

Status on 5G Network Within Dewey Beach

This past July the Town received communication from Verizon stating that they were approved by Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT) to install the infrastructure for advanced wireless 5 G network throughout the Town. We also received a map delineating the locations of the poles within Dewey Beach. Verizon was approved by DelDOT for 13 sites within Dewey Beach. The map also reflected that another company, TILSON, was approved for installation on 5 DelDOT streets. TILSON is a national company that constructs infrastructure/poles for communication companies.

DelDOT owns all but a few streets within Dewey Beach, and the approval process by them only addresses state streets.

The map submitted to the Town also included 2 streets that TILSON chose to construct poles for the 5 G network. Those streets are Chesapeake and Carolina (ocean side), which belong to Dewey Beach not DelDOT. To date **no Town approval** has been granted for these 2 streets and the Town is exploring what options are available, if any, to halt, delay, modify construction on the right of way. The Town is not in any way in favor of any poles being placed on the ocean side of these streets including the ones Verizon has already installed.

What is of major concern is language within federal legislation requiring federal, state and local governments to approve construction on the public right of way in an expedited fashion. The state legislation addresses DelDOT right of way access to these companies; and the state has advised us that municipalities must follow federal legislation.

The Mayor, Building Official and Acting Town Manager, have met with Verizon regarding the location of the poles, specifically the ones on the ocean side streets by the dunes. It was made clear by us that the locations DelDOT approved were not acceptable nor wanted by the Town of Dewey Beach. When the locations were approved by DelDOT and submitted to the Town, it was made quite clear to us that they had no choice but to approve them, based on both federal and state legislation; and the Town had no say in the matter. We will have a conference call shortly with TILSON management to further discuss these issues with them.

We continue to look at what options we have regarding the Town of Dewey Beach owned streets with our Town Attorney.


James Dedes

Acting Town Manager


Dale H. Cooke

Mayor