

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

Docket No. 482

Application from Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon
Wireless for a Certificate of Environmental
Compatibility and Public Need for the Construction,
Maintenance and Operation of a Telecommunication
Facility Located At 917 Exeter Road In Lebanon,
Connecticut

Public Hearing held at the Lebanon Fire
Safety Complex, Community Hall, 23 Goshen Hill
Road, Lebanon, Connecticut, Tuesday, May 1, 2018,
beginning at 6:30 p.m.

H e l d B e f o r e :

SEN. JAMES J. MURPHY, JR., Vice Chairman

1 A p p e a r a n c e s :

2 C o u n c i l M e m b e r s :

3

4 R O B E R T H A N N O N ,

5 D E E P D e s i g n e e

6

7 L A R R Y P . L E V E S Q U E ,

8 P U R A D e s i g n e e

9

10 M I C H A E L H A R D E R

11 R O B E R T S I L V E S T R I

12 D A N I E L P . L Y N C H , J R .

13 E D W A R D E D E L S O N

14

15 C o u n c i l S t a f f :

16 M E L A N I E B A C H M A N , E S Q . ,

17 E x e c u t i v e D i r e c t o r a n d S t a f f A t t o r n e y

18

19 R O B E R T M E R C I E R ,

20 S i t i n g A n a l y s t

21

22

23

24

25

1 A p p e a r a n c e s:(cont'd)

2 For the Applicant:

3 ROBINSON & COLE

4 280 Trumbull Street

5 Hartford, Connecticut 06103

6 By: KENNETH C. BALDWIN, ESQ.

7 Kbaldwin@rc.com

8 860.275.8345.

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

1
2 THE VICE CHAIRMAN: Ladies and
3 gentlemen, I'd like to call this meeting to order
4 of the Connecticut Siting Council this Tuesday,
5 May 1, 2018 approximately 6:30 p.m.

6 My name is James J. Murphy, Jr., and I'm
7 Vice Chairman of the Connecticut Siting Council.
8 Other members present are Robert Hannon, designee
9 of Commissioner Robert Klee of the Department of
10 Energy and Environmental Protection; and Larry
11 Levesque, designee of Chairman Katie Dykes of the
12 Public Utilities Regulatory Authority; Robert
13 Silvestri; Edward Edelson; Michael Harder; and
14 Daniel P. Lynch, Jr.

15 Melanie Bachman, our Executive Director
16 and Staff Attorney; and Robert Mercier, our siting
17 analyst on the staff with us.

18 This is a continuation of the public
19 hearing that began at three this afternoon.
20 Copies of the program and the Council's citizen's
21 guide to Council procedures are available for
22 members of the public.

23 And as of right now we have no one
24 signed up from the public to sign up. So if
25 members of the public are interested in signing

1 up, the sign-up sheet is over on the table.

2 This hearing is held pursuant to the
3 provisions of Title 16 of the Connecticut General
4 Statutes, and the Uniform Administrative
5 Procedures Act upon an application from Cellco
6 Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless for a
7 certificate of environmental compatibility and
8 public need for the construction, maintenance and
9 operation of a telecommunications facility located
10 at 917 Exeter Road, Lebanon, Connecticut. This
11 application was received by the Council on March
12 the 12th, 2018.

13 This application is also governed by the
14 Telecommunications Act of 1996 which is
15 administered by the Federal Communications
16 Commission. This act prohibits this Council from
17 considering the health effects of radiofrequency
18 emissions on human health and wildlife to the
19 extent the emissions run powers are within the
20 federal acceptable safe limits standards, which
21 standard is followed by the State Department of
22 Public Health.

23 The federal act also prohibits this
24 Council from discriminating between and amongst
25 providers of functionally equivalent services.

1 This means that if one carrier is already
2 providing service in an area, other carriers have
3 the right to provide that service in the same
4 area.

5 The applicant published a notice of
6 filing of this application to the Council in the
7 Norwich Bulletin on March the 8th and March 9,
8 2018. The Council's legal notice of the date and
9 time of the hearing was published in the bulletin
10 on March 30, 2018.

11 Upon the Council's request the applicant
12 erected a sign at the proposed site on April 17,
13 2018, to inform the public of the name of the
14 applicant and the type of facility, the hearing
15 date and location, the contact information for the
16 Council.

17 This afternoon members of this Council,
18 staff and the public personally conducted a field
19 review of the proposed site in order to observe
20 firsthand the potential effects of the proposal.

21 The hearing session tonight has been
22 reserved for the public to make these statements
23 into the record. These public statements are not
24 subject to questions from the applicant or the
25 Council, and members of the public making

1 statements may not ask questions of the applicant
2 or the Council. These statements will become part
3 of the record for the Council's consideration.

