

TOWN OF BEDFORD
January 24, 2019
BEDFORD TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES

A meeting of the Bedford Telecommunications Committee was held on Thursday, January 24, 2019 at the Bedford Meeting Room, 10 Meetinghouse Road, Bedford, NH. Present were: Bill Duschatko (Chairman/Town Council Rep), Kathleen Bemiss, Chris Swinarski, and David Tuttle. Also present: Rick Sawyer, Town Manager and Denise Ricciardi resident.

Chairman Duschatko called the meeting to order at 11:39 a.m.

Public Comment

Chairman Duschatko asked if there was any public comments to be made prior to the start of Business.

- Mrs. Ricciardi indicated that the Town should develop a right of way ordinance to regulate the aesthetic concerns related to the implementation of 5G. It was stated the Becky Hebert would work on an ordinance with Mrs. Ricciardi and that we need to be mindful of NH RSA 12-k.

New Business

- Mr. Swinarski indicated that the new FCC Order was now in place as the challenge was not granted. The Order takes power away from states and municipalities and only allows for regulation based on aesthetics. He indicated that small cell systems are virtually invisible and often look like a transformer.
- Mr. Duschatko stated he believed the last day to set up aesthetic based criteria was April 15th. After review of the Order and articles it was determined that there is not a time restriction.
- Mr. Duschatko next looked to the Committee for their thoughts on continuing as their time had sunset. He asked should the Committee go back to the Council for more time to consider small cell systems, aesthetics, municipal fiber optic networks, special telecommunication districts with open fiber systems and open software packages that reduce costs to the consumer. He stated the network would need to be in conjunction with a utility company.
- Mr. Tuttle indicated that Comcast has now delivered gigabit speed to his home in Bedford. The Committee then discussed the costs associated with commercial versus municipal systems. Mr. Duschatko indicated that the Hanover project was estimated at \$12M and would be underground. Mrs. Bemiss asked if there were grants available for these systems and there was discussion about previous grants for trunk lines such as

the one from Keene to Hanover. The benefits of a municipal network option were further discussed.

- Mrs. Ricciardi indicated that a fiber network could eliminate the need for 5G on the pole and therefor reduce the associated health and privacy concerns.
- It was the consensus of the Committee that it is important to seek Council approval to continue their work and to specifically focus on a right of way ordinance for the aesthetic issues related to 5G and options for a municipal fiber network.

Chairman Duschatko adjourned the meeting at 12:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Rick Sawyer, Town Manager