

**Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 P.M. by Chairman Ron De Bruyne in the Vilas County Justice Center conference room with the following committee members present:, Ed Bluthardt, John Niebuhr, Gary Peske, Kathleen Rushlow and David Alleman. Jim Galloway was excused. Also present were Dave Leack and Jeff Nelson of PSC Alliance; Michael Krein of CellCom; Jim Weinmann of Wireless Planing Consultants; Todd Morgan of the Arbor Vitae Fire Department; Vilas County IT Director Chris Kamps, Vilas County Corporation Counsel Martha Milanowski, Vilas County Zoning Director Dawn Schmidt and Vilas County Sheriff's Department Chief Deputy Joe Fath. Proper open meeting notice and quorum present were both verified by the Chair.

**Approve the agenda; discuss in any order at the discretion of the Chair:**

**Motion by K. Rushlow, 2<sup>nd</sup> by E. Bluthardt to approve the agenda with the order of discussion to be at the discretion of the chair. All voted aye. Carried.**

**Approval of the previous minutes:**

**Motion by G. Peske, 2<sup>nd</sup> by K. Rushlow to approve the January 11, 2010 minutes as presented. All voted aye. Carried.**

**Verizon (formerly AllTel) lease with county Birchwood Dr. location:**

M. Milanowski reported that lease negotiations with Verizon have resulted in concessions to Vilas County. She and G. Peske feel that negotiations have progressed about as far as can be reasonably expected. Specifically, lease rates have been determined for the next two 5 year lease terms and language has been inserted to allow Vilas County one rent free co-location on the Verizon tower for public safety purposes. After the lease language was read and discussed, J. Nelson advised that a minimum of two co-locations for public safety use were desirable at that site. **Motion by G. Peske, 2<sup>nd</sup> by R. De Bruyne to approve the current lease draft as presented, with the contingency that the Corporation Counsel attempts to negotiate an additional co-locate on the Verizon tower. All voted aye. Carried.**

**Cellcom tower in Town of Lincoln:**

G. Peske reported that Cellcom was seeking a conditional use permit to construct a communication tower in the Town of Lincoln, near the vicinity of Meta Lake. This issue has come before the committee for their input. E. Bluthardt was concerned about the location, as two other communication towers are already in use in the same area. M. Krein explained that the two existing towers were structurally insufficient for Cellcom to co-locate their antennas on. G. Peske and J. Nelson both felt that Vilas County would have no reason to co-locate on this proposed tower. E. Bluthardt asked if County Zoning had formulated a consistent policy that would guarantee County co-locates on future communication towers. D. Schmidt replied that pertinent ordinance changes remained under consideration. J. Weinmann explained that tower owners were generally receptive to offering governments the ability to co-locate for public safety purposes, usually at discounted rates. He then cautioned against attempts by government to use zoning ordinances to force co-locations at no cost on towers constructed on private property. He felt that such actions would result in court challenges. In the case of this tower, he recommended that the County consider reserving a public safety co-location on the

proposed tower, by inserting the appropriate language as a contingency in the conditional use permit. E. Bluthardt reiterated the necessity of rapidly developing a consistent communication tower zoning ordinance. J. Nelson also felt that it would be appropriate to have a consistent communication tower policy. **Motion by G. Peske, 2<sup>nd</sup> by R. De Bruyne to forward the following recommendations to the Zoning Committee regarding the proposed Town of Lincoln communication tower:**

- A. The Communication Committee has no objections regarding the tower.**
- B. The Communication Committee recommends that the Zoning Committee quickly proceeds with appropriate communication tower ordinance changes.**
- C. The Communication Committee recommends that a contingency be included in the conditional use permit, if issued to Cellcom permitting the construction of the communication tower in the Town of Lincoln, stipulating that the proposed tower be constructed in such manner as to provide for 4 to 6 additional co-locations, with at least two co-locations reserved for government public safety use. Costs and terms regarding government public safety co-location upon this tower shall be subject to negotiation between the parties involved.**

**All voted aye. Carried.** The Clerk was instructed to inform the Zoning Department Director of this action.

**Arbor Vitae interference issue:**

G. Peske reported that fire call paging interference continues to be an issue for the Arbor Vitae Fire Dept. Our communication system in that area has been thoroughly checked and re-checked. T. Morgan reported that certain members of the Fire Dept. did not receive a number of recent paged call-outs. Some pages were received but were intelligible. J. Nelson reported that the pagers in use by the Fire Dept. typically have antennas insufficient to provide consistent reception of pages.

