



# Town of Middlefield

## Communications Committee

Open meeting: December 8, 2015

### Committee members present:

Howard Knickerbocker  
Steve Harris  
Joe Kearns

### Others present:

Tom Austin (part of meeting)

### Minutes:

Meeting called to order at 3:40 pm.

Approved minutes of 11/30 & 12/2 meetings as read.

Steve reported on conference call with Director Eric Nakajima and MBI staff to discuss the wireless broadband pilot proposal:

- Scheduled 12/17 meeting at Westboro HQ with staff & Middlefield's technical consultant to work on details.
- MBI to forward copies of Royalston pilot docs.

Howard discussed preliminary design for an enhanced town-wide emergency communications repeater system.

- Handed out copy of his correspondence with Jackie Duda (appended to following page).
- Reported he was unable to engage Alex Rock of Pioneer Communications.
- Tom to talk to Bob Garriepy, the Huntington Police Chief re contacting Alex.

Meeting adjourned at 5:20 pm.

From: Jackie Duda – 3 December 2015

I believe we can put together funding for this. I talked with Larry Holmberg, who is the Emergency Manager in Chesterfield and serves on the Western Regional Homeland Security Council (WRHSC). They get funding from Homeland Security to give out to projects like this. Larry explained that Cummington recently got funding for this exact thing. But it is not guaranteed, there are some hoops of course. WRHSC money has to benefit regionally, meaning, money we request cannot be used for the benefit of only one town, but several. So the communication needs with surrounding towns would be important to stress in any application. But that is for later. First let me read what you have sent and MF get the new ED on record, then we will proceed from there.

**From:** Jackieduda [mailto:jackieduda@yahoo.com]

**Sent:** Friday, December 04, 2015 6:33 PM

**To:** Jackie Duda <health@easthampton.org>

**Subject:** Re: Radios

Hello Howard,

Read both docs. Nicely done. Boy, is Middlefield lucky to have you on this project!

So, my thoughts on getting funding for the radios are : we could pitch the entire cost to wrshc and might get it, but only if we can demonstrate that this expenditure will benefit more than one town. Also, it has to be related to emergency planning. This second portion is easier to demonstrate, i believe, because middlefield, like its name, is in the middle of several other towns, and because Middlefield is so remote and rural that it has unique communication needs in an emergency, etc, so i feel that part is easy enough to demonstrate. Question for you and the communication committee to ponder is this: How will the purchase of this system directly benefit bordering towns for emergency planning purposes, i.e. How will it benefit chester or peru or huntington or others to talk with us in a mutual emergency? If you can come up with some good answers to this, i think we might have an application. Of course i will be happy to help write it.

Also, next week i will try to reach the cummington fire chief to see how they got their radio system funded...maybe they will share their written submission with us so we can see what worked for them.

### **Coalition vote re radios**

From Jackie Duda health@easthampton.orghide details

To 'Howard Knickerbocker' howardk758@aol.com

Hello Howard:

At the most recent HPHPC meeting, the coalition board voted to give MF the radio case. This consists of a VHF radio, UHF radio (base radios set into a custom hard case), with mic; antennas for each; and a Motorola handheld. Would you like to take possession if these? I will need you to sign a receipt for my records so I can take them out of my inventory here. I can deliver it when I am next in town. You might be able to pull the components apart and make use of them, or leave them as is and I will explain how they were designed to be used with the Coalition repeater (which we can test once there to see if it reaches).

Jackie