

Minutes Zoning Board of Appeals November 24, 2015

Present: Jan Finley, Matt Lacasse, Merilyn Mills, Cynthia Morse, and Greg Noyes

Meeting called to order 6:00 by Chair Jan Finley.

#1 Petition for a Special Exception by Wireless Partners LLC for a telecommunications facility. They propose adding 2 sections of cellular antennas to the city water tank and add a small ground platform. Spoke person for Wireless Partners LLC was Todd Rich. The equipment platform will be closer to the water tank than the current US Cellular building. The technology allows for 4LG wireless service. It will allow Verizon users to pick up the signal from the tower. They are also developing the possibility of someone local reselling the service. The Passamaquoddy Water District provides the town with a letter of authorization allowing Wireless Partners LLC to permit the site. A long-term permit will be negotiated in the future. This should happen within 60 days. An engineering firm will do structural analysis on the tower before any equipment will be installed. Although they have no structural concerns of here it is part of the company's procedure. They mentioned that they would be installing equipment for Verizon between Machias & Calais. The equipment should be installed in 14 days. This is a short-term solution and permanent solution will be installed in the future. Jan read letter from a resident on Capen Street. The letter stated the resident is concerned that additional beacon lights will be added to the tower. Mr. Rich replied that no additional lights will be added. They also mentioned that they are working on adding Verizon service along Rt. 9 in the future. Jan closed the public hearing and Merilyn moved to approve the addition of 2 sections of cellular antennas to the city water tank by Wireless Partners LLC. Greg 2nd. All approved.

Members were asked to be looking for people to fill the empty-full time seat, alternate seat, and at the end of 2016 the board will need fill Cynthia's seat.

Jan posed the question to the board "What do we want to do about the inconsistencies in the ordinances? What can we do to clarify the ordinances? A discussion followed concerning the auto mechanic garage as a home occupancy business and also the junk yard both in Quoddy Village that operates without a permit. Greg pointed out that the ZBA might allow certain occupations but with conditions subject to impact. Steve suggested that we give Robert a list of questions for him to ask the owner of the auto mechanic garage. Jan felt this would be more the duty of the board to ask the owner. As of now the owner has stopped operating but if he starts up the business again he would be expected to come to the ZBA.

Greg moved to approve minutes with corrections and Steve seconded. All approved.

Cynthia moved to adjourn Steve seconded.