

WISCASSET PLANNING BOARD  
DECEMBER 13, 2010

Present: Al Cohen, Tony Gatti, Chairman Steve House, Jackie Lowell, Peter McRae,  
Lester Morse, Karl Olson, Debra Pooler and Ray Soule

1. Call meeting to order

The chairman called the meeting to order at 7: 05 p.m.

2. Consideration of November 22, 2010 Minutes

Ray Soule moved to accept the minutes. Vote 7-0-2.

3. State of Maine - Site Plan Review and WTF Preliminary Plan for wireless telecommunication tower, 17 Huntoon Hill Road, Map R-5, Lot 20

Craig Hitchings and Jim Williams of the State Office of Information Technology were present representing the statewide radio project. The application of The State of Maine in conjunction with the U. S. Customs & Border Protection for site plan review of the proposed telecommunications tower was presented. The proposed 100' x 100' site is on a former landfill on Huntoon Hill Road, which is town property. The 180-foot tower and 20' x 32' equipment shelter will be surrounded by a security fence, and the access road and overhead utility improvements will be added at the site.

Hitchings said other towers in the vicinity had been assessed before choosing the Huntoon Hill Road site. The only other tower in the proscribed area, if structurally sufficient, would be the county tower, which is loaded and unable to handle co-location of the state and federal antennas. The Town and State had mutually agreed on the Huntoon Hill site and a Lease Option Letter of Agreement had been signed by both parties.

Hitchings reviewed the contents of the application binder including the lease option letter, photo simulations, flood map, notice list and map, NEPA report, survey plan, towers map and construction drawings.

Rob Bickford, shift supervisor at the Lincoln County 9-1-1 Center, spoke on behalf of Communications Director Tim Pellerin, expressing concern that the proposed tower could cause radio interference with the Lincoln County communications tower that is within 200-300 yards of the proposed tower. The county tower houses critical radio equipment used by all law enforcement, fire and emergency medical services throughout the county. He asked for a guarantee that if the proposed tower site caused any interference with the county radio/data system, it would cease operations and repairs made to eliminate interference before operations resume on the new tower. Hitchings agreed to put into writing the requested guarantee as part of the final application.

Jeffrey Hinderliter requested that a copy of the FCC license be provided and was advised that had been addressed in the memo with the application. Hinderliter also requested that the applicant contact Ervin Deck at the airport to determine if there were any potential issues; to provide documentation that no existing building site or structure can accommodate the proposed facility; to submit a memo regarding co-location and the formerly addressed guarantee that the county communication systems will not be impacted by the proposal. Hitchings agreed that the above requested documentation would be provided

Karl Olson noted that the signature of a land surveyor on the plan would be necessary in addition to a soils report and a source deed site. He also said some monumentation would be necessary for the tie line of the external boundary, rather than a point in Carolyn Bailey's driveway. Williams

said he had not been able to find the source deed either at the town office or the Registry of Deeds. He suggested an affidavit signed by the town. Karl Olson moved to accept the application as complete conditional upon receipt of a soils map and a signed survey showing a tie line for a reproducible boundary. Vote 9-0-0. A public hearing was scheduled for January 10, 2011.

In response to Bill Phinney's question, Hitchings said that he hoped for a town vote in March and the beginning of construction in the summer.

4. Other Business - None

5. Adjourn

Al Cohen moved to adjourn at 7:52 p.m. Vote 9-0-0.