

Vermont Public Utility Commission:

Since the first proposal came through there have been two murders in the West Enosburg area, one that resulted in days long search by emergency personnel and neighbors helping to find one of their own. It was at this point that the conversation should solely become how we as a community can provide the tools that our residents need to feel and stay safe, including our first responders, many of whom are volunteers.

We have all seen the uptick in unsafe behaviors in Enosburg ranging from road rage to drag racing in the Village streets, needles being found on school grounds, rampant theft, stores being robbed at gun point.... These incidents and the topic of safety is often raised by residents at local community meetings and brought to the attention of our Selectboard and Village Trustees. While I hope and pray that we've reached the peak, there is no way to predict the future and all we can do is our best to ensure that our community members feel as safe as possible and have the tools they need moving forward.

Communication is a key tool during an emergency, for both the emergency responders and the victim. And, it is to the advantage of our community and its residents to utilize all available technology to maximize our fiscal and human resources in providing swift and efficient response.

I have been perplexed by the reluctance of decision makers to support the tower on Bordoville given that this technology already exists in Enosburg. The tower by Birch Lane and on the Methodist Church steeple are in high density residential areas, within close proximity to our schools and historical buildings and yet have been deemed safe and useful tools by the decision makers at the local and state levels as they approved these projects which have been serving the Village for years. We should be striving for consistency in policy.

I encourage you to find value in this added measure of communication and safety in West Enosburg, just as you have found that value in our Village.

In support of the tower project in West Enosburg,

Katherine Bennett
Adjoining landowner