

Wallingford Police Station Steering Committee Minutes

SPECIAL MEETING

Monday, June 13, 2022 @ 2PM
Town Hall, 45 S. Main Street
Room 315

PRESENT: Alison Kapushinski, Town Engineer, Steering Committee Chair, Vincent Cervoni, Town Council Chairman, William Dickinson, Mayor, Jon Walworth, John Ventura, Police Chief, Anthony DeMaio, , Deputy Chief of Police, Joe Vecellio, Police Department, Richard Heidgerd, Retired Fire Chief, Rob Baltramaitis, Director of Public Works, Jeff Anderson, Downes Construction, Brian Humes, Jacunski Humes, Julie Riebold, NorcomCT, Eric Fine, NorcomCT, Peter Gall, NorcomCT, Jason D'Andria NorcomCT, Catherine, NorComCT

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m.

Agenda Items

1. Presentation by NorcomCT regarding the Communication needs for 100 Barnes Road.

Mr. Gall stated that a couple of months ago there was discussion about how to connect the new building at 100 Barnes Rd. into the current infrastructure. It was estimated that there would need to be about a 160 foot tower built on the property. The Town of Wallingford runs a trunked communication system which serves the Police Department, the Fire Department and portions of the school system. That network covers all of the Town of Wallingford and is interconnected with the State of Connecticut system to provide coverage outside of Town. The link that would need to go to the Police Department would service the 911 communication consoles.

Ms. Kapushinski said there was a meeting a couple of months ago with herself, Mayor Dickinson, and Chief Ventura at which we were told that there may only be a need for an amplifier for the building. She asked what has changed since then. Mr. Gall replied that the amplifier would only provide coverage within the building. The tower would allow connection into the rest of the radio network. There are different way to achieve this, but the wireless connection that the system uses now is the preferred method. There are no recurring charges related to it. It is actually owned by the Town.

The tower that is located at the current Police Department has two purposes and was provided as part of the radio system project. One purpose is to provide coverage in the downtown corridor. The tower also supports a link that gets you back to the rest of the radio system towers around town. One of those towers was built at Cook Hill. There was talk early on regarding the possibility of moving that tower. The tower provides a dual purpose. It provides radio coverage but is also provides a link back into the

radio network. If you were to relocate the 911 center, you still have to enter into the radio network. Ms. Riebold asked if the decision was made to keep the tower at its current location. Ms. Kapushinski stated that initially it was the Town's understanding that there wasn't a need for a tower at the new location and that the current tower would remain at 135 N. Main St. Ms. Riebold responded that the reason it needs to remain is for the radio coverage from the system out to the officers. You would also need a tower at 100 Barnes Rd. in order for the dispatchers to communicate wirelessly on the radio system. If the Town is agrees to have a terrestrial connection then there is not a need for the tower at 100 Barnes Rd. Providing an amplifier at the new building is a separate issue apart from the dispatchers accessing the radio system. There was some discussion about whether Tower Drive could be reached from the roof of the new building. It was determined that it was not practical. This results in a tower being needed at the new building.

Mayor Dickinson stated that at a previous meeting it was definitive that a tower at 100 Barnes Rd. was not necessary. There was no discussion of the secondary need related to dispatch. Ms. Riebold responded that it was determined that if the tower at 135 N. Main St. was to be taken down, there would still be a need for a tower in the downtown area. It was determined because of the elevation, a tower is necessary at 100 Barnes Rd. in order to reach either Tower Drive or Cook Hill.

Chairman Cervoni asked if a terrestrial connection is practical. Ms. Riebold replied that the system is designed to be wireless. The wireless connection is in the air with a clear line of sight.

The Mayor asked if there was an estimate for the cost of installing a tower. Ms. Riebold replied that the estimate is \$500,000. The Mayor stated that cost represents a major change in the project cost. Ms. Riebold responded that they needed to do a study before a definitive decision was made.

Chief Ventura asked if a new tower was installed at 100 Barnes Rd. would the current equipment be left at 135 N. Main Street. Ms. Riebold responded that both towers would be necessary for wireless connectivity.

Mr. Walworth asked if in addition to the cost of a new tower at 100 Barnes Rd there were any ancillary costs associated with it. Ms. Riebold stated that the initial estimate for the move was \$1.5 to \$1.8 million. The \$500,000 cost is just for the tower. The additional cost is for the microwave link, relocation and additional equipment for the police department. These numbers may change as the scope changes.

Mr. Walworth asked if there would be additional design fees for Norcom. Ms. Riebold responded that they do not charge design fees. She stated that if the Town decides to do no improvements, the current equipment is moved, fiber is installed and put antennas on the roof it could range from \$50,000 - \$150,000. If the Town decides to install a new tower, it would be part of the building process but Norcom would give recommendations regarding the tower at no cost to the Town. That would become part of the bid package. The Town would not purchase the tower from Norcom. If consult position equipment or a microwave link, that would be a Motorola project.

Mayor Dickinson asked if these expenses are already included in the project. Ms. Kapushinski responded that these expenses would be included in the design development estimate that should be available in the next three weeks. Norcom agreed to provide the Committee with specifications for a new tower, as well as moving the existing equipment. The Committee would then review the options and decide which direction to go. Norcom would not provide the final estimate, they will provide a scope of services for each option. Norcom stated it would probably take a couple of weeks to provide

the Committee that information. That information would be provided to a contractor who will then provide an estimate for each option. Ms. Riebold stated they will get an estimated date of delivery for the two options to the Committee within the next few days.

2. Discussion and possible action regarding invoice approvals - Walworth

Mr. Walworth asked if the Committee felt that invoices submitted over a certain dollar amount should be approved by the Committee and include a formal vote by the Committee. Ms. Kapushinski stated that the only drawback to that would be that it may delay processing the invoice due to meeting schedules. After some discussion, The Committee agreed that Ms. Kapushinski would bring copies of the invoices to the Regular Meetings for their review as part of the Subcommittee updates. Ms. Kapushinski stated that this process could change in the future if necessary. She distributed invoices from Jacunski Humes and Downes Construction to the Committee for their review.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting.

Made by: Mr. Walworth

Seconded by: Mr. Heidgerd

Votes: 5 Ayes

The meeting was adjourned at 3:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Dighello
Recording Secretary