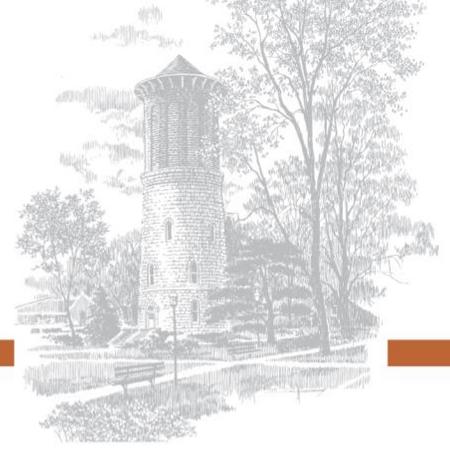


Village of Western Springs

TUESDAY TOPICS

October 27, 2020



Special Edition

5G - Response to Citizen Comments at 10/26/20 Meeting

Recently, the Village received a [letter](#) from EBI Consulting, on behalf of Verizon, notifying the Village of proposed small cell (5G) facility installations at 5100 Woodland and 4048 Western. The EBI letter requested comments regarding the historic status of these properties under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. While the letter is not a permit application, no doubt it is the first step in the permit application process for these two sites.

Over the course of the past year, the Village Board and staff have spent considerable time, effort, and money in researching the state and federal laws and regulations governing 5G installations, engaging in community outreach, advocating state and federal legislators on behalf of residents concerned with the 5G rollout, drafting amendatory language to the [State Act](#), and engaging lobbyists to actively promote that legislation in Springfield.

But the fact remains that the Village is limited in its authority to allow or deny the installation of 5G cell towers within the Village's boundaries. This inability to determine the placement and scope of equipment in our community is unprecedented in my experience, even in a non-home rule community such as Western Springs. Our authority to negotiate with the telecom companies is limited to the aesthetic considerations outlined in the Village's [Design Standards](#). Under state and federal laws and regulations, we cannot legally deny the installation of 5G cell towers based on any other grounds, including health and property value concerns. The Board and staff are as frustrated and infuriated by this usurpation of authority as are the residents who voiced their concerns on the matter during last night's Board meeting, and are doing all we legally can to regain some of that authority.

Going forward, we will continue to promote the amendatory language of the '[Protect Me From 5G](#)' bill, sponsored by Representative Mazzochi. The amendment will return some local control to the Village and other municipalities, including ongoing monitoring of the cell tower emissions to ensure compliance with federal regulations, but it will not stop the rollout of 5G. I encourage residents concerned about 5G to contact our [state and federal legislators](#). Please also reach out directly to your telecommunications providers – they need to hear concerns directly from their customers. More information and resources can be found on the [5G webpage](#) of the Village's website.

Until next week,

Alice Gallagher,
Village President

Wear a Mask, Socially Distance, Wash Hands, Be Safe