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Members Present:

Doreen Prouty – Chair  
Gary Geiger – Clerk  
Vincenzo Ronghi - Alternate  
Aldo Mancini - Alternate

Members Absent:

Richard Maggi – Vice Chair

Also Present:

Hope Goff

Via Zoom

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Chairperson Prouty opened the meeting at 6:33 PM. She explained the Town of Agawam virtual public meeting protocol during the Covid-19 State of Emergency.

1. PUBLIC HEARING – Special Permit – Cellco d/b/a Verizon Wireless – 128 Southwick Street – Case# 1999

Members sitting on this case: Doreen Prouty – Chairperson, Aldo Mancini – Acting Vice-Chair, and Vin Ronghi – Acting Clerk

Attorney Mike Fenton, representing Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless, began the presentation by saying that this proposal is for a monopole tower at the Agawam Golf Course, 128 Southwick Street. He then introduced several members of the team: Stephen Sobey, attorney at Shatz, Schwartz & Fentin, Greg Sykier with Chappell Engineering, Kip DiVito and Jay Latorre both radio frequency engineers with Verizon Wireless, Mike Libertine with All Points Technology, photo simulation expert, and D. Vivian, structural consultant. Attorney Fenton went on to say that they first filed for a Special Permit and a Variance on April 9, 2020 and have subsequently had several meetings with the Board. As a result of the October 19, 2020 balloon floats the Board recommended changing the site to wooded area #1 which is located off the 19<sup>th</sup> hole. This application was filed on January 29, 2021 for a Special Permit for the revised site. On February 18, 2021 the Planning Board gave a site plan approval with no conditions. A balloon float took place on March 17, 2021 consistent with the Zoning by-laws and another will be conducted on March 23, 2021 consistent with the Zoning by-laws. Attorney Fenton went on to say that they are very proud of this location and this development and hope that they can deploy this technology to start lease payments to the town and to improve the data and coverage. Greg Sykier of Chappell Engineering presented the Site Plan drawings to the Board. He explained that the site plan shows the revised location. The location was brought downhill into a wooded area farther from the existing buildings. The plan of the compound shows it to be square and tucked away in the woods. He said that 19 trees will need to be removed. Access to the compound will be off an existing path used by the golf course. He added that the monopole is the same but has increased in height. Chairperson Prouty asked Members Mancini and Ronghi if they have any questions. Both said they do not. Chairperson Prouty asked Attorney Fenton if he had anything

else to add. He did not. Chairperson Prouty stated that the Board received the report from Dave Maxson of Isotrope dated March 17, 2021. She said that the report was overall favorable with more information provided by Verizon Wireless as far as feasibility and necessity for the project. She read into the record a memo of Site Plan approval from the Planning Board dated February 18, 2021. Member Ronghi said that in the Isotrope report it is noted that there is no lighting on the tower and asked if the tower was low enough to not have lights. Chairperson Prouty said that in the report it states that the FCC does not require the tower to be lit. Jay Latorre with Verizon Wireless said the tower is not required to be lit. A report was filed with the FAA based on the height of the tower and the ground elevation. Based on the analysis they provided, the tower is not required to be lit. Mr. Latorre noted that the tower has increased in height by 40' from the original plan due to the topography of the revised site but essentially takes up the same air space. Member Ronghi said that the visual impact was addressed in the Isotrope report and he feels that a light on top of the tower would call attention to it for neighboring properties. Chairperson Prouty noted that according to the Town by-laws no lighting is permitted unless required by the FAA. She went on to say that according to the local Zoning by-laws 180 – 97 (g), there will be a vegetated buffer strip of trees no less than 20'. She asked what the area will look like surrounding the compound when the trees are removed. Member Ronghi feels there will be a natural buffer of trees that will offer sufficient screening. Mr. Sykier added that the trees being removed only had foliage at the tops and provided no screening. He also said that they will be using green vinyl privacy slats on the fence surrounding the compound. Attorney Fenton said that this site was chosen for being a wooded area and will be shielded by existing vegetation.

Chairperson Prouty opened the Hearing to the public at 6:58 pm. There were no abutters present. Noone spoke either in favor or against.

Chairperson Prouty spoke saying that the Public Hearing will not be closed as the next balloon float on March 23, 2021 must be completed first as per the Town's attorney.

All agreed to continue this hearing to Tuesday, March 30, 2021 at 6:30 pm via Zoom. The information needed to attend the Zoom meeting will be posted on the Town's website.

## 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by Member Ronghi and seconded by Member Mancini to approve the minutes of February 22, 2021 as written.

Mancini – yes, Ronghi – yes, Geiger – yes, Prouty – yes.

## 3. ANY OTHER MATTER THAT MAY LEGALLY COME BEFORE THE BOARD

Chairperson Prouty said the election of officers needs to be done. With Member Maggi absent, She will postpone the election to the next Board meeting.

Motion was made by Member Ronghi and seconded by Member Mancini to adjourn the meeting. Ronghi-yes, Mancini – yes, Geiger – yes, Prouty-yes.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:15 pm.

Submitted by hpg