The Town & Public Safety Communication System Replacement Project

Update for Town Council

September 1, 2022

Background

• In January 2022, the Town Council approved a lease amendment with SBA Communications for the Huckleberry Hill tower site. Note that we anticipate SBA will make its application to the CT Siting Council in the coming months.

• Since that time, staff have worked with Motorola and the State to determine a system design, site configuration and coverage standard that will achieve our public safety coverage objectives and remain cost effective.
Background

• Town requested pricing for two options.
• Both options will have the following characteristics:
  • 3 sites – Talcott Mtn./WFSB, Landfill, Ridgewood
  • DMR system for Avon Public Schools
• We continue to work with Motorola to further refine the project particulars and the capital costs associated with these options.

Option A – State System

• Full integration of Town’s system and infrastructure with the State’s network.
• Avon’s additions to the state system would enhance coverage in Avon and surrounding areas.
• State would manage most of the daily operations of the system.
• Town would be required to build and maintain two town-owned sites.
• Town’s coverage will benefit from other state system sites in the area.
Option B – Campus System

- Independent Town-owned communication system that would tie into the state’s network.
- Town responsible for all daily operations and management of system.
- Town responsible for all maintenance functions outside warranty period.
- Town would be required to build and maintain three Town-owned sites.
- Town’s system coverage would be based on the Town’s three sites only.

Recommendation: Option A

- Lower capital and operating cost
  - Estimate savings of approximately $400K over five years by selecting Option A - fewer Town sites to construct/maintain; lower cost for maintenance and service
- Provides the Town with opportunities to benefit from future state funding.
- State will assume day to day monitoring of the equipment.
- Avon users will benefit from the state’s current and future infrastructure in the surrounding area.
- Positive experience from other municipalities that have moved to the state system.
**Recommendation: Purchase & Install DMR System**

- Staff recommend moving forward with the purchase and installation of a Digital Mobile Radio (DMR) System for the Avon Public Schools at this time.
- While this is a component of the larger project, it can be implemented as a stand alone system and is ready to be purchased and installed at this time.
- Plan to run a competitive RFP process this fall. Request funding through ARPA.