4 The sign-up sheet, as I mentioned
5 before, is available for those who would like to
6 speak.

7 I understand -- who is giving your
8 presentation, Mr. Baldwin?

9 MR. BALDWIN: Bob Burns with APT will be
10 doing the presentation.

11 THE VICE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Before we
12 turn matters over and ask for comments, we usually
13 ask the applicant to have one or more members of
14 their panel to give a brief presentation as to
15 their proposal.

16 And go ahead, Mr. Burns. I think
17 there's a microphone up there for you.

18 ROBERT BURNS: Thank you. My name is
19 Bob Burns. I'm a licensed professional engineer
20 licensed in the State of Connecticut. I work for
21 APT engineering.

22 What we're proposing today is a proposed
23 telecommunication facility that will be located
24 behind Lyman Memorial High School. The proposed
25 improvements will begin in the rear of the high

1 school, in the southeast corner of the driveway.

2 We will construct a 12-foot wide gravel
3 access drive approximately 325 feet into the
4 wooded area behind the school. In addition to the
5 driveway we will be pulling utilities, and those
6 will go underground and follow the path of the
7 driveway.

8 Our electric service will begin at the
9 existing transformer that's outside the school in
10 the rear. And the telephone will continue along
11 the side the existing parking to the street and
12 pull from an existing pole on the street.

13 The access drive will terminate at a 50
14 by 50-foot fenced-in compound. In the compound it
15 will be a 50-by-50 fence, eight foot high with a
16 12-foot wide gate.

17 Inside the fenced in area in the rear
18 corner will be 150-foot monopole. There will be a
19 9 and a half foot by 16-foot steel platform with
20 Verizon Wireless' radio equipment on it, a
21 thousand-gallon propane tank and a 35-kW generator
22 that will be shared between the Town and Verizon.

23 In addition, there will be an eight-foot
24 by eight-foot concrete pad for the Town's radio
25 equipment. The tower itself, like I said, will be

1 150 feet tall. The top of the tower will have two
2 of the whips, whip antennas from the existing
3 tower that's on site relocated to this, to this
4 tower.

5 Verizon Wireless will have a platform
6 with 12 panel antennas and the appurtenances that
7 go with it at the 140-foot mark. Once the tower
8 is complete the existing tower on site will be
9 dismantled and taken down.

10 Thank you.

11 THE VICE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

12 Now turning to the public sector, the
13 first item is to call upon any public officials
14 who would like to be heard. And I understand
15 we'll be heard by the First Selectman.

16 Betsy?

17 BETSY PETRIE: Thank you all very much.
18 My name is Betsy Petrie. I am the First Selectman
19 here for the Town of Lebanon. I appreciate you
20 providing me an opportunity this evening. I was
21 unable to attend earlier due to other commitments
22 here.

23 So I've listened to the presentation and
24 I've been involved in this project for slightly
25 over two years. This project and this location

1 came to be a realization for the Town as a result
2 of many boards and commissions reviewing the
3 extensive information provided.

4 This information was reviewed by almost
5 20 elected officials over the last two and a half
6 or three years, and they all supported the
7 project. The need for public communications here
8 in our town from a safety perspective is very
9 important, as well as from a DPW standpoint, and
10 my fire agency and our Police Department.

11 Additionally, we have a struggle
12 receiving communications here in our town by
13 cellphone. We have many residents who have
14 complained about that. This would be an
15 opportunity for us to improve those
16 communications.

17 The site itself, of course, is concerned
18 because of the location. And if you notice in
19 this room tonight you have -- I don't know --
20 three people from the fire department here to talk
21 about the benefits of this tower. I don't see any
22 other resident here other than a reporter and
23 another gentleman.

24 But the reason the project is so
25 important for us was that we actually identified

1 the location on the property where it wouldn't
2 interfere with the educational processes that are
3 going on at the school.

4 By having it located in the back of the
5 building in the woods actually removes it from
6 visibility from our residents, as well as our kids
7 in our school system. And we have met the needs
8 of our students and our academic professionals by
9 making certain that we have taken into
10 consideration their needs, and not have this be in
11 the minds of our students every day.

12 Additionally, we are a very strong
13 farming community. You likely experienced it
14 tonight and during the day today when you were at
15 the site walk. We felt that by putting the
16 property in the location that it is -- that it
17 detracts -- it won't detract from the location of
18 our ag students and their use of the facilities at
19 the ag department up at the high school. So
20 again, something very important to us.

21 From an earlier question, I was informed
22 today there was a question about the lack of power
23 in that area due to when we lose power. And there
24 was some question about the propane things.

25 The high school is our designated

1 emergency operations center for Eversource. It is
2 one of the first areas of our town that are turned
3 back on should we have a power outage. So the
4 need for a tank of propane larger than what is
5 recommended wouldn't be necessary, because very
6 rarely have we gone multiple days without
7 electricity at that location.

8 And again, it is our EOC for our Town.
9 Having the tower adjacent to the property is
10 beneficial for that purpose as well from our
11 Town's standpoint.

