

**MINUTES
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
JULY 10, 2017**

A special town meeting of the electors and those qualified to vote at the town meetings of the Town of Lebanon was held on Monday, July 10, 2017 at Fire Safety Complex, 23 Goshen Hill Road Audience 34

First Selectman Betsy Petrie called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

First Selectman Betsy Petrie then called for nominations for moderator.

Moved by John Lyon, seconded by Paul Spedalieri, to appoint Brian Green as moderator.
Vote called – Motion passed

Moderator Green reviewed Town Meeting protocol.

Moved by Betsy Petrie, seconded by Sandra Spedalieri, to wave the reading of the call of the meeting. Vote called – Motion passed

Moved by Betsy Petrie, seconded by Robert Cady, Sr. to bring item 1 to the floor *“Consider and act upon approval of the lease of a portion of Town owned property located at Lyman Memorial High School, 917 Exeter Road, Lebanon, Connecticut, to Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless for the purpose of the construction and operation of a communications tower.”*

First Selectman Betsy Petrie spoke to the question as follows: A public hearing was held several months ago and a presentation about the location and specifics on the tower itself were presented. Planning and Zoning has issued a favorable 824 report. The Board of Education has also supported the tower. There has been a conversation with the Board of Finance to put the funds generated from the tower into a special fund for upgrades to radio communications within the town.

A resident requested to see the location and map.

Robert Burns, Civil Engineer with All Points Technology Corp. answered as follows: A map was displayed of the property. The tower would be a 150-foot monopoll behind Lyman Memorial High School and would come off the high school where there is a driveway. A gravel driveway approximately 350 feet would go to the woods, to a fenced in gravel compound area. This compound area would house the 150-foot tower and initial room for Verizon's equipment. The size of this area could allow future carriers. There will be room for municipality equipment as well as municipality plans to put antennas on the tower. The tower is 150 feet; Verizon is at 140. It is designed in 10 foot increments under it for future carriers as well. Electrical and telephone services will run underground. An emergency back-up generator and a 1,000 gallon propane tank to fuel that generator will also be in the compound area.

A resident asked about radiation studies impacting children.

Attorney Kenneth Baldwin from Robinson & Cole LLP spoke to the question as follows: These types of facilities need to comply with safety standards established by FCC, and are very low powered facilities. A report was prepared by C Squared Systems LLC. All information provided to them about antennas, power output, frequencies, and these numbers are run through an FCC formula to confirm compliance. This report demonstrates at its highest level anywhere on school property, the highest level of radio frequency emissions from the facility would be a 4.17 percent of the standards. Less than 5 percent of what the safety standard allows; 20 times below what we could transmit from this facility. As additional carriers are added, those emissions will go up but the facility will still need to comply.

Kathy Smith, East Hebron Turnpike: Is there a limit to how many carriers and how much can be on the tower? If there are four carriers, is it getting closer to the standard but we are still 20 percent below?

Attorney Baldwin responded as follows: If you assume the highest level of four carriers at percent this is cumulatively 20 percent of the standard. There are only three major carriers in the state today, a fourth if Sprint enters into the area. These are based on worse case calculations. Studies assume that all the antennas are transmitting simultaneously on all channels at full power. The system operates where there is a call or data transmission then shuts down and restarts when someone else uses the system. The 5 percent is the worse-case scenario.

A resident asked about radiation inside the building and if other schools in Connecticut have towers on their grounds.

Attorney Baldwin answered the question as follows: Impact inside the building would be minimal because of barriers such as concrete and glass. There are schools, hospitals, parks, town properties and personal properties that have communication towers, and some have had them for a period of time.

Moderator Green called the question. *“Consider and act upon approval of the lease of a portion of Town owned property located at Lyman Memorial High School, 917 Exeter Road, Lebanon, Connecticut, to Celco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless for the purpose of the construction and operation of a communications tower.”* Vote called – Yes 16; Opposed 3. Motion passed. *(See Board of Selectmen Public Hearing minutes dated May 23, 2017 for proposed contract and lease agreement).*

Moved by Betsy Petrie, seconded by Liz Charron, to bring item 2 to the floor *“Consider and act upon approval to lease Van for Elderly and Disabled Demand Responsive Transportation.”*

Darcy Battye, Senior Center Director spoke to the question as follows: Transportation for elderly and handicapped individuals is provided by the Senior Center. Currently owned is a Toyota mini-van, and a 14-passenger mini bus which has a wheelchair lift. In addition to these owned vehicles, a mini-van is rented from Enterprise. Three vehicles are needed every week and currently the rental for the Enterprise mini-van is \$1,300. A lease option for a mini-van would cost approximately \$460 and this would save the Town about \$800 per month in fees. Town meeting would authorize this lease option which is requested this evening.

Alan Olenick, Beaumont Highway: Would it be better to buy rather than lease vehicles?

Darcy Battye responded as follows: At present, two vehicles are owned and due to high mileage with both vans, new tires have to be put on both every year. Feel it more prudent to enter into lease option because of wear and tear, but purchasing is something to explore in the future.

Moderator Green called the question. *“Consider and act upon approval to lease Van for Elderly and Disabled Demand Responsive Transportation.”* Yes 19; Opposed 1. Motion passed.

Moved by Liz Charron, seconded by Betsy Petrie, to bring item 3 to the floor *“Consider and act upon approval to grant The Connecticut Light and Power Company d/b/a Eversource Energy, together with its successors and assigns, a permanent access road easement at 171 Exeter Road, Lebanon, CT.”*

First Selectman Betsy Petrie spoke to the question as follows: The Town was approached by Eversource Energy as they will need access to its transmission lines from the access at Route 207, and they have offered the Town \$35,000 for this permanent access. Planning and Zoning has issued a favorable 824 report. Town meeting authorizes the Town to enter into this agreement which is requested this evening. There was no further discussion.

Moderator Green called the question. *“Consider and act upon approval to grant The Connecticut Light and Power Company d/b/a Eversource Energy, together with its successors and assigns, a permanent access road easement at 171 Exeter Road, Lebanon, CT.”* Vote called – Yes 19; Opposed 0. Motion Carried.

Moved by Al Vertefeuille, seconded by Sandra Spedaliere to adjourn at 7:49 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Ellen Wieczorek CCTC
Lebanon Assistant Town Clerk