



TOWN OF SOUTH KINGSTOWN, RI  
COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

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## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Jay Parker

**Cc:** Richard Bourbonnais

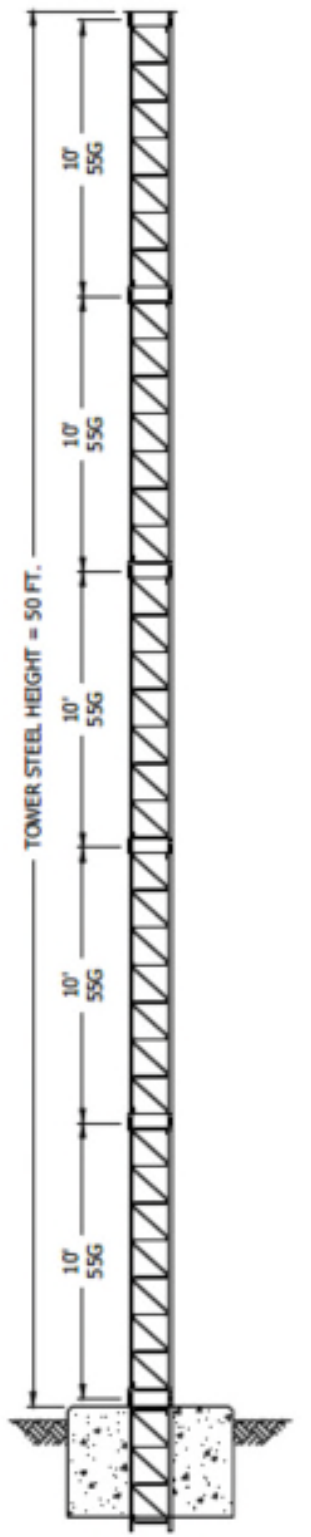
**Subject:** Development Plan Review  
Communications Tower  
Union Fire District, Station 6

**Date:** March 23, 2022

The Town is currently working on a four (4) site simulcast radio project for a Town wide radio system. This new radio system will have the ability for Fire (Union Fire District and Kingston Fire District), Police, EMS, Highway, Schools, and mutual aid partners (including Hope Valley, Richmond, and Charlestown) to effectively communicate with each other assuring greater response when needed. As it is now Police and EMS are on the State owned 800 MhZ system while Fire is on a UHF frequency. Highway and Schools are on a VHF frequency. Presently, there is no common channel for interoperability.

To date we have three (3) confirmed sites, Tefft Hill Water Tower, Public Services Tower, and the Mautucket Water Tower. Originally, the fourth was going to be at the Narragansett, North End Fire Station. The new system needs internal space to accommodate equipment and because the fire station is aging, it would take a substantial amount of money to renovate the second floor and upgrade the electrical system to support the radio equipment. After meeting with our radio vendor, along with our radio consultant it was found that the UFD Station 6, Tower Hill Road was a perfect location and would provide critical coverage from Middlebridge to Broad Rock School while effectively communicating with the other three confirmed sites. Additionally, Union Fire District is a major stake holder in the new radio system and the Fire Station has recently seen an upgrade therefore the internal space is available and will work perfectly for the new equipment. The proposed tower will be provided emergency power with an existing UFD emergency generator.

The proposal includes an 80 ft. three post lattice tower (image attached) with internally housed equipment. The location for the tower is somewhat central to the site providing adequate distance from abutters and to an existing on-site wetland (<3 acres). The tower is placed close enough to the fire station to avoid necessary long range booster equipment while maintaining more than 240 ft. from Route 1 (front property line). Proposed construction practices will include erosion control measures and proper material storage as required by Town Ordinance.



Narragansett Pier School

Detail  
(for 50' tower)