



MINUTES

Town of Binghamton Planning Board

Monday December 6, 2021 | 6:00pm

In attendance: Dave West – Planning Board | Kathy Kiekel – Planning Board
Ray Mastin – Planning Board | Christopher Streno – Planning Board
Michael Donahue – Town Board Liaison | Alan Pope – Attorney

Attending via Zoom: Jared Lusk – Nixon Peabody LLP

Absent: Bill McGowan

The Special Meeting was called to order at 6:05pm. Mr. Jared Lusk was connected via Zoom and introductions were made between members and Mr. Lusk. Lusk was given the floor and gave a summary of the Verizon Wireless project.

Referencing the application packet he explained that there is currently an overload of usage on two existing towers and that the purpose of this project is to add antennas to the Broome County tower on Ingraham Hill Road to relieve the overload.

Graphs were shown describing the capacity utilization of the SUNY Binghamton Gamma sector and the Vestal Alpha Sector. According to the report, the SUNY Binghamton Gamma cannot support the traffic demand throughout the extents of the area it covers and is severely overloaded. The report also indicates that the Vestal Alpha Sector occasionally exceeds its capability. Both of these “overloads” lead to unreliable service for Verizon Wireless customers. To resolve these coverage and capacity deficiencies Verizon Wireless is seeking to add a new cell facility to this existing tower by extending the tower by 25 feet and installing six panel antennas and the associated equipment needed at the base of the antenna. The additional height of this project will require FAA lighting to be added and the details of said lighting are included in the application.

In addition to relieving the overload to those sectors, Lusk showed several coverage maps that projected a significant increase in Verizon wireless coverage over the town of Binghamton.

Mr. Lusk took questions from the Board.



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Kathy Kiekel asked about certification for structural capacity. Mr. Lusk explained that the project would include such certification however, due to supply chain issues and product availability, it would not be able to be completed until they knew exactly which particular antennas were chosen for the project.

Kiekel also inquired about the type of vehicles (large trucks) that would be at the site and a time frame for the project. Lusk felt that the only large vehicles needed may be to bring the antennas in and a crane to complete the install and he felt that it might only take a day or two for that portion of the project. The overall project could take one to three months to complete.

Ray Mastin inquired about some more specific wireless coverage in the town and expressed a desire to get better coverage to the area of Brookside Elementary School. Lusk did not have specific information regarding this coverage but took the address for the school and agreed to pass it along to the engineers to see what could be done.

There were no other questions from the Members. Lusk was informed by Attorney Pope that a Public Hearing would be required for this project so that the public would have an opportunity to comment. Mr. Pope's intention was to have the Town Board schedule this hearing at their next regularly scheduled board Meeting on December 21, 2021.

All members present voted to recommend the Town Board approve the project and Town Board Liaison Donahue agreed to notify the Board at their Work Session the following night, December 7.

The meeting was concluded and adjourned at 6:40

Respectfully submitted,

Christopher Streno -Planning Board Chairperson