

PUBLIC HEARING
TOWN OF AUGUSTA
JUNE 4, 2024

A Public Hearing to discuss a special use variance application submitted by Tarpon Towers to construct a 180-foot wireless telecommunications facility located at the property of 5459 Knoxboro Rd, Munnsville, with a 911 address of 2680 Harney Rd, Munnsville.

Attendees: Zoning Board Chair-Paul Sykes, Ernest Staelens, Keith Williams, Anne Brown, Mr. Lusk & Mr. Morrison both representing Tarpon Towers and the following residents that signed in:

Mike & Linda Miers, Devereux Rudd, Greg Start, Ray & Lynn Gardner, Jim Dowd, Brett Reiter, Matt & Christine Kazlauskas, Bernie Kennett, Alicia Chamberlan, Maridee Dukett, Jennifer Lavoe, Melissa McNamara, Tom & Barb Dundon, Mark Benoit, Rebecca Wittman, Wayne Burkey.

The hearing was called to order at 7:05pm. The pledge was recited. Everyone was encouraged to look at the maps provided while awaiting Mr. Lusks arrival. Paul Sykes went over some "housekeeping" rules.

Mr. Lusk gave a presentation on the proposed project describing in detail all aspects, size, how it was determined to be the right spot. Distance to other properties and went over the maps of coverage.

Residents had several questions on run off from the tower considering the flooding issue in Knoxboro. Will there be any contamination concerns? No

What about a retention pond with a liner?

Other questions:

Is there any financial benefit to the Town? Or the residents? No, only the property owner.

When will it be built? Reliant on fiber optics and utility companies. Could be built and standing within a year, depending on supply issues.

What is the safest distance from residents to not be affected by the RF energy?

At the base of the tower the RF is only 1% of the maximum level and the further away you go the less it is.

Mr. Stevens states he is 661 feet and is the closest to the tower. Who sets the 500 foot standard that they are going by? Also if they blast and upset the water table is well going to go dry? Who is responsible for that?

It is in the town Zoning Ordinance and that is the average of most towns in New York State. Mr. Lusk states they have not had any problems with issue.

What about resale levels with a tower that close? Can the data be provided to the town about property values.

Data shows that there has been no difference in resale values. He said he would send over the information.

Why can't the dump be used? It's not that far from where it is proposed to be built now? Mr. Morrison said that a dump site is not allowed by their environmental team but will talk to Jim Dowd who is on the Board for SWOCO.

Does the "Verizon" site impact any other carriers? No each carrier has their own signal. They can have many antennas for different carriers. Each carrier would have their own "utility cabinets".

Will building this affect traffic? Only the days they are bringing in large items and considering that the road is sparsely inhabited should have no issues.

What are the legal aspects of using property? Is it a contract? It's a 50 yr contract with the land owner and if they sell the land the contract goes with the property.

Jim Dowd stated that he is glad they are putting it in as he is on the fire department and as far as emergency services is concerned it is need. Gave an example of house fire with no house phone and no cell service. Also school buses in the "dead zone"

Hearing adjourned at 8:24 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Brown

Zoning Secretary for Town of Augusta