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## Memorandum

TO: Town Council

FROM: Robert H. Stabe Jr., Town Manager

DATE: November 9, 2017

**SUBJECT: Cell Tower Update / Funding Source / Potential Additional Expense**

On November 6, 2017, Chief Building Official, Jose' Guanch, gave DataPath Towers the go-ahead to begin the project and the Building Permit was issued today, November 9, 2017. DataPath has advised that they have scheduled to begin the clearing of the tower location next week and have scheduled the drilling crew to begin the construction on December 11<sup>th</sup>.

The Town originally agreed to pay for the additional camouflage (more branches, starting at 40' instead of 60') to ensure the most realistic effect. DataPath originally recommended that I budget \$150,000. After a lengthy delay, outside my span of control, and once the tower class was determined, that amount was reduced to \$70,000.

Today, DataPath stated that the contractor recently walked the tower location and noted a lot of standing water around the site. There is concern that, due to experiencing two hurricanes in less than one year, and the more recent excessive rainfall, the drilling may require the use of Bentonite. Bentonite is an expensive specialized clay-based chemical that helps prevent collapse during drilling in areas with high water tables and fine/sandy soils, absorbs many times its weight in water, and acts as a seal on the walls of the hole during drilling to prevent water from leaking back into the hole.

The contractor will conduct a test drill first to determine if the Bentonite is required or not. If it is required, the Town will be responsible for an additional \$70,000. FYI, approximately \$15,000 of that increased cost is solely for disposal. Soils treated with Bentonite must be removed off-site to a specialized location to be processed and broken down over a long period of time.

I also need direction from Council regarding the funding source for these expenses. Does Council want me to use infrastructure funds or proceeds from the sale of the property? The Town Treasurer recommends we use the proceeds from the sale, however, it is the Council's decision.