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Daniel O'Connor, P.E.

Asst. Building Inspector/Assessor
Joseph Sperber

Fire Inspector
Peter Anfiteatro

MEMORANDUM

Date: September 2, 2011

To: Abe Zambrano

From: Daniel O'Connor, P.E. 

Subject: Nextel Telecommunication Facility – Special Permit Renewal

I inspected the Nextel Facilities at the Municipal Building including the antennas and facility room in the attic. The paint on the antennas appears to be in good condition with repainting not necessary at this time. As per the previous special permit, repainting can be required any time at the discretion of the Village Board. The Nextel facility room in the attic was found to be in very good condition. Although Nextel has their own fire alarm system in the facility room tied into their alarm system the special permit required that Nextel install a smoke detector in their facility room that is tied into the Village's fire alarm system in the Municipal Building and that this work be performed by the company supplying the fire alarm system to the Municipal Building, this additional smoke detector has not been installed. Based on this it is recommended that the special permit be issued with a condition that requires Nextel to have a smoke detector hooked up to the Village's fire alarm system installed in their facility room within 60 days of the issuance of the renewed special permit.

As you are aware hurricane Irene caused some damage in the Village including damage to electrical lines mostly from fallen trees. The Municipal Building also lost power and was supplied by the standby diesel generator for 6 days, with Con Edison finally restoring power at 7:25 PM on Friday. During this power outage the Nextel Facility at the Municipal Building lost power also, Nextel did prepare for this scenario in the design of their facility. They had incorporated a transfer switch in their facility room in the attic of the Municipal Building and a generator receptacle on the exterior of the Municipal Building (see image below) for a portable generator. The Company (WNG) that services the Nextel facility showed up at the Municipal Building yesterday, five days after the power failure to investigate the loss of power. The Nextel facility has backup batteries however there are only sufficient for a 4-6 hour period of operation. Some of the Village cell phones are Nextel and other organizations such as the School District, Metro North and Con Edison also use and rely on Nextel cell phones. The Con Edison crew supervisor said he had no Nextel service at the Municipal Building and had to walk down the block. Although I have no other direct evidence I would suggest that it would have been

beneficial to the recovery operations if the Nextel communication facility at the Municipal Building was in operation during the hurricane recovery operation period (still on going) to provide better cell phone service in the Village, especially to first responders.

It is recommended that the Village Board consider adding a condition in the special permit that would require Nextel to bring a portable generator to the Municipal Building within a certain time period after a power failure or within a certain time after the request of the chief executive officer of the Village or that Nextel make other arrangements to supply backup power in the event of the loss of Con Edison electrical service.



Nextel generator receptacle on east side of Municipal Building

Also, it was determined that the roll up door to the attic and attic lights are on either Nextel or T-Mobil meter and these circuits had no power this week. It may be beneficial to switch the attic door and attic light circuits to the Village meter since access to the attic during a power outage may be needed.



Con Edison repair crew at Municipal replacing primary service cables and transformer

cc: Mayor Wiegman and Village Trustees
Janine King
Paula DiSanto
File