

**Lake County Forest Preserve District  
Committee of the Whole Meeting - Minutes  
June 6, 2016**

The Board of Commissioners of the Lake County Forest Preserve District met as a Committee of the Whole on Monday, June 6, 2016. The meeting was held at the District's General Offices, 1899 West Winchester Road, Libertyville, Illinois.

- 1.0 **Call to Order** - President Ann Maine called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.
- 2.0 **Pledge of Allegiance** – President Maine dispensed with the Pledge of Allegiance.
- 3.0 **Roll Call of Commissioners** – Secretary Gragnani called the roll and 13 Commissioners answered: Bartels, Calabresa, Carlson, Carter, Maine, Mandel, Mathias, Nixon, Sauer, Taylor, Weber, Werfel, and Wilke. Commissioner Durkin arrived at 12:04 p.m. Commissioner Hewitt arrived at 12:06 p.m. Absent: Commissioners Cunningham, Hart, Lawlor, Paxton, Pedersen, and Rummel.
- 4.0 **Public Comment** – None
- 5.0 **Approve Minutes from previous Committee of the Whole** – Motion by Commissioner Carter, second by Commissioner Mandel, to approve the Committee of the Whole meeting minutes of February 4, 2016. Voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously.
- 6.0 **Presentation – Cell Towers in Lake County** – President Maine introduced Eric Waggoner, Director of Lake County Planning, Building and Development; and Richard Riley, an expert in the wireless industry. Executive Director Alex Kovach made opening remarks, noting that the Land Preservation and Acquisition Committee had requested more information regarding the cellular industry in general, and in Lake County. He showed examples of various types of cell towers and how they can be disguised, and reported that staff polled other area forest preserve and conservation districts. Of 12 who responded, only one has a cell tower policy in place, however, some are considering it.


He turned the meeting over to Eric Waggoner, who gave a history of cell tower development in unincorporated areas and federal regulations that govern how local governments can regulate cell towers. A 1998 state statute gave counties limited authority over cell tower development. Counties have no ability to say no to a tower unless that tower is proposed at a setback that is closer than what the statute allows, and unless the tower isn't any higher than what the statute allows. In a residential zone, a tower can be up to 75 feet tall, and a setback of one-half of the distance. Ag zones and general commercial zones can be up to 200 feet tall, subject to a fall-down distance to the nearest residence. He gave an overview of wireless service requirements in areas of dense population to eliminate dead zones and the issues that his department has to contend with. He spoke about land use conflicts and how to prevent them, including a new Pilot Act, legislation that only addresses carriers in unincorporated Lake County. It allows the County the ability to force a carrier to reconsider its proposed location, as long as there an alternate location is identified that provides adequate coverage for their network and doesn't materially increase their construction budget, and as long as a lease can still be issued within a 90-day period. Another way to prevent land use conflicts is to find a property owner willing to have a tower placed on their property where there are few other alternatives, such as the Forest Preserve District. Mr. Waggoner responded to questions from Commissioners and a general discussion ensued.

President Maine then turned the meeting over to Richard Riley, who gave a presentation representing the cell tower industry. He provided charts showing the increase in demand for wireless networks in recent years, and noted that devices are now migrating to the 5<sup>th</sup> generation of technology, which will need additional speed and reliability. He felt that the District has property where cell towers could be located without causing aesthetic issues and noted that finding appropriate sites would make a big difference. In concluding his presentation, he responded to questions and comments, and a general discussion ensued.

President Maine and Executive Director Kovach made closing remarks and thanked everyone for their participation.

8.0 **Adjourn** – President Maine declared the meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

  
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Julie Gragnani  
Board Secretary

Date Approved: 2-6-2017