

LAYTONSVILLE BOARD OF APPEALS

MEETING MINUTES

August 10, 2015 – 7:30 p.m.

Roll Call

A meeting of the Laytonsville Board of Appeals was called to order by Chair Cecere at 7:35 p.m. Board Members Foster and Whittington were present. Member Seebold was not present.

Guests: Mr. Joshua Schakola, SCE, Inc. representing Verizon, Mr. Richard Keeler, Representative, Laytonsville District Volunteer Fire Department, and Sheree Wenger.

Minutes

The minutes of the Board Meeting held on July 6, 2015, were submitted for approval. The Chair requested that a correction be made to the second paragraph of the minutes reflecting that Tower Engineering requested a special exception from the Board in 2013 not 2014. A motion to accept the minutes with noted change was made by Member Whittington and seconded by Member Foster. The motion to accept the minutes was passed unanimously.

A motion to open the Hearing was made by Member Whittington and seconded by Member Foster.

Hearing

All parties providing testimony were sworn in by Chair Cecere.

Old Business

None.

New Business

Monopole located at Laytonsville District Volunteer Fire Department (LDVFD). Special Exception Application SE#-01-15.

Chair Cecere requested Mr. Schakola to provide the intent of Verizon Wireless regarding the Special Exception before the Board of Appeals. Mr. Schakola informed the Board that Verizon was seeking to modify the network antennas deployment as a whole reducing the current number of antennas on the monopole from twelve to nine. This would also include three support remote radio heads which would be located in distribution boxes behind the antennas. Mr. Schakola

further explained that the current antennas ranged in height from 6 feet, 5.9 feet, and 5.75 feet. The replacement antennas would all measure 6 feet in height.

The Chair asked if the new equipment would increase the current weight on the monopole.

Mr. Schakola informed the Board that the weight would most likely remain the same since three antennas were being removed and the new boxes to be installed would measure 1 foot by 3 feet.

Chair Cecere submitted documents to be entered as Exhibit 1 (Special Exception Application); Exhibit 2 (Cover page, drawings, site plan, and proposed work); and Exhibit 3 (Structural Analysis by Techtonic{spelling?}).

Chair Cecere asked on average how often do the antennas need to be improved or replaced. Mr. Schakola informed the Board that because of improvements to the antennas or communications network, modifications are usually done every two-five years because the DC/Baltimore area is widely used.

LVFD is currently awaiting approval from Montgomery County Department of Permit Services regarding the structural changes which were made to the monopole last year.

Chair Cecere enquired as to whether pictures were provided so that the Board could see what the new antennas and boxes looked like. He also questioned Mr. Schakola regarding the structural integrity of the monopole once the new equipment was added; and, if the appropriate codes have been met.

Mr. Keeler, who is a Civil Engineer (Structural), also commented on the integrity of the monopole and the addition of the new equipment.

Mr. Keeler confirmed to the Board that LVFD is still awaiting the final, signed clearance from the County regarding the structural reinforcement done to the foundation and pole. He indicated that the work has already been inspected. Once that written approval has been received, Verizon would be able to submit their permit application to the County.

Exhibit 4, Montgomery County Department of Permit Services' signed approval.

The County Department of Permit Services indicated to Mr. Keeler that they will await clearance from the Town before issuing a permit to Verizon.

Member Whittington requested clarification as to the process regarding issuance of permits from the County. Concern focused regarding previous applications and permits issued by the Town and the County and the confusion as to which entity should precede the other.

Mr. Schakola indicated that once the permit has been approved by the County, the new equipment on the monopole could be installed within a thirty day window.

Exhibit 5 was entered into the record which lists the carriers currently housed on the monopole.

Chair Cerere asked if anyone in the audience had any questions to raise.

Member Foster raised a procedural question regarding notification to the Town and Board indicating when the County had issued the permit.

Chair Cerere asked whether a motion would be put forth regarding the closing of the Hearing. Member Whittington made the motion to close the Hearing, seconded by Member Foster.

Chair Cecere requested a motion regarding Special Exception SE#-01-15 made by Verizon.

Member Whittington made the motion to approve the Special Exception.

Chair Cecere inserted the following provision: Final approval by the Board is contingent upon receipt of the written approval from Montgomery County Department of Permit Services regarding the structural reinforcements made to the foundation and tower of the monopole.

Member Foster seconded the motion with the added provision.

The motion passed unanimously.

Adjourn

There being no further business, Chair Cecere asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting which was made by Member Foster and seconded by Member Whittington. The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:24 p.m. The next meeting of the Board originally scheduled for September 7 will be held on September 14, 2015, due to the Labor Day holiday.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nadine Tarwater