**a. Verizon tower in Arbor Vitae:**

G. Peske reported that Verizon applied for a conditional use permit to erect a communication tower in Arbor Vitae. A public safety co-location on this tower may be the solution to providing consistent pages to the Arbor Vitae Fire Dept. The County would have to purchase a repeater and other equipment and may have to shoulder the lease costs of the co-location. K. Rushlow suggested that the County borrow a repeater and set it up on the tower when built, to test its effectiveness. G. Peske also stated that grant funding might be available to purchase the repeater and related equipment. This will be further researched.

**Project budget and financial update:**

Financial data concerning all ongoing projects and annual operating and maintenance expenses for 2009 was presented and discussed.

**Mobile data project:**

G. Peske reported that work continues on the Mobile Data project. The used equipment purchased has been checked out, and is in need of upgrading and reprogramming. He is recommending that the equipment be sent to CalAmp in Atlanta, Georgia, for this work.

This firm will provide all upgrades and reprogramming necessary and will warrant the equipment for one year. Cost of the upgrade is estimated to be \$130,000 to \$150,000.

R. De Bruyne questioned the value of purchasing the used equipment. G. Peske countered that even with the cost of the upgrades, the equipment costs were still far lower than purchasing new. E. Bluthardt asked for a completion date for the entire project. J. Nelson felt that the project would be completed some time this coming Summer. **Motion by E. Bluthardt, 2<sup>nd</sup> by J. Niebuhr to approve the expenditure of up to \$150,000 for the upgrading and reprogramming of the used Mobil Data equipment, to be conducted by CalAmp of Atlanta, Georgia. All voted aye. Carried.**

**Town of Lac du Flambeau tower project update:**

J. Nelson presented a job task update sheet, indicating aspects of the project that have been completed, are in progress or need further direction. G. Peske reported that the tower steel and shelter has been ordered. J. Nelson desires to coordinate the delivery and stacking of the tower with the delivery of the tower shelter building, to avoid an additional mobilization charge for the rigging crane. He estimates that \$10,000 could be saved with a coordinated delivery. D. Leack reported that, after three design revisions, the shelter was ordered with delivery scheduled within a few weeks.

**a. Microwave equipment for LDF tower:**

G. Peske recommended the purchase of the necessary microwave equipment from Aviat at an estimated cost of \$125,052.00. **Motion by E. Bluthardt, 2<sup>nd</sup> by K. Rushlow to approve the purchase. All voted aye. Carried.**

**b. Antennas and lines for LDF tower:**

J. Nelson recommended the purchase of the necessary antennas and lines, including installation charges, at a total estimated cost of \$8,600.00. **Motion by E. Bluthardt, 2<sup>nd</sup> by K. Rushlow to approve the purchase. All voted aye. Carried.**

**Oneida – Vilas interoperability project:**

J. Nelson reported that installation of equipment at the Weber tower site. Radio installation continues. An issue has arisen regarding a proposed Oneida County tower site involved in this project. The previously chosen Squirrel Hill tower site in Oneida County will not be usable for this project due to frequency interference caused by a co-locator. The Willow Tower site, located near Tripoli in Oneida County, will be used instead. J. Nelson foresees no problems with this tower location.

**Approve Bills and Requisitions:**

The following bills were presented by the Clerk for approval:

Verizon North	\$ 586.92
Heartland Communication	\$ 1,000.00
Skywave Tower	\$ 1,094.75
Technology Management	\$ 1,950.00
Technology Management	\$ 2,775.00
Joe Daniels Construction	\$ 5,275.00
Sabre Tower & Poles	\$ 92,219.00

**Motion by K. Rushlow, 2<sup>nd</sup> by E. Bluthardt to approve the bills as presented. All voted aye. Carried.**

**Equipment purchases:**

Nothing presented.

**Correspondence:**

G. Peske presented a map provided by the State of Wisconsin WISCOM project, indicating towers sites in Vilas County that this group plans to co-locate on for a statewide communications project. Two of the towers are in use by Vilas County. Frequency interference issues might arise at these locations.

**Set Next Meeting Date:**

The next meeting was set for 1:00 P.M. on Thursday, May 6, 2010 in the Justice Center conference room.

**Adjournment:**

**Motion by G. Peske, 2<sup>nd</sup> by J. Niebuhr to adjourn. All voting aye. Carried.**  
Meeting adjourned at 3:03 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted By:  
David R. Alleman, Vilas County Clerk