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Memorandum

TO: Town Council
FROM: Robert H. Stabe Jr., Town Manager
DATE: January 6, 2016
SUBJECT: Cell Tower Update

The Town has clearly determined that a significant deficiency in cellular signal coverage exists within the Town that can only be improved with the addition of a cellular communications tower.

Datapath has examined and researched several sites for the location of a cell tower and is currently continuing to look at other potential locations within the Town. A careful review must take into account the coverage quality and minimizing adverse effects on nearby residential communities. In addition, improved cellular connectivity will improve the Public Safety of our residents by improving cell phone connectivity for residents to be able to call 911 in an emergency and for improved dispatching of Police, Fire and Medical emergency vehicles as well.

I met with representatives of Datapath Towers along with Town Attorney, Chester Clem, Mayor Barefoot and Finance Committee Chairman, Bob Auwaerter today. At the recommendation of Mr. Clem, it was decided that Datapath Towers will make their presentation directly to the Town Council rather than to the Town's Planning/Zoning/Variance Board.

At this time the plan is to schedule a well-publicized Special-Called Town Council meeting that will include public input sometime in mid-February. In order to ensure that there will be sufficient time for residents to address the Town Council and provide their input and comments, the cell tower will be the only item on the agenda.

Once all the Town residents have been heard, the Town Council will then deliberate and vote on whether or not a cell tower will be constructed, the height, type of tower, and the location, following the restrictive guidelines of our new ordinance.