

## **Town of Waterford 5G Task Force Committee**

**Meeting: December 10, 2020**

**Hurst Visitor Center**

**9:00 AM**

**Minutes**

**Attendance: Dave Woodin, Dave Ball (phone), Judy Houbre, Brian Gidley (phone)**

While task force members have been using the call in feature, we started allowing the public to also call in and one person from the public listened in. **Call (518)694-5646 Participant Code: 310506**

After introductions, Dave Woodin reviewed the status of the three major items that the task force was concentrating on: the Master License Agreement (MLA), the fee structure, and the Aesthetic Design standards.

The task force had submitted their edited comments regarding Don Boyajian's review of the MLA. Most of the comments were editorial. It was also noted that the marked up MLA by Boyajian was actually a marked up version of the approved Town of Niskayuna MLA. Boyajian used the Niskayuna MLA as a base to begin his review since the Niskayuna changes were already approved by Verizon. As a result, his changes were minimal. He will provide the task force with a clean version of the MLA that can be presented to the Town Board.

Next, the issue of fees was revisited. In correspondence with the City of Syracuse, they mentioned that they receive an annual fee of \$270 for city own poles that are used to support a small cell tower. Coincidentally, that is the same fee that the Town of Niskayuna is receiving from Verizon. The task force had previously felt that the Town of Waterford could not justify requesting a similar annual fee because in comparison to Niskayuna, Waterford would not be on the same scale as Niskayuna as a potential revenue generator for Verizon. However, seeing that Syracuse and Niskayuna both had the same approved fee structure (3<sup>rd</sup> party poles would generate \$135 annually for the municipality), the consensus was that Waterford should also try to receive the same annual compensation. The revenue received should be based on a maintenance cost associated with the pole and not its potential as a revenue generator.

Dave Woodin took the revised (November 2, 2020) City of Syracuse Aesthetic Design Standards and identified the changes made. He then reviewed them with the task force. There were no objections to the two additional paragraphs and one actually clarified a question that the Waterford task force had about the meaning of a Syracuse statement that essentially banned small cell poles in front of residences.

The task force was now in agreement with developing a cleaned version of its Aesthetic Design standards based on those developed by the City of Syracuse. Dave Woodin will contact the City of Syracuse to obtain a MS Word version of their standards. Once in possession of it, Woodin will make the necessary edits to create the Waterford version.

The last item discussed was how to roll out 5G in Waterford. After the next meeting, the plan will be to submit to the Town Board a copy of the suggested MLA, a fee structure, and a manual of Aesthetic Design Standards.

A workshop with the Town Board is recommended before the Town Board holds a public hearing and a vote to authorize the Supervisor to enter into an agreement with Verizon.

There have also been a number of news articles that have been published regarding 5G coming to the Capital District. The task force intends to collect them and make them available for the public. A web page should be established to keep the public informed of the process and any news (e.g. start date for implementation) that may be of interest. A FAQ section with questions that the task force has had to deal with would also be of interest to the public. This should alleviate some of the fears and misconceptions that may be on the minds of people. Judy Houbre volunteered to look into what other communities have done to establish a FAQ page.

The task force should attend the public hearing in order to answer questions that will eventually be included in the FAQs

Once the MLA is approved. It is likely that it will be several years before Verizon actually starts construction of small cell towers in Waterford. Verizon is also looking to have a MLA with the Village of Waterford. Verizon's intent is to focus on Northside and the Village initially as the utility poles are in place and it offers an urban type density compared to some of the subdivisions that are less dense and have underground utilities.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, December 30<sup>th</sup> @ 9 AM at the Hurst Visitor Center. Meeting adjourned at 9:45 AM.