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Memorandum

TO: File

FROM: Robert H. Stabe Jr., Town Manager

DATE: March 14, 2017

SUBJECT: Town Ordinance 524

*Approved by Town Council
at 3-23-27 Regular Town
Council Meeting*

Regarding DataPath Tower's application to the Town Building Department, for all required permits to erect the wireless communication tower behind the Town garage, the Town has found that all of the criteria of Ordinance 524 have been met. The Ordinance extract and criteria are as follows:

*No tower shall exceed 50 feet in height (including antenna) when free-standing, or 40% over the building height when placed on top of buildings, **except** as provided in (1) below:*

(1) A tower not to exceed 135 feet in height may be permitted by the Town if all of the following criteria are met:

- (a) The Town determines that a serious deficiency in coverage exists that can only be corrected by adding cell tower coverage. The Town determined several years ago that a serious deficiency in coverage existed. Exhaustive research was conducted and multiple signal propagation studies were completed by two separate wireless communications firms. Both determined that the deficiency could only be corrected by installing an elevated wireless communication tower.*
- (b) The Town determines that the height needs to be increased over the 50-foot level to obtain reasonable coverage within the Town. Both companies recommended a minimum height of 115' in order to obtain reasonable coverage.*
- (c) That location of a tower of up to 135 feet is placed to have minimal adverse effect on surrounding and nearby residences. Two specific locations were considered over a period of many months with many open public meetings, workshops, and public hearings. The Town Council voted on the location on Town Hall property (behind the Town garage) and chose to install a mono-pine tower as the type of tower having minimal adverse effect on the surrounding and nearby residences. The tower is to be built with very dense branches and the branches will begin at 40' from ground level.*
- (d) That location of a tower of up to 135 feet in height has coverage advantages for the Public Safety Department of the Town. The location enables the Public Safety Department to benefit from an increased wireless signal for all residents/visitors to make successful 911 calls for emergency services and will provide an increased signal for the Department's in-vehicle mobile data terminals. The Department will be able to install additional antenna equipment on the tower in the future if needed.*