12 We encourage the Siting Council on the
13 board of selectmen side to adopt the proposal that
14 was presented. We have worked with the folks very
15 well from Verizon, and we would encourage you in
16 your roles to support this project as well.

17 THE VICE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much,
18 First Selectman.

19 Turning to the public sign-up list, we
20 have Robert Cady.

21 ROBERT CADY: Good evening. I was here
22 this afternoon, but I had a previous appointment I
23 had to keep later on.

24 And I have some concerns. I had a
25 phonecall this afternoon about the number of

1 antennas at the top of the tower. I was involved
2 with this project before our first selectman was,
3 with our previous first selectman. We talked with
4 Verizon and at that time it was discussed that
5 they would put four antennas at the top. They
6 would supply new antennas. As a matter of fact, I
7 gave them an equipment list of the antennas that
8 were needed.

9 We currently have four antennas on the
10 tower over at the existing site, two for fire
11 departments and one for public works, and one
12 auxillary antenna in case something happens to one
13 of the other ones. So we still need that in the
14 lease, in the agreement.

15 So I would like to bring that to
16 Verizon's attention. I know they have had a lot
17 of personnel changes and probably some of these
18 fell through the cracks.

19 Thank you.

20 THE VICE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

21 That exhausts the list of public
22 speaking sign-ups. Is there anyone else who would
23 care to -- yes?

24 Before you start, give us your name and
25 spell your last name for us.

1 MARK ELLIOTT: My name is Mark Elliott,
2 E-l-l-i-o-t-t, and I'm Deputy Chief of the Lebanon
3 Volunteer Fire Department in town. The fire
4 department has been involved somewhat in this
5 endeavor for a number of years. The department as
6 a whole supports it.

7 Lebanon is a difficult town terrain-wise
8 to cover with radio communications. We were
9 instrumental in putting the regional tower next to
10 the high school to try to improve our coverage.
11 The opportunity to extend our antennas to get some
12 more height -- it would serve our ability to cover
13 the town.

14 It would also enhance the ability of the
15 town public works department to reach their five
16 trucks and other personnel in the areas of town
17 which are now shadowed. So the fire department
18 endorses the project.

19 There was discussion about where we
20 would be located on the tower, and how many
21 antennas space-wise we could be afforded. I do
22 not have the particulars to the lease, but I would
23 hope that we would have a sufficient space to at
24 least duplicate what we have now with room for
25 possible expansion.

1 But overall the fire department, which
2 also runs the EMS in town, endorses the going
3 forward of this project.

4 THE VICE CHAIRMAN: Thank you,
5 Mr. Elliott.

6 Is there anyone else who cares to speak?

7

8 (No response.)

9

10 THE VICE CHAIRMAN: If not, I'm going to
11 close this meeting of the Siting Council. Before
12 closing this evidentiary record of this matter,
13 the Connecticut Siting Council announces that
14 briefs and proposed findings of fact may be filed
15 with the Council no later than May the 31, 2018.

16 The submission of briefs or proposed
17 findings of fact are not required by the Council.
18 Rather, we leave it to the choice of the
19 applicant. Anyone who has not become a party or
20 intervener, but who desires to make his or her
21 views known to the Council may file written
22 statements with the Council within 30 days of the
23 date hereof.

24 The Council will issue draft findings of
25 fact and thereafter the applicant may identify

1 errors or inconsistencies between the Council's
2 draft findings of fact and the record, however no
3 new information, no new evidence, no argument
4 and no reply briefs without permission from the
5 Council will be considered by the Council in
6 determining this matter.

7 Copies of the transcript of this hearing
8 will be filed with the Lebanon Town Clerk's
9 office. I hereby declare this hearing adjourned
10 and thank you for your participation.

11 And drive carefully.

12
13 (Whereupon, the above proceedings were
14 concluded at 6:49 p.m.)
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing 16 pages are a complete and accurate computer-aided transcription of my original verbatim notes taken of the Public Hearing in Re: DOCKET NO. 482, APPLICATION FROM CELLCO PARTNERSHIP D/B/A VERIZON WIRELESS FOR A CERTIFICATE OF ENVIRONMENTAL COMPATIBILITY AND PUBLIC NEED FOR THE CONSTRUCTION, MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION OF A TELECOMMUNICATION FACILITY LOCATED AT 917 EXETER ROAD IN LEBANON, CONNECTICUT, which was held before SEN. JAMES J. MURPHY, JR., VICE CHAIRMAN, at the Lebanon Fire Safety Complex, Community Hall, 23 Goshen Hill Road, Lebanon, Connecticut, May 1, 2018.



Robert G. Dixon, CVR-M 857
Notary Public
A Plus Reporting Service
55 Whiting Street, Suite 1A
Plainville, CT 06062
My Commission Expires: 6/30/2020