

A Public Hearing was held by the Town Board of the Town of Ballston on Tuesday, August 9, 2022, via Zoom video conferencing.

PRESENT:	Eric Connolly	Supervisor
	Chuck Curtiss	Councilman
	Kelly Jasinski	Councilwoman
	Michael Carota	Councilman
	Rob Fendrick	Councilman
	Carol Gumienny	Town Clerk
	Debra Kaelin	Town Attorney

The Supervisor opened the Public Hearing at 6:15 p.m. and the following notice was read by the Town Clerk:

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
TOWN OF BALLSTON**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to a resolution of the Town Board of the Town of Ballston adopted July 26, 2022, the said Town Board will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, August 9, 2022, at 6:15 p.m. via Zoom video/audio conferencing platform to hear all interested parties and citizens on a lease option agreement between the Town of Ballston and Vertical Bridge to erect a cell tower on Town property adjacent to the Highway Garage. The Zoom link is <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81029306881> or call 1-646-558-8656_Webinar ID: 810 2930 6881. Written comments may be sent prior to July 26, 2022, to the Town Board, 323 Charlton Road, Ballston Spa, NY 12020, or email to cgumienny@townofballstonny.org. Said hearing may be adjourned and continued from time to time as necessary. Further information may be obtained at the Town Clerk's Office, 323 Charlton Road, Ballston Spa, NY or on the Town website at www.townofballstonny.org.

By Order of the
Town Board of the
Town of Ballston,
Dated July 26, 2022

Carol Gumienny
Town Clerk

Supervisor Connolly stated that during the last meeting Vertical Bridge gave a presentation on a cell tower to be erected at Town Hall next to the Highway garage. The Board had asked for the range of coverage. Recently, the Board was given a map of the coverage which is only a projection because Vertical Bridge would have to wait until they contracted with a cell carrier. When this occurs, the specific range of the cell tower would be calculated and be more accurate. Vertical Bridge representative Joe Tassone introduced John Stevens the vice president of Vertical Bridge. Mr. Tassone showed the location of the 150-foot cell tower on Town property. A simple plot was run by his partner. A typical cell carrier will come in and do their own plots. He stated that the coverage is to the north, west, and south which will provide a good area of coverage at this height. Mr. Stevens stated that the rural coverage east to the lake and north, south and west is poor in this area. The objective in these areas is to have reliable in car coverage.

The Supervisor asked if anyone on the Zoom video conferencing platform wanted to speak for the record. No one wished to speak.

Councilwoman Jasinski asked what is the difference between in car coverage and house coverage? Mr. Stevens stated that Ballston's market is considered rural. Long term, carriers want to provide vibrant in building coverage, which is the ultimate, but that will require a density of towers that is not being discussed yet. The objective in the rural area is to provide decent in vehicle coverage. In vehicle also means you get into homes, so you will have some coverage in your homes, but they are not trying to blast coverage, now only to provide basic coverage. Currently, the coverage is terrible; this is the first step. 15 years from now a different standard will be examined, but right now, the standard is to give coverage that is not there now. Mr. Tassone stated that some coverage will be in nearby homes; however, not in their basements.

Councilman Fendrick asked if this specific tower is going to be able to be upgraded in the future to accommodate future growth or will we have start over or add more towers in addition to what we will already have. Mr. Stevens stated that the tower itself is just a piece of steel, the radios and antennas will be upgraded on an annual basis including new antennas and more frequency bands. Councilman Curtiss asked if there are any other areas that have been considered for a tower? Mr. Tassone stated that he is looking at another parcel closer to the high school in addition to the one at Town Hall. Councilman Curtiss is concerned about coverage in his neighborhood. Vertical Bridge is happy to look at other locations. One tower will not fit all locations. Supervisor Connolly asked, "How would you rate the coverage for this cell tower location"? Mr. Stevens replied that it is between fair and good.

Supervisor Connolly again asked if anyone on the call wanted to add to the public record. He also stated that the public hearing will remain open due to minor issues with the contract and small things that are being worked out which he believes will be resolved. If anyone has any comments, they may be emailed to the Clerk, or the Board and they will be part of the record.

No one from the public wished to speak.

There was no correspondence received prior to the opening of the Public Hearing.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol A. Gumienny
Town Clerk