



**Town of Fairfax**  
**Select Board Meeting**  
**September 9, 2019 - 7:00pm**

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The drafted minutes presented below are unapproved subject to corrections and/or additions at the next Selectboard meeting. Those corrections and/or additions will be written to an amended version of the minutes, which will also be made available to the public.

**Selectboard Members Present:** Randy DeVine; Vice-Chair, Stephen Bessette, Duane Leach, and Sheri Rainville.

**Employees Present:** Brad Docheff (Town Manager)

**Public Present:** Andrew Davis, Louis Hodgetts, Brian Sullivan, Catherine Dimitruk, Claude Rainville, Robert Zelley, Chris Cota, Sally Sweet, Amber Soter, Lynn Parah, James Martin, Barbara Murphy, Heather Parizo, Carl & Lila Jones, Robert Revoir, Mark Rainville, Matt Burstein, Michael Frett, Greg Heyer, Beverly Gates, Robert Gates, Robert Horr, Susan LeClair, Mark LeClair and Jill Decker

**Call to Order:** Randy called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

**Public Informational Meeting**

**Discussion of proposed land lease to Bell Atlantic Mobile Systems of Allentown, Inc. d/b/a Verizon Wireless: Andrew Davis with Verizon, Brian Sullivan with MSK Attorneys and Louis Hodgetts with DuBois & King**

Verizon is interested in leasing a piece of land owned by the Town of Fairfax at 171 Fletcher Rd. With leasing this 100ft x 100ft space, a 130ft monopole cell tower would be erected. The pole would be brown in color and Verizon doesn't believe it to be visually intrusive. This pole would help with data and cell coverage/capacity as other stations are aging and becoming exhausted. The 2 closest towers currently are on Georgia Mountain and in the Georgia Forest by the interstate. Verizon did multiple studies on the Fletcher Road location as well as other areas in town. Fletcher Road is the ideal location. This location will help serve larger population needs. (Schools, major roads, business) In July of 2018 Verizon floated balloons 100-140 ft. high at 10 ft. intervals. While the balloons were in air, pictures were taken around town in target/ populated areas as well as rural areas. Outside of a 2 mile area it will be hard to spot the tower according to studies. A slideshow was presented showing the lease land in question, the dimensions of the compound, pictures around town and proposed increased data/cell area.

The floor was open for public comment and many questions were asked to A. Davis, B. Sullivan and L. Hodgetts.

The next step will be another balloon float, so residents can see the potential visual impact. This is best done in the morning before the wind becomes an issue. Notice of the date/dates will be made public ASAP. Other towers have been in place for 20-25 years and have shown no health problems.

If the lease is approved by the Town, the zoning and environmental process must still be followed. At best case from a signed lease you are looking at 18 months to start construction.

There was debate over the impact this will have on personal property values. The proposed lease is for 25 years. The town would receive a monthly payment, (the amount is not finalized as of now) Once this information is available it will become public knowledge.

Currently there are no other informational meetings scheduled, further discussion will take place at Selectboard meetings.

**I suggest everyone watch the LCATV video for the full presentation and individual comments.**

**Adjournment:**

At 8:40 S. Bessette made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Duane, all in favor.

The minutes were respectfully submitted by Amy Sears; Administrative Assistant.

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Steven Cormier  
Selectboard Chair

**\*\* The recorded meeting is available through LCATV or the Town's website. \*\***