Approved
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AOA

Brookfield Planning Commission
Brookfield Town Office
September 3, 2015
Public Meeting

Members present: Aaron Adler, Chair; Martha Judy; Jeff Girard; Clay Purvis, Secretary; and Will White.

Select Board Members present: Jeff Kimmel

Participants: Brian Sullivan (for Verizon), Andrew Davis (Verizon), Louis Hodgetts (Verizon), Cory and Angie Haggett, Brenda Flynt, Dee Montie, Hope Krenick

Call to Order

The meeting of the Brookfield Planning Commission commenced at 7 p.m. Chair Adler reviewed the agenda and asked for proposed changes. Member White proposed moving the presentation by Verizon Wireless ahead of the public comment period, which was agreed to.

Minutes of the prior meetings

The Commission reviewed the minutes of the meetings of August 11 and 27, 2015. Member Girard moved to approve the meeting minutes. The Commission voted unanimously to approve the meeting minutes

Verizon Presentation

Chair Adler gave a brief overview on the two proposals by Verizon Wireless and the Public Service Board process. Chair Adler opened the floor to Representatives of Verizon Wireless. Verizon was represented by Attorney Brian Sullivan, Andrew Davis and Louis Hodgetts. Mr. Sullivan gave a short presentation on two proposals for facilities that the company created. One proposal would heighten the existing telecommunications facility on Ridge Road to 95 feet above ground level (AGL). The other proposed facility would be a new tower on West Street at 110 feet AGL. Since the Verizon antennae would be six feet high and centered at the top position on each facility, they will add three feet to height of each facility. Mr. Sullivan stated that the average tree height at the Ridge Road facility is approximately 65 feet and at the West Street facility is approximately 50 feet. Mr. Sullivan stated that it was Verizon's intention to build only one facility and it preferred to build the Ridge Road extension over the new facility on West Street. Verizon planned to file a petition during the week of September 6.

Mr. Sullivan shared coverage maps with the commission. The maps show the proposed coverage for each facility. The package also included visual simulations of the proposed facilities. While the Planning Commission had previously requested a viewshed analysis and documents containing specific information on the benefits of Verizon's proposals, no such documents were provided. Mr. Hodgetts stated that he had chosen the locations for the visual simulations based on a balloon test and drive along town roads that he had conducted.

Public Comment and Questions

The Commission opened up the forum to public comment and questions.

Hope Krenick asked Verizon if people cannot get service from the Ridge Road tower, will Verizon need to build a second site in Brookfield. Mr. Sullivan answered that at this time the company only intends to build one site.

Brenda Flynt asked why the Ridge Road Tower was shorter than the West Street proposal. Hodgetts explained that the West Street and Ridge Road facilities were at differing elevations, which accounted for the height differences.

Chair Adler asked about the company's service objectives. Mr. Sullivan explained that Verizon's objective was to increase coverage and capacity, capacity being the amount of simultaneous data and voice users that the facility could accommodate. One coverage goal of Verizon was to close a gap on I-89 between exits 5 and 4.

Member Purvis asked what the capacity of each proposed facility would be and requested information on which locations in Brookfield that do not currently have service would receive it. Mr. Sullivan did not have the answer but said he would find out and include the information in the application to the Public Service Board. When asked if Verizon would provide the information to the Commission before submitting an application, Mr. Sullivan said Verizon would not do so.

Jeff Kimmel, member of the Select Board, asked whether seasonal changes would affect coverage. Andrew Davis stated that foliage did affect coverage in that coverage would decrease when there were leaves on the trees.

Hope Krenick asked why the facility needs to be above the tree line. Mr. Sullivan explained that carriers needed to be above the line to reach their coverage goals.

Cory Haggett, representing himself, asked if other carriers could collocate on the West Street facility. It was Verizon's opinion that it was possible. Chair Adler noted that, if Verizon was in fact proposing a minimum height for the West Street facility to meet its objectives, other carriers may not seek to collocate below Verizon's antennae on that facility.

Hope Krenick asked why the tower needs to be so high and she expressed opposition to the Ridge Road Facility.

Chair Adler asked the company representatives if they had created a viewshed analysis similar to what AT&T presented the Commission in a prior proceeding. Mr. Sullivan stated that Verizon had not created a viewshed analysis and one was not required. Chair Adler asked if they did an analysis to see if Verizon to meet its coverage goals with two towers that met the Town's height restriction. Mr. Sullivan indicated that that the company had not done such an analysis because two towers would cost more than one and, in response to further questioning, stated that the company had not analyzed whether the company could build two towers and still be profitable . In response to the question whether the

company could put a second, shorter tower next to the Ridge Road facility, Andrew Davis asserted that two facilities next to each other could cause interference and that he not analyzed whether this would prevent using a second tower at the Ridge Road site.

Member Judy asked why Verizon did not provide advance notice to the Town of the balloon test. Mr. Hodgetts stated that he found it difficult to schedule balloon tests with enough advance notice. Chair Adler noted that, in a prior proceeding, AT&T had conducted a balloon test with notice to the Town and asked if Verizon would do so prior to filing an application with the Board. Mr. Sullivan stated that Verizon would not conduct a balloon test with notice to the Town.

Mr. Haggett spoke again and expressed his desire for better cell coverage in Brookfield.

Ms. Krenick expressed her concern over the impacts of the Ridge Road facility and questioned whether the change to the facility would really increase cell coverage.

In response to questions from Chair Adler concerning the Ridge Road facility, Mr. Hodgetts stated that the distance from the centerline of the T-mobile antennae to the centerline of the Verizon antennae would be 23 feet, and from the centerline of the AT&T antennae to the Verizon antennae would be 14 feet.

Chair Adler read a comment by Brian Guay, expressing concern about the visual impacts the facility.

Discussion

Chair Adler and Members Girard, Judy, Purvis, and White expressed a desire to have more information about the proposed facilities before making a decision. Chair Adler noted the importance of respecting the height restriction incorporated in the Town Plan because it is from a bylaw approved by the voters at town meeting.

Chair Adler moved to table the proceeding. The Commission voted unanimously in favor of tabling the issue.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.