



Upper Uwchlan Township
Board of Supervisors Workshop

January 14, 2014

4:00 p.m.

Minutes

Approved

In attendance:

Cathy Tomlinson, Chair
Kevin Kerr, Vice-Chair
Guy Donatelli, Supervisor

Cary Vargo, Township Manager
Gwen Jonik, Township Secretary
John DeMarco, Police Chief

The Workshop was held in the Township Building Conference Room due to renovation activity in the Schoolhouse.

Cathy Tomlinson called the Workshop to order at 4:00 p.m.

Chester County Voice Radio Project - Overview

Ed Atkins, Director, Chester County Department of Emergency Services, Levin Czubaroff, Esq. – Fox Rothschild, and Devin Guth, Project Manager – ACD Telecom, were in attendance to present an overview of the County's Voice Radio System replacement project, and seek the Board's comments regarding installing a new radio tower structure in Upper Uwchlan to provide better radio coverage and audio quality for emergency responders.

The current 1990s-era analog emergency voice radio system has become deficient and inadequate to provide full communication coverage with the police, fire, and emergency medical services providers throughout the County. The upgrade also addresses the FCC's expectation of more efficient use of the radio band. The County has signed a \$42M contract with a Provider to design, install, test, and operationally implement a digital voice radio system, including warranty and maintenance period of 10 years. The digital system will provide 97% portable radio coverage using 25 tower sites throughout the county. The new system will be interoperable between all responders – fire, police, ambulance, mutual aid with neighboring counties, as well as interaction with other radio systems during disaster recovery situations. The County plans to utilize existing system structures and leases as much as possible but 4 new towers are needed throughout the County. The northern section of Upper Uwchlan has been selected in order to increase the coverage in Upper Uwchlan and surrounding areas. Several existing towers in Upper Uwchlan have been evaluated for potential co-location of systems, however none met the need. The proposed tower is a 300', 3-legged self-supporting lattice tower (45' from leg to leg), with the potential location next to the Route 100 wastewater treatment plant. The tower wouldn't initially blend into the surroundings.

The new system will be tested in the facility where it's being manufactured by those who typically use the system; then it'll be tested grid by grid here before going "live". The Contract calls for 97/97 coverage, meaning 97% of the territory 97% of the time. No system can guarantee 100/100 coverage, 95%-97% is the standard. The system's life expectancy is 20-30 years.

The County will own the towers and ancillary equipment (electricity, back-up generators, HVAC, fencing, etc.) but not the property. The tower will be pre-wired to a commercial generator to plug in for catastrophic power outage. The tower will be maintained by the County.

The proposed location is in the Limited Industrial District, not residential. The tower and ancillary items won't interfere with Phase II of the sewer plant. If the tower should fall, it won't hit anyone or any structure as it will collapse on itself or break off in pieces. It will be painted white/red with warning lights on top.

Mr. Guth will advise the Board of the distance from the proposed tower location to the nearest residence and provide photos of existing towers similar to the proposed tower. The land development is <1 acre so NPDES and County Conservation District permits aren't required, however a PaDEP permit may be required. There shouldn't be any interference with nearby communication towers. Other communication providers could collocate on the tower.

The County's schedule to bring the new system online is as follows: lease agreements and land development approvals in place - Fall 2014; renovate existing structures and construct the 4 new structures late 2014 / early 2015; test throughout 2015; system operational early 2016.

The Township will review the additional information provided by Mr. Guth and seek comment from the neighboring communities – Eagle Hunt, Windsor Ridge.

Township Manager's Report

Cary Vargo advised traffic has been backing up on southbound Route 100 of late. Twice as many vehicles are traveling Route 100 rather than Graphite Mine Road. To help the volume flow more quickly, we are adding the Park Road and Byers Road intersections into the adaptive phase rather than programmed phase of the traffic control system.

Adjournment

There being no more business to be brought before the Board, the Workshop was adjourned at 5:23 p.m. and the Board proceeded to hold an Executive Session regarding a legal matter.

Respectfully submitted,

Gwen A. Jonik,
Township Secretary