

BEDFORD PUBLIC WORKS



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Roy E. Sorenson - *Director*

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Date: May 22, 2015

To: Richard T. Reed – Town Manager

From: Roy E. Sorenson - Director

RE: Communications Tower

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "R. Sorenson", followed by the date "5/22/15".

As you know Paul Bergman of Bergman and Associates has been procured to assist the Town in the preliminary conceptual design and permitting for the proposed communications tower to be located at the Crosby Drive Water Tank site. This tower will be used to house both the town's radio equipment as well as the private cellular equipment currently residing on the top of the water tank. The water tank is an important component of our water infrastructure and needs to be painted to ensure that we meet our obligation both as a public water supplier and as part of our 2012 response to the Administrative Consent Order from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection.

The communications equipment on the tank was attached in the early 1990's when many communities including Bedford realized the opportunity for significant revenue from a growing industry. Water tanks offered a prime location as they were an established structure on high points of the terrain. However as companies merged and technology grew the work proposed to upgrade the equipment multiplied and created concerns regarding the structural susceptibility and maintenance of the tank. It has become increasingly difficult to scrape and paint tanks that have equipment on them. The proposal for removal of the equipment from the tank was first vetted in 2008 when funding was secured at annual town meeting. Since that time the Town has investigated the project with multiple consultants and is now in a position to move forward on the design and construction of the tower.

The presentation tonight will illustrate the background of the project and propose a design for a new communications tower. Over the past year Town staff has been working with its consultant including several meetings and correspondence from the cellular carriers to best move forward on this important project.

I am available should you have questions.