**LAYTONSVILLE BOARD OF APPEALS**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**December 11, 2017 – 7:30 p.m.**

**Roll Call**

A meeting of the Laytonsville Board of Appeals was called to order by Chair Cecere at 7:35 p.m. Board Members Foster, Kerns, Ryan, and Whittington were present.

**Guests**

Mr. Joshua Schakola, Verizon Wireless.

**Minutes**

The minutes of the Board meeting held on August 15, 2017, were not submitted. Chair Cecere requested that they be made available for the next meeting.

**Old Business**

None.

**New Business**

**Hearing**

Chair Cecere administered the oath for all persons wishing to give testimony.

**Monopole, Laytonsville Volunteer Fire Department**

Mr. Joshua Schakola, representing Verizon Wireless, was present to discuss the Special Exception application (SE-01-10, revised) for the monopole located at the Laytonsville Volunteer Fire Department. The amendment to the application requests the maintenance and reconfiguration of the existing antennas on the monopole tower, removing three radio heads and installing six new radio heads.

Chair Cecere thanked Mr. Schakola for his attendance and informed the Board that the tectonic report prepared by certified engineers was received on July 13, 2017, indicating that no structural changes were contemplated and the monopole maintained its structural integrity. Chair Cecere also indicated that he had received the Federal Guidelines regarding modifications and that as long as no changes or modifications were made to the base, everything was in order.

Mr. Schakola confirmed that no ground work at the base of the monopole nor structural changes would be undertaken. The request was based on the need to rearrange the antennas only.

Chair Cecere asked the Board Members if they had any questions for Mr. Schakola.

Member Whittington asked if a representative of the Laytonsville Volunteer Fire Department should be present since the monopole was located on their property. Chair Cecere confirmed that since the Federal Guidelines were in compliance, the Fire Department did not need to be present.

Member Foster asked when the maintenance would be undertaken and its duration. Mr. Schakola informed the Board that they would like to begin the work during the month of December but was not sure if they would be able to meet that deadline. Once the work is begun, it should take approximately two or three days to complete.

Member Kerns requested clarification as to whether the aesthetic look of the monopole would change considerably, safety issues, liability if something should happen to the monopole, and whether the Board had received any objections from the town’s residents.

Mr. Schakola informed the Board that the maintenance being undertaken was to accommodate future capacity; except for some moving of equipment, the monopole would look the same, and there were no safety issues. He also explained that the county does have safety inspectors but since the changes to the monopole are being made to the antennas and not the base or structure of the monopole, there is no need for an inspection.

Chair Cecere informed Member Kerns that, to his knowledge, none of the town’s residents had complained regarding the anticipated changes to the monopole. He explained that several years ago, the Board did hear a presentation from one of the Fire Department’s neighbors regarding the increasing number of antennas and potential health risks caused by radio waves. A discussion between the various wireless carriers, the Board, and the resident ensued and the complaint was removed.

The question was also raised as to how often changes needed to be made to the monopole, and

Mr. Schakola confirmed that depending on usage, changes might need to be made within the coming year.

Chair Cecere presented a motion to approve Special Exception application (SE-01-10 revsied) which requests the maintenance and reconfiguration to the existing antennas on the monopole located at the Laytonsville Volunteer Fire Department. The motion, seconded by Member Foster, passed unanimously.

 **Boyland Electric, Inc.**

Mr. Douglas Boyland, President of Boyland Electric, Inc. submitted a letter to the Board requesting a two-year extension to Special Exception SE-01-11. In the letter, Mr. Boyland states that there have been no changes to the occupation of the premises and the company has continued to comply with all of the conditions set forth in the exception originally approved on December 13, 2011.

Member Whittington mentioned that the Board had not received any complaints regarding the business and Chair Cecere indicated that Boyland Electric was a good corporate citizen to the town.

Chair Cecere proposed a motion to approve a two-year extension for Special Exception SE-01-11 to Boyland Electric, Inc.

Member Whittington seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

**Adjourn**

There being no further business, Chair Cecere made a motion to end the meeting. Member Kerns seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m. The next Board meeting will be held on January 8, 2018.

Respectively submitted,

Nadine Tarwater