



# Hubbardston Police and Fire Achieve Enhanced Radio Communications from New Tower

**Hubbardston, MA - October 19, 2023** – The Town of Hubbardston is pleased to announce the newly constructed communications tower on Gardner Road is now fully operational for use by the Hubbardston Police and Fire Departments, in partnership with the Rutland Regional Emergency Communication Center. This culminates years of planning and preparation to improve emergency communication abilities in Hubbardston.

The Hubbardston Tower provides significantly enhanced radio coverage throughout the town for police officers and firefighters responding to emergencies. Testing has shown tremendous improvements on radio frequencies from the new tower.

Construction of the tower was made possible through several grants awarded by the Massachusetts State 911 Department Grant Program. The Rutland Regional Emergency Communication Center will utilize additional grant funds to purchase upgraded equipment for the Hubbardston Tower and existing facilities in Barre, Oakham, and Rutland.

With the tower now complete, Hubbardston officials will jointly work with Rutland to issue a Request for Proposals inviting commercial cellular carriers to locate facilities on the tower. This will improve cell service in the area while generating lease revenue aimed at lower shared regional communications assessments. Efforts have been hindered to date by outdated language in Hubbardston's Telecommunications Bylaw.

The Hubbardston Tower represents a major advancement for public safety communications and progress toward modern commercial cellular service. Hubbardston thanks the State 911 Department and Rutland Regional Emergency Communication Center for their essential support in achieving this milestone.

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