



Town of Middlefield Communications Committee

Open meeting: October 13, 2015

Committee members present:

Joe Kearns
Howard Knickerbocker
Steve Harris

Emergency responders present:

Tom Austin
Bob Hynosky

Selectboard members present:

Dave Dinicola

Minutes:

Meeting called to order at 6:15 pm.

Reviewed and approved minutes from September 15.

Discussed need for emergency communications upgrade:

- Town became painfully aware of inadequate emergency communications coverage when Tom was unable to communicate for help during River Road drowning.
- This is a severe public safety issue, especially given the town's aging demographics.
- Pagers do not receive alert signals in many areas of town.
- Specialized low power repeaters will be installed in at least two fire trucks and the police cruiser. These local repeaters will enable portable communication with central dispatch or other town units when portable units are in proximity to the repeater equipped vehicles.
- Hampshire County will put relay on the Chester Fire Tower.
- Upgrade will occur in two distinct stages:
 1. Implement the switch to Hampshire dispatch with Selectboard approval, and
 2. Hold STM to approve funding, and install Town Hall & mobile repeaters.

Minutes of the September 15 meeting approved as read.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm.