

**Franklin Township Supervisors
Public Hearing for Conditional Use Application
for 9421 Route 98, Girard, Pa 16417 for a telecommunication tower.**

December 16, 2025

Call Order Robert Simonelli, called to order at 6:15pm. Supervisors present were Robert Simonelli, Ernest Robinson, Zoning Officer Ralph Breiding, and Secretary Ramona Junkins, Solicitor Gery Nietupski.

Visitors - Visitors present were Tara Miller, Dee Engel, Alan Hauser, Brian Tinko, Shawn Fuller, Tim Stark, Joe Cortese, Tom Baur.

Rules for Comment – Robert Simonelli explained the rules for comment that anyone wishing to comment should stand, state their name, and address, and direct their comments to the Supervisors.

Gery Nietupski Solicitor – Sworn in everyone wanting to testify including Tim Stark, Joe Cortese, Dee Engel, Shawn Fuller, Tom Baur.

Purpose – Robert Simonelli explained the purpose of this hearing to receive public comment on a proposed Verizon Telecommunication Tower to be located on Route 98.

Correspondence – William Wilkinson owns property but lives in Florida, he has two concerns one is health issues with the people living close and the radiation exposure, and what does it do for our property values.

Dennis Howard – Supervisor – Are Setbacks and other Zoning/SALDO requirements met.
Emergency access meets width and turn around requirements.
Access is kept open 24/7/365 for responders. I the location is fenced; the fire department needs keys.
Any lithium battery installation requires first responder training by owner.
I am not keen on the use of Falls Road in the name of the project, as it has no access from or to Falls Roads. They need a more appropriate name.

Public Comment –

Joe Cortese – Attorney for Verizon gave a presentation on the project, with constructing a new tower with an antenna 260', Verizon just received the final determination form from the FAA, they are here for a conditional use application to construct a new communication tower, discussed in Exhibit D the need for the site.

Tim Stark – Site development for Verizon – We started off looking for an existing tall structure or water tower to place an antenna on, could not find anything so therefore they have to look at constructing a tower. The only things they need are a power line and a fiber line. It will take approximately 90 – 120 days to construct. An employee will visit the site 6 times per year.

Joe Cortese- The FCC license, RF Safety Letter, formal copy of FAA letter, Exhibit C, Exhibit F, Exhibit G and insurance requirement, please attach all records as part of the official minutes.

Shawn Fuller – 9684 Route 98, Girard, Pa 16417, does the township benefit from this.

Tim Stark – There is a clause if the township or county wish to put anything on the tower they can. The tower will only require 1 – 200-amp single phase service and it covers it all.

Shawn Fuller – How far off Route 98 is the tower going?

Tim Stark – Over 500 ft. it is back.

Dee Engel – 6470 Old State Road, Edinboro, Pa 16412, Which electric company is going to provide power?

Shawn Fuller – I live across the street, and it is Northwestern REC.

Robert Simonelli – Supervisor – Asked about the batter and back up, the storage capacity and battery chemistry, the total weight of battery?

Tim Stark – There is a 234-gallon diesel back of generator that has a double wall tank. There is also a batter back up.

Robert Simonelli – Had a question about the driveway and maintenance, would a fire truck be able to turn around up there.

Tim Stark – There is a gravel driveway 12' wide, there is a whole spec sheet in the packet.

Robert Simonelli – Towers bring out thrill seekers, what if emergency responders must do a rescue there?

Tim Stark – We can provide the code with emergency responders, or we can add their lock along with ours so they will not have to remember a code to get in.

Robert Simonelli – We would like you work with our Fire Chief and his staff, also does this help with the First Net and our emergency responders.

Joes Cortese – We will gladly work with your fire department, and not this will tower will not automatically improve the First Net coverage.

Robert Simonelli – I do not see where a 100 X 100 is enough space for a tower if it collapses or anything. We do currently have a 2-acre minimum and ideally, I would like to see 4 acres as what happens if it is struck by lightning and pieces fall off or sheets of ice build up then fly off. I have concerns about future development in that plot.

Joe Cortese – We are going to build according to your code and the stated codes. We have constructed in Pittsburgh and other places with less area to work with. We are willing to work with everyone. The landowner is here with us now.

Robert Simonelli – I feel 10,000 sq feet should be substantially larger.

Dee Engel – We do get very strong winds out here.

Robert Simonelli – That wraps up my questions, anyone have anything else.

Joe Cortese – The landowner has agreed to set 2 acres aside for this telecommunication tower, so you can list is a restriction we are good with that. We are happy to accept that as a Condition of Approval.

Tom Baur – The parcel that the tower is proposing to go will be 32.6 acres total.

Robert Simonelli motion to adjourn. Ernest Robinson seconded. Motion carried. (2-0)

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ramona Junkins".

Ramona Junkins, Secretary