



# The Town of Fenwick Island

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## **TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE DECEMBER 1, 2017 AT 11:00 AM**

### **MINUTES**

#### In Attendance

Gene Langan, Chief Boyden, Buzz Henifin, Mary Ellen Langan, Terry Tieman, Diane Tingle, Bill Weistling

#### Absent

Lisa Benn, Frank Serio

Gene called the meeting to order at 11:10 AM.

#### Approval of Minutes

Gene asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the April 27, 2017 meeting.

Diane made a correction to Gail's last name to "Warburton"

Bill made a correction on page 1 stating that there is a cell tower on top of Royal Farms. It is actually a separate small cell antenna, not a tower.

First – Diane.

Second – Mary Ellen.

Minutes approved with corrections.

#### Discussion of Verizon Wireless Service

Terry introduced Bonnie Metz from Verizon. Terry informed the Committee that adding service to Town will provide safety and protection to the Town due to several dropped calls received by the Police Department. The new service will eventually be 5g technology.

Bonnie encouraged the approval of allowing small cell technology in the right-of-way areas. 90% of calls made today are now going over a wireless network. Bonnie is aware of the concern about the number of poles that will be installed and their locations, but nothing will be installed without the approval of the Council on all locations.

Terry commented that Verizon will develop a plan on the location and how many small cell towers will need to be installed. This technology is needed, not just for the Police Department, but for the safety of all citizens.

Diane asked when the 5g technology will begin. Bonnie responded that it should be in effect in a couple of years. Diane then asked if the small cell towers that the Town is looking into are 5g compatible, and Bonnie responded yes.

Gene stated that he heard that Verizon is already rolling out 5g technology in Sacramento, and Bonnie confirmed that Sacramento is one of the cities that they are testing. Gene asked, upon approval of the Town Council, what is the time frame on getting the small cell towers installed. Bonnie responded that it will be done in 2018 and they are hoping to have everything installed prior to the summer season.

Bill commented that the towers supposedly are installed with fiber optic cables and asked if it is a possibility that the Town could use the fiber optic cable not just for cell service. Bonnie stated that they will be stringing fiber optic cabling for the towers and she is still waiting on an answer to see if the fiber optic lines can be used for residents.

Mary Ellen questioned Bonnie if she had any response from her presentation at the Charter & Ordinance Committee meeting earlier. Bonnie responded that one of the commenters thought that Verizon was trying to block other cell service providers (like A T & T) in Town. Another commented that they are concerned about the appearance of all the poles. She responded for long-term safety, small cell towers are needed. Bonnie is planning to work with the Town on the Public Safety Training to citizens.

Diane asked how many small cell towers are needed in Town. Bonnie responded during Verizon's research, at least 17-18 are needed in Town limits, and a few more outside of Town.

Buzz questioned the required height the towers have to be. Bonnie responded that ADA standards require at least 6 1/2', but our Town ordinance states 10'. Buzz then asked if individual poles need guard wires, and Bonnie responded no since Verizon plans to use existing poles.

Mary Ellen asked if Verizon has had problems with vandalism with the cell phone towers. Bonnie responded no, not in Delaware.

Chief Boyden commented that this new technology is needed. The Police Department were given wireless finger print scanners and they cannot use them due to lost connections. Also, the Police Department has the capability to do on-site background checks from the Police vehicles, but due to the loss of service they cannot.

Diane commented that she doesn't understand why people are against the installation of towers, especially since they are in the State right-of-way.

Gene then polled the Committee to see how everyone felt on proceeding with small cell towers in Town. Buzz made a motion to proceed with the small cell towers as soon as possible, seconded by Diane. The Committee approved to move forward.

#### Old Business

None.

#### New Business

Bill informed the Committee that Charter & Ordinance has drafted a proposed ordinance for the cell phone tower installation. The ordinance drafted is 7-8 pages and includes technical information. They are waiting to hear back from Mary with her comments. Bill did find out that the Town cannot ban towers due to FCC regulations.

#### Adjournment

Motion – Buzz asked for a motion to adjourn.

Second – Mary Ellen

The meeting adjourned at 12:07 PM.