

Town of New Haven Selectboard Meeting
6:30 pm
Tuesday, May 11, 2010
Town Offices

Present: Chair, Pam Marsh, Vice Chair, Roger Boise, Kathleen Ready, Kathy Barrett and Clerk, Pam Kingman

Absent: Pat Paquette

AGENDA RESULTS:

TREASURER'S REPORT:

1. Pam Marsh made a motion to approve payroll in the amount of \$3,564.01, for the week ending 5/8/10, seconded by Kathleen Ready. 4 yes / 0 no

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Lawn Mowing and Maintenance Bid for around Town Offices / Library**
 Roger Boise made a motion to award the bid to Allen Swain for the 2010 season in the amount of \$950.00, seconded by Kathleen Ready. 4 yes / 0 no * Kathy Barrett said it was nice to award it to someone local.*
2. **Cyclewise** – Would like to hold a catered party for their open house on Friday, May 14, 2010. Kathleen Ready made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Pam Marsh. 4 yes / 0 no

Adjourn: 6:40 pm

Public Meeting held in the Town Hall Cafeteria
7:00 pm
To discuss AT&T Cell Tower Upgrade on North Street

Visitors: Mary Manley, Tim Bouton, Glen Trejbal, Angie Dunbar, Donna Fournier, Jim Walsh

Guest Speakers: Will Dodge from Downs Rachlin Martin, PLLC who are Attorneys for AT&T, and Dan Goulet from C Squared, LLC, an engineering firm

- AT&T would like to up grade their cell towers currently located on top of a silo at 749 North St. (Jean Smiths farm).
- The cell towers are currently a 4 panel system; AT&T is looking to upgrade to 6 panels. The panels sit on the dome of the silo; the center line is approximately 67" above ground. All other improvements will be inside the equipment building that is already there.
- Original cell towers were installed in 2000 by what was then Unicel, there was no Act 250 requirement at that time.
- This upgrade will provide marginal improvement in coverage and will bring 3G technology – mostly serving Blackberry and iPhone customers using their phones for mail and internet access.

- The Public Service Board [PSB] is asking municipalities for feedback on the upgrades. The Selectboard has been asked to sign off on AT&T's request to upgrade. PSB is looking to balance needs both aesthetically and environmentally.
- Will Dodge - asked for Selectboards recommendations. He cited 30 VSA §248a, which governs certificates of public good for multiple communication facilities. The PSB may take the Town's concerns into consideration, this is the change in §248a.
- The Selectboard had a towns person raise concerns about EMF emission levels from the towers.
- Dan Goulet - Independent engineer hired by AT&T to evaluate emissions from the proposed project. Explained AT&T has an allowable percentage of output at 100%; of the standard set by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC); that number has a margin of safety for people who work close to such emissions of 5x that amount. It is a good safety margin.
- Discussion about the AT&T handout, titled Calculated Radio Frequency Emissions. **Copy on file at the Town Offices**
- FCC set emission standards for cell towers in 1996. They were agreed upon by the Dept. of Agriculture, the Dept. of Health, the Dept. of Energy and the EPA. They added a margin of safety to be certain. The World Health Organization has adopted a similar standard.
- The emissions from the proposed upgrade would be less than 1% of the allowable standard, even at maximum output.
- As a comparison, Dan Goulet measured output from other sources of EMF emissions in New Haven, including the Sprint Tower, the Verizon tower and the older VELCO lines. All of them emitted more than the proposed upgrade and much less than the allowable standard. (Note, he did not measure the EMF from the new VELCO lines!)
- Discussion of output from cell phones.
- Property owner is on board with the upgrade.
- Discussion of whether location of a cell tower in a non-working farm may be taxable real estate, so the Town may benefit from the cell tower.
- Discussion of effects of the cell towers on children. Dan Goulet said the EMF emissions heat up body tissue; however, a child would have to camped out right next to the panels for a significant amount of time to be affected.
- Donna Fournier wanted to go on record that she has concerns about the location of the tower, and questioned why it couldn't be placed in the middle of a field away from people.

The Selectboard will take action on the request from AT&T at the May 18, 2010 meeting.

Pam Marsh thanked Dan Goulet and Will Dodge for coming to the meeting.

Adjourn: 7:30pm
Respectfully submitted:
Pam Kingman
Approved:

Chair, Pam Marsh

Vice Chair, Roger Boise

Kathy Barrett

Kathleen Ready