

SUMMIT TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS

**Public Hearing
September 6, 2022**

Chairman Welka called a public hearing of the Board of Supervisors to order at 6:00 p.m. followed by the salute to the flag. Supervisors Davis, Lee and Welka were present, as were, Solicitor Wachter, Engineer Jonas, Zoning Administrator Cass, Secretary Vallimont, and seventeen interested persons.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Welka explained that the purpose of this conditional use hearing is to receive public input regarding an application for a wireless communication facility at 8990 Peach Street. Solicitor Wachter went over the timeline of events leading to this hearing, explained the procedures to be followed and requested that GPD, the applicant, agree to an extension for the decision; Mike Beddow of GPD, agreed to an extension date of October 31, 2022. Solicitor Wachter then asked Court Stenographer Cecelia Muhanna to swear in any person that is planning to testify.

PURPOSE OF HEARING

Mike Beddow stated that his firm, GPD, is presenting this application for AT&T. The application is for a 170' tower to be located at 8990 Peach Street. Joe Askins, owner of the property, is present and has approved the application. The proposed tower would have a 4' lightning rod at the top, be located approximately 1700' off the road and at least 1500' from any residential structures. The purpose/need of the tower is to close an identified gap in coverage and the tower will be constructed to allow future collocation. The site area is in a wooded area to conceal the tower.

APPLICANT PRESENTATION

Solicitor Wachter Q. What is the distance of the confinement area to the nearest property line?

Mike Beddow A. Four feet

Q. Could we review a copy of the FAA letter?

A. Yes

Q. Is the determination of the FAA for the current location only?

A. Yes

Q. Would a redesign or new application require a new determination from the FAA?

A. Yes

Q. Have you reached out to Lilly Broadcasting (tower located less than 1 mile away)?

A. No, this would not provide the coverage needed to completely close the gap.

Q. What is the fall/collapse design of the tower?

A. This has not been determined and can be designed as required.

Q. You stated the confinement area would be 4' from the property line to the north; the ordinance requires a minimum of 200' so a variance would be required?

A. Yes, 196' setback variance

Q. What is the distance from the tower structure to the property line?

A. 60'

Bob Stewart stated he is a pilot, and he is a member of the township's ZHB. Personally, he does not care if the tower is constructed but believes the supervisors must consider safety of anyone using the airport coming into or leaving our township.

PUBLIC INPUT

Tim Will stated that we should support this 3rd generation business (airport).

Todd Will spoke of an adverse effect on aircraft.

Rod Gehrlein is the owner of and spoke on behalf of Thermal-G Gliderport.

Wachter Q. Where is the airport located from the proposed tower site?

Gehrlein A. Immediately west of the tower

Q. What is the direction of the runway?

A. Runs east-west (pointed to runway on map)

Q. What is a glider plane? How often do they use the gliderport?

A. Small plane with no engine. Approximately 100/year when first started. Varies each year.

Q. How many hot air balloons use the gliderport?

A. Approximately 10/year.

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Jerry Vogt is a pilot and just thinks it is dangerous to balloons that could be “sucked in” to the tower by magnetic fields.

Mike Beddow stated that the size of the tower was considered for the smaller airport and reiterated that they have received FAA preliminary approval.

With no further discussion, motion by Lee, Davis second, to adjourn the hearing at 7:04 p.m.

HEARING CLOSED

Vote: 3/0

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa A. Vallimont
Municipal Secretary