

**Selectmen's Meeting**  
**August 11, 2014**  
**4:00 pm**

A meeting of the Board was held on the above date in the meeting room of Town Hall. Members present were: Arthur Smadbeck, Chairman; Michael J. Donaroma; and Margaret E. Serpa. Also present was Ms. Pamela Dolby, Town Administrator.

At 4:00 pm Mr. Smadbeck opened the meeting and an NStar hearing to install cable and conduit on Mullen Way. Present were Atty. Martin "Skip" Tommasian, Jr. and Michael Kidder. Mr. Smadbeck noted that the representative for NStar had not arrived yet.

Atty. Tommasian stated that he and his client Mr. Kidder had several questions and reservations about the location of the conduit. He asked that it not be considered until the questions could be answered.

Mr. Smadbeck replied without the representative from NStar present it would be difficult to have the hearing. The Board continued the hearing until August 25th.

Ms. Dolby stated that the office would give Mr. Tommasian the contact number for NStar and hopefully they could work something out in time for the 25th.

*(The NStar representative did arrive at a later time due to August traffic. She was informed of the continuance and the concerns of Mr. Kidder)*

Mr. Smadbeck then opened the discussion on Chappaquiddick Wireless Service. The room was full of residents of Chappaquiddick, year round and seasonal. He started by stating that there is a committee who have been working for 2-3 years on getting wireless service to Chappaquiddick. They have been focusing on DAS service without much headway. The Board would like to know what the people of Chappaquiddick would like to do next. The Board thinks the next step would be to send out an expanded Request for Proposals (RFP) open to any type of wireless technology just to see what is out there. They would like guidance from the residents to see if that is what they would want.

Mr. Bob Gurnitz, a member of the wireless committee, stated that he would like to see the expanded RFP go out. He felt the committee was "spinning its wheels".

There were many nods of approval from the audience.

Mr. Roger Becker then stood up to present his thoughts. He started by saying some (not all) of the committee had put together a survey asking residents if they wanted an over height tower as the Board wanted.

Mr. Smadbeck interrupted that the Board did not at any time say they wanted an over height tower. The RFP would be for ALL options and not specific for a tower.

Mr. Becker excused the misspeak and continued that they had sent out 717 surveys to which they received 73 responses or about 10%. He explained the results of the surveys received which are attached to these minutes. He also laid out some of the pros and cons of towers and DAS systems which are also attached.

Ms. Ellen Gurnitz asked the Board to put out the RFP and see what was available. She added that the survey was skewed to DAS and worded strangely, which was the reason they only received a 10% response.

Mr. Becker feels that the zoning by-laws would have to be changed to accommodate a tower.

Ms. Georgiana Greenough, Planning Board Assistant, responded that the tower would need a special permit. There is a process.

Mr. Bob Colvin stated that an important part of the survey is that a third of the responders had no cell service at their property. This is an emergency safety issue.

Ms. Claire Thacher stated that she had a land line and was happy with that.

Ms. Ellen Sole brought up the incident with Mr. Allen Wilson when he was struck by lightning in his house through the window. The lightning knocked out the land line and the cell phones didn't work. Mrs. Wilson had to wait until the storm abated to drive to a spot the cell phone would work. Mr. Wilson was eventually flown off island for treatment. The doctors said he was lucky to

be alive. If Mrs. Wilson had been able to get cell service at home, the Emergency Services could have been there a lot sooner.

Mr. Tom Tilghman stated that if the town wants a survey they should put it together themselves. It would be more objective. He has two landlines and he still needs his cell phone.

Mr. Lionel Spiro stated that the new towers in the Katama Silo should help with service. Everyone would like better service, but he is worried about rushing to a decision and “injuring Chappaquiddick”. It is a special place. He would like to see an aesthetically pleasing solution.

Mr. Robert Ozycz, Sr. stated that Mr. Spiro lives on the side closest to the silo in Katama. His house is on the other side in the Enos lots. The new silo tower was not going to help his situation. He has no service. He noted a story of a friend on Pip’n Circle that had a heart attack two days after the land line phones were restored after a big storm. If they didn’t have the land line he would not have made it.

Mr. Peter Getsinger stated that he wants the town to work with the Wireless Committee to expand the RFP and be environmentally sensitive about the solution.

Mr. Tilghman stated he wanted an open minded committee that has a wide focus to options and is not focused on just one solution.

