



# The Town of Fenwick Island

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## **INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE MEETING FEBRUARY 19, 2021 *MEETING HELD VIA TELECONFERENCE***

### **MINUTES**

#### **In Attendance**

##### Infrastructure Members:

Chairman Bernie Merritt, Mike Houser, Bill Weistling

##### Staff in Attendance:

Town Manager Tieman, Public Works Manager Locke, Town Clerk Menominee

##### Others in Attendance:

Bonnie Metz and Gordon Sheetz

Chairman Merritt began the meeting at 10:00AM and introduced the newly established Infrastructure Committee members.

#### **For Discussion and Possible Action**

##### Verizon 5G

Bill Weistling provided a brief history on the process of introducing 5G to Fenwick Island. Bill stated that Town Manager Tieman, Building Official Schuchman, himself, Verizon engineers and Bonnie Metz drove through the Town examining streets and already existing poles for possible locations for Verizon cell towers in 2017. Unfortunately, existing poles on Bunting Avenue and Route 1 could not be used because it would be a safety hazard for Verizon utility workers due to the power lines. Bill stated he originally asked that Verizon limit number of poles in the Town and the height of poles. The Town passed a Cell Ordinance in February 2018 with input from Verizon - no cell nodes or poles allowed on residential or commercial buildings, any new pole in the Town right-of-way would have to be approved from Town Council. Verizon received approval from DelDot to install new poles as needed in their right-of-way. Bill stated that no new poles were installed in any of the Town's right-of-way and one pole was installed at Essex Street which is in the State's right-of-way.

Bonnie Metz from Verizon stated that when they first started working with Fenwick Island in 2017, this was all new technology. She said Fenwick Island was eager to work to improve the service in the Town and was the first town in the state to adopt a reasonable ordinance which provided Verizon a clear path forward. This in turn made the Town more attractive for investment and Bonnie thanked the Town for its partnership and discussions when there have been issues. She stated there are 14 nodes in the Fenwick polygon. They do try to use existing infrastructure if possible, Verizon only had to put up 1 or 2 new poles in the polygon. 8 nodes are in/close to Town and 6 are operational as of now. The next 2 nodes will be operational in the next 3 months. Bonnie stated that Fenwick Island will have 5G service by summer and that will relieve some of the connections to the 4G networks which means that Fenwick will have great connections to 5G and 4G networks. The Town will also not have to have the portable unit this summer.

##### Valve Project- Mike Locke

Chairman Merritt reassured residents that Fenwick Island continues to take the drainage issue seriously, as he stated that 14 drainage issues have been addressed by the Town in the last 5 years. Public Works Manager Locke performed an inventory on all the valves on all bayside streets. His conclusion was that every valve needs to be replaced and he purchased 11 new inline backflow preventers. Those preventers have not been installed yet, but they are still taking inventory on which streets have standing water/flooding and mitigating those issues.

Town Manager Tieman stated that she has not received the official second opinion from GMB. The engineers did state while they were surveying Farmington Street that there is not a lot of fall to accommodate drainage with a pipe. Any pipe that is put in would be used as a storage facility, which would take it off the top of the road, but because we are at sea-level the water would just be held in the pipe instead of draining into the canal.

#### Town Hall Project

Public Works Manager Locke stated that there has been new vinyl siding resembling cedar shakes and new fascia have all been fitted. New lights have been installed around Town Hall. Town Manager Tieman said that the color of the building will match the police station and the installation of the new handicap ramp will be handled by Public Works Manager Locke.

#### Lifeguard HVAC

Currently, there is a portable heater in the Lifeguard room and Public Works Manager Locke assured everyone that the HVAC would be up and running by the time the Lifeguard season starts.

#### **Adjournment**

A MOTION was made by Mike Houser seconded by Bill Weistling. The MOTION passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at.