

March 25, 2013

A special meeting of the Ligonier Borough Council was held Monday, March 25, 2013 @ 7:00 PM in the Ligonier Town Hall with President Robert Helterbran presiding. The purpose of the public meeting was to hear input on the proposed **Verizon cell phone tower** placed on Borough property.

Members present: Robert Helterbran, Kim Shaffer, James McDonnell, Robert Bell, Tom Freeman and Sam St. Clair. Absent was Judy Hoffer.

Others present: Secretary-Treasurer Paul Fry, Solicitor George Welty.

Chris Barton, representative of Verizon Wireless was present to answer questions and give background information on the proposed sites.

Mr. Barton explained the basics of the proposal. Verizon is looking to increase their service in the area. There are a number of sites both existing and proposed that would allow this. Barton explained that after Verizon engineers select the site. Owners are then contacted to inquire about interest to lease space either on which to build a new tower or on which to place antennas. Because of natural buildings that are the highest, usually candidates are churches because the existing steeples provide an area to prevent having to build a tower. This meeting in particular is in regards to two Borough properties. One being the public works building (301 Bunger St.) and one being 20 x 40 ft area behind the municipal building (112 N. Fairfield St.). The way the current borough building code reads, it would not allow Verizon to construct a tower without having some changes being made.

Currently the borough zoning code is being looked in to as well as the township's zoning code for the parcels that are under their jurisdiction as opposed to the borough.

When questioned on the appearance of the tower by Patti Campbell of East Church Street, Mr. Barton provided pictures to see what the mono pole tower would look like.

Barton explained that under the Borough's current code there isn't a parcel in the borough that would facilitate without multiple zoning variances.

When questioned by Rev. Paul Poerschke of 308 W Main Street, Mr. Barton explained that there would be no light on this particular proposed tower.

Robert Bell asked if there would be guide wires. Mr. Barton informed all that there would be no guide wires. Barton explained that this tower is designed to sustain 90 mile per hour winds. It is more structurally sound than a guide tower would offer.

Councilman James McDonnell questioned if 100 ft could be achieved by adding the tower to existing building roof of the municipal building. Mr. Barton said that Verizon would be open to that if it were determined that the roof was structurally sound to hold the weight.

McDonnell questioned the elevation difference at the Bunger Street building. Mr. Barton explained that the Bunger Street building is the worst candidate for elevation as well as specific location. This would be something that would be weighed by Verizon Engineers to see if the 40 ft. height difference and elevation difference were worse than the 150 ft. tower at the Mellon school.

Mr. Barton stressed that the first choice is the area by the borough police station.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

A motion was made by Kim Shaffer and seconded by Robert Bell to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor. The motion was adjourned @ 7:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul A Fry
Secretary-Treasurer
Office Manager