Mr. Paul Majane approached town about 5 years ago when a worker was hurt at his house. He suggested using a piece of his land which is at 90’ above sea level for a tower. A tower on his land would not have to be too tall and his abutters are the MV Land Bank. Verizon was interested at that time. He gets cell service through gps. The town should find out what’s available. Wireless possibilities are expanding all the time.

Mr. John Dropick stated that this was a safety issue. He encouraged the Board to send out an expanded RFP to see what’s available.

Ms. Fran Clay, committee member, stated that their goal is to find any possibilities. Verizon was open to cooperating but said we were too small for DAS.

Mr. Dennis Goldin, committee member, stated that all technologies were reviewed and that they wanted to preserve the iconic vision of town. He didn’t see a tower as a good fit. He blamed the Board for not getting Verizon on board.

Ms. Dolby took great offense at that inclination. She talked to the man from Verizon after Mr. Goldin had asked her to and gave him a deadline to respond. He called back the very next day and stated that he had no interest in putting a DAS system on Chappaquiddick. She had planned to put him on the agenda if this was a solution.

Mr. Becker asked if Ms. Dolby had asked Verizon if they would be interested in a tower.

Ms. Dolby responded that was not the point of the conversation and that they never discussed it.

Ms. Joanne Sullivan asked if there were no responses to the RFP if the town was responsible for providing cell service.

Mr. Smadbeck responded that it was a utility and not an emergency service. That would have to be looked into. He wanted to first see what the response to an expanded RFP would be.

Mr. Clark Sole stated he would like to see the responses to an expanded RFP.

Mr. Tilghman stated that they needed a broader based committee.

Mr. Chris Kennedy, Superintendent for TTOR MV, stated that he was very concerned about the lack of cell service on Chappy. They receive emergency calls all the time that drop and they have to call back if they can. He stated that a third of all calls are dropped. He gave two stories of near deadly consequences of not having cell service.

Mr. Spiro suggested that a financial contribution could be made to a DAS carrier to make it worth their while.

Mr. Colvin suggested having more than one company on the RFP.

Mr. Gurnitz responded that was how towers work. A company builds the tower and companies rent space.

Ms. Greenough stated that was something called co-location.

Ms. Gurnitz asked if the Board could hold a group vote to measure the group's opinion on issuing an expanded RFP.

Ms. Hatsy Potter wanted someone to explain the possible options.

Mr. Smadbeck explained that the RFP responses would answer that question and then the answers would be considered.

Mr. Becker was offended at the insult he felt as a member of the committee that they have not been doing anything.

Mr. Smadbeck asked those that would like the Board to send out an expanded RFP to raise their hands. There was an overwhelmingly positive response with only a couple of people keeping their hands down.

The decision was made for the Board of Selectmen to expand the RFP and have another community meeting with the responses.

Mr. Getsinger asked for an update on the Katama Silo.

Ms. Dolby stated that there were questions on the integrity of the silo. Someone was going to look at it this week. They may have to rebuild it. She estimated service by Spring 2015.

Mr. Becker interjected that he was concerned about the safety issues on the beaches and wanted call boxes placed in intervals on the beach.

Ms. Dolby responded that fire and police radios were upgraded recently.

Mr. Smadbeck finished by stating that they would send out the new RFP and start there. He thanked everyone for coming which was met by a round of applause.

After a short time so the room could clear out, the Board approved the following items:

The minutes of August 8, 2014.

For the Firemen to hang their Pancake Breakfast banner.

Permission to a local artist to have an event at the Lighthouse.

To regretfully accept the retirement of Police Sergeant Ken Johnson as of September 17, 2014.

For the Rotary to hold the annual MV Bike Challenge on October 4, 2014 with permission from the Police and Highway departments.

The Board received a letter of recommendation to appoint Julia Celeste to the Sign Advisory Committee as their representative. The Board then appointed Ms. Celeste.

A One Day Liquor License for Piknik Gallery for an opening event.

A Travel Voucher for the Water Department

Ms. Dolby then asked about Robert's Way. The Police and Fire would like it reopen. Traffic is an issue.

Mr. Donaroma stated that the Library Building Committee would look into it.

Ms. Greenough then stated that the Planning Board will be having their 5th hearing on the Edgartown Lofts project.

Mr. Donaroma replied that the Board was looking forward to a vote.

At 5:02PM Mr. Donaroma moved to close the meeting. Ms. Serpa seconded. Unanimous.

Approved:

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Arthur Smadbeck, Chairman

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Michael J. Donaroma

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Margaret E. Serpa  
Board of Selectmen

Respectfully submitted,

Kristy Rose  
Assistant