



TOWN OF VERNON FIRE DEPARTMENT

P.O. Box 54 Vernon, CT 06066 Ofc: 860-871-7468 Fax 872-4952
Please visit us at www.vernonfire.com

August 27, 2008

Present: Art Beirn, Bill Call, Bill Campbell, Steve Clark, Hal Cummings, Steve Eppler, George Fetko, Jack Fisher, Chris Hammick, Marie Herbst, Bob Kelley, Jim Luddecke, Terry McCarthy, Michael Purcaro, Hollis Redding, Chuck Regulbuto, Len Tundermann,

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chief William Call. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the Fox Hill and Box Mountain Tower proposal presented by Chuck Regulbuto and Hollis Redding from Optasite.

We were informed that TMobile desires a cell phone site @ Box Mountain. Optasite proposes construction of the Box Mountain location that it will own and collect rent from clients. Optasite will carry the insurance coverage for Box Mountain. It will also provide the town with communication coverage on the South side of I-84. In lieu of lease payments to the town for this project a new communications tower/facility will be constructed @ Fox Hill free of charge to the Town of Vernon to fulfill its' needs. Optasite will have no rights to the Fox Hill tower. After 15 years Optasite will begin paying the Town of Vernon a monthly rental fee for the Box Mountain location. A \$1,400 p/month amount + 3% annual increase was discussed, but is an estimate at this time.

The Fox Hill Tower is currently 80 feet in height, but if the town requires additional height, Optasite will accommodate @ no cost to the town. In addition to the tower Optasite will provide a new prefab communications structure with concrete pad, HVAC (incls heating strips), generator (size TBD), fencing & landscaping. They would provide an allowance for swap over of service, however, will not pay for new equipment or our electricity usage. Optasite will remove the old Fox Hill Tower and will top off/re-grade the foundation. Jack Fisher informed the current Fox Hill Tower is @ maximum capacity. A higher tower would allow for the town to rent out space and begin revenue from this location.

Maximum town statute is 175 ft. in height. Anything higher would require approval from the Zoning Commission and the Siting Council. Propagation maps are being used to determine coverage area since the Box Mountain location is not easily accessible with equipment.

Art Beirn hopes that 175 ft will be acceptable for Box Mountain communications for all Town Departments. He desires additional testing. This is currently a weak communication district. Any involvement of the Siting Council will be for the Box Mountain location only.

Marie Herbst noted concern about negative feedback that may be received from residents viewing the towers, but in the spirit of EMS and public safety all felt this would pass.

Chuck informed that Optasite will be merging with SBA in mid September. The new organization will not affect our needs. He would like to bring the proposal to the Siting Council by the end of 2008. The Optasite Representatives left the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

Jack Fisher discussed the significant amount of time that is spent @ the Fox Hill site. The condition of the location is deplorable. Damage caused by mice/water is extensive and costing \$\$ for radio repairs. Additional communication services/departments added to this location have overloaded the current facility and many holes can be filled with this new direction.

Information and facts need to be collected from all departments and ultimately presented to the Town Council.

Specs and total cost to build need to be developed. What would it cost for us to build the facility?

The public will criticize the effort if other companies are not given the chance to bid on this project. RFP process was discussed. However, a general letter to competing companies stating our intent and search for interest would suffice. Hal Cummings and Art Beirn will pursue.

Cummings suggested that we request Optasite to provide a bullet list of items they will and will not include. Bill Call will pursue.

Terry McCarthy and Len Tundermann will investigate open space issues to make sure that Box Mountain does not violate regulations.

Steve Clark will contact the Police Department vendor and will provide detail on the PD's needs.

A bullet list of all needs of all departments should be compiled for the vendor. It was also discussed that a sub-committee be formed of key players for next steps.

It was agreed that this group would reconvene on September 24th @ 7:00 p.m. at the Town of Vernon Public Safety Complex on 280 West. Rd.

The meeting was completed @ 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Carpenter, Secretary