



The Town of Fenwick Island

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VERIZON WORKSHOP AUGUST 30, 2018, 2:00 PM

MINUTES

In Attendance

Town Council Members:

Mayor Langan, Vice Mayor Mais, Treasurer Bunting, Secretary Merritt, Council Member Carmean, Council Member Lee, Council Member Williams

Staff in Attendance:

Town Manager Tieman, Building Official Schuchman, Town Clerk Martin

Mayor Langan introduced Bonnie Metz from Verizon.

Bonnie started her presentation by noting that data usage has increased 55% over the last year, mostly due to more wireless usage and the elimination of LAN lines.

She also noted that the small cell equipment is getting smaller and being placed lower to the ground so as to be not as noticeable, and also for future 5g technology.

Design 1 was presented:

- The temporary C.O.W. behind Town Hall will be replaced with a permanent micro tower which will be 60' high and have a 3 panel antenna.
- A new 60' microcell will be placed on a utility pole on the corner of James Street and Coastal Highway in DelDOT's right-of-way. The pole will be 60' high and will have a 1-3 panel antenna.

Design 2, with 5 nodes, was presented:

- Node 1 to be installed at DNREC parking lot (outside of town), which will be 60' high and have a 2 panel antenna.
- Node 2 to be installed on top of the Chamber of Commerce flagpole (outside of town), which will be 50-60' high and have 1 canister antenna.
- Node 3 to be installed on the corner of Essex Street and Bunting Avenue, which will be 40-60' high and have 1 canister antenna.
- Node 4 to be installed between Maryland and Delaware Avenues (outside of town), which will be 40-60' high and have 1 canister antenna.
- Node 5 to be installed on Lighthouse Road (outside of town), which will be 50-60' high and have a 2 panel antenna.

Bonnie did note that when 5g technology arrives, additional poles would need to be placed, but in most cases, Verizon will try to use existing poles. She also noted that with Design 2, it would be ready to go for 5g due to the number of poles that will be installed.

Council Member Lee questioned why the existing pole could not be used on the corner of Essex and Bunting. Bonnie responded that there are 2 poles currently there, but the one closest to the beach needs to be replaced due to line of site to reach the coverage for the beach.

Bonnie noted that for 5g technology, small cells must be located between 250'-1,000' from each other, but the distance depends upon the capacity.

Council Member Williams questioned that once a pole is put up, can another carrier that wants to use the pole be stopped. Bonnie responded that only one carrier is allowed per pole since the wooden poles could not support more than 1 carrier.

An audience member asked if Verizon has any plans on placing small cells along Route 54 as well. Bonnie responded that if anything is installed on Route 54 it would be macro sites, but Verizon has not planned anything for Route 54.

Council Member Carmean questioned if the panels are directional antennas since the bayside is currently not getting coverage. Bonnie replied that the panels are directional and can be moved according to need. Charlie Hastings commented that the small cells should be placed along Coastal Highway to help both the bayside and ocean side.

An audience member asked the direction of the antennas for the 60' microcell at the corner of James Street and Coastal Highway in Design 1. Bonnie responded 1 antenna will be pointed to the bayside, 1 to the ocean side, and 1 pointed down Coastal Highway.

Bill Weistling questioned on Design 2, could a pole be placed behind Town Hall to help the coverage on the bayside. Bonnie noted that she will check with the engineers to see if a pole could be added if Design 2 is selected. Bill commented that he is in favor of Design 2 since it will help with the future 5g.

Council Member Carmean asked what design is better for the west side of Town. Bonnie responded that both are equipped to help the west side.

Mayor Langan asked if a pole was put in at Town Hall, could Design 2 be adjusted. Bonnie replied that possibly the placement of the pole behind Town Hall would eliminate the Essex Street pole.

Mayor Langan then questioned which design the engineers would feel would provide the best coverage. Bonnie responded that both designs provide the same coverage throughout Town.

Charlie Hastings suggested starting with installing one pole, behind Town Hall, to see if it helps with coverage in Town. Council Member Carmean agreed, stating the less poles the better.

Mike Quinn questioned what design is the best for the Police Department. Bonnie responded that both designs cover the entire town for the Police. Either design can also be adjusted according to traffic, usage, etc.

Barb Ievoli commented that 5g technology will be here before you know it, and the Town needs to look forward to it, so Design 2 would be the best option to suit future needs.

Vice Mayor Mais asked if a decision needs to be made today. Mayor Langan suggested if a Design 3 could be an option, which would be based on Design 2 but eliminating the pole on Essex Street and instead placing a pole behind Town Hall. Bonnie noted that she will check with the Verizon engineers to see if that is doable.

Adjournment

A MOTION was made by Vice Mayor Mais, seconded by Secretary Merritt, to adjourn the workshop. The MOTION passed unanimously and the workshop adjourned at 3:05 PM.