is important, and why shouldn't we cover as many residents as we can, and was answered that is what we are trying to do. Matt Fearer asked if the Swanson Road area has good coverage because of the transmitter there, and was answered affirmatively. The Town Planner noted that the Liberty Field site appears as 'Municipal' in the Overlay District, but that if the pole is over 45' tall, the Zoning Board of Appeals would have to be involved. Jeanne Kangas said that would include a 100' monopole there, and Adam stated Yes. Looking at the large map showing elevations, Jeanne noted that the highest points at Liberty Fields are in the northwest corner, and are only 390' to 400', and not 440' - which is 50 to 60' lower than the Middle Road site. Members stated that we need to get separate maps of the Middle Road and Liberty (Square) Field sites, and that at the latter site, even more residents would be affected. Maria Nyland stated that we'd have the public uproar all over again if that site were considered seriously. Eric Wong stated that even with the propagation study presented today, the Liberty Fields site is no better. George Elenbaas said that was not proven, and emphasized that we need another separate propagation study to be sure whether the Liberty Fields site is viable. Chairman Reid asked do we then have to wait until our next meeting to make a recommendation? Maria noted that maps are not perfect, but we should decide on the Liberty Fields site now. Eric Wong agreed. George stated that we don't have the cost numbers and engineering data from Frank Hubley yet, and that we should base any decision on factual information and not decide now. Chairman Reid noted that this really is a political committee that is charged to consider public concerns. Upon George's Motion to continue to consider Liberty Fields, seconded by Frank Hubley, it was VOTED in the affirmative, 4 to 2.

- d. Comparisons of pole locations near the Museum (Middle Road). George Elenbaas presented his measuring of elevations of the three pole locations at the Middle Road site. The present pole, the 2-2X pole with the light on it, is 2'7" lower than the site at the back left corner of the parking lot; and the 2-1X pole is 18' from Middle Road but 7' lower than that back corner. Gas and

electric service run underground to the southwest corner of the Museum building, and we'd have to consult with Dig Safe for the location data. Frank Hubley stated that we can't cross an existing line; and George agreed. Frank also produced an original plot plan from the Town Building Inspector which appeared to show that all three of these locations were feasible as it relates to underground cables. Discussion ensued about the accuracy of the Dig Safe data. Maria offered that we'd have to go before the ZBA for more than a 45' pole, and that would slow down any installation, and we have to be sure a 45' pole would give us the coverage we need. Jeanne Kangas said that security lighting is needed at the Museum IF the present light is removed, reminding all about the robbery at the No. 2 Schoolhouse. Neighbor Matt Fearer stated that a 30' pole with 15' antenna above it would be better than the present light. Jeanne asked how long would it take to get ZBA to consider any pole taller than 45'. Adam Duchesneau replied that the ZBA meets the 1st and 3rd Tuesday at Town Hall. Maria said then it would be mid-November before any decision. Chief Ryder noted that a 35' pole with 10' antennae would work. Chairman Reid stated that the northwest corner of the parking lot is higher, but if the neighbors like the 2-1X pole location, then maybe that'd be okay. Neighbor Andrew Bernard stated that the 2-1X pole location seems best. Chairman Reid then asked Frank for construction costs, and visibility issues of a 100' monopole at Liberty Field, taking a look at present tree height, and to report at our next meeting. So agreed. Chief Ryder stated he'd include for our consideration a separate VHF/UHF propagation study of Talk-Out if a 100' monopole were at the Liberty Field site.

5. Community input was solicited during the meeting.
6. No recommendation to the Board of Selectmen could be made today, as more data and information is needed.
7. Next meeting: 8AM on Wednesday, September 23 at Town Hall.
8. No other business came before the Committee.
9. The meeting adjourned at 9:08 AM.

Jeanne Steele Kangas , Clerk Pro tem.