

**MINUTES
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
MAY 17, 2012**

Board members Edmund Tarnuzzer, Michele Shoemaker and Charles Barney met at the Fire Station at 9:00 a.m. to conduct a site visit concerning the installation of a 120-ft. replacement communication tower that was the subject of a May 14th public hearing for Special Permit and Variance.

Fire Chief Michael McLaughlin, Fire Capt. John Benoit and Police Chief William Bosworth were in attendance.

Chief McLaughlin advised that it is planned to raise the temporary tower to its full height of 110 feet. Tests will be conducted to determine coverage areas at tower heights of 60 feet, 100 feet and 120 feet. With the temporary tower at 100 feet there has been some improvement for Fire Dept. coverage but not at acceptable levels. Some pagers will not open in certain areas, and Lake Boon coverage is not good. Chief Bosworth said that Police Dept. coverage has never been better. He noted that the department depends on the Fire Station tower. The tower on the Police Station is for back up only.

There will be three antennas on the tower: Fire Dept. on low band; Police on VHF; and Fire on a new UHF frequency. As for lighting, Chief McLaughlin advised he has been in contact with the FAA and FCC regarding regulations. When the tower was first placed into operation, the red and white lights were activated. Soon there were complaints from neighbors about the brightness of the white light, so it was turned off. The possibility of shielding the white light upward will be explored, if a light on the tower is required.

The approximate location of the new tower was viewed. The elevation at that point is higher than that of the parking lot where the temporary tower is resting. It was learned that a six-foot high fence around the base will be required. The placement is not too far from the new driveway to Center School.

Chief McLaughlin advised that insurance will not cover lease of the temporary tower after May 31st. He has been in contact with Homeland Security who expressed willingness to allow the tower to remain for a while longer.

As there was not a quorum of four members present, it was determined that discussion concerning the special permit and variance will be deferred to the June 4th regular meeting. Chief McLaughlin expected to have additional information for the Board's consideration by that time.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Catherine A. Desmond
Secretary to the Board