

Minutes of the Special Town Board Meeting of the Town of Arietta held October 26, 2022 at the Piseco Town Offices located at the Piseco Common School, commencing at 3:00pm.

Roll Call

Others Present

Chris Rhodes- Supervisor- present  
Sarah Rudes-present  
Christy Wilt-present  
Jacqui Grier-absent  
Doug Stobo- absent

Craig Small – Highway Superintendent  
Helen Vail  
Helen Grier  
Janet Wagoner  
George Sherman Jr.  
Rick/Judy Hilton  
Diane /George Holiat  
Brooke Kruggel

Meeting called to order by Supervisor Rhodes at 3:00 pm

This was a meeting to discuss the Wayne Smith Road Emergency Communications tower. Supervisor Rhodes wanted to bring the town board up to date on the tower and see how they felt about this project.

Pictures/simulations were handed out to those in attendance.

The State has an Emergency Communication Grant and this tower would be paid for with that grant.

There was a discussion of what the pictures were showing and why the county chose this particular site. The basic reason was it will connect Oak Mountain to Arietta to Morehouse and then to the Herkimer County area via fiberoptics.

The APA would like the site to have electricity and access for maintenance and this site has both, this fact also narrows down where the tower can be erected.

Supervisor Rhodes explained he had spoken to the Fire Department/ Ambulance Corp regarding what their concerns were. They were in favor of the tower as long as it met regulations.

Supervisor Rhodes asked the board members first what were their comments.

Christy Wilt-spoke how the tower would benefit the ambulance, fire and law enforcement as far as response time and giving an example of a call where it would have been so much easier for the agencies needed to respond quicker. Because of the airport there has to be considerations of FAA regulations as to where the tower can be based.

Sarah Rudes- Wanted it on the record that she knows there is a great need for better communication, but she also had some questions on other sites that may be used instead of Wayne Smith Road.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

George Sherman Jr.- spoke to board regarding a phone company representative that approached him about putting a cell tower on his property behind Helen Grier's property. That area might be another suggestion for the tower as it is off the road and no residents on property.

Janet Wagoner-suggested "Pine Hill" as an alternative site.

Sheila Crouse- concerned about the way the tower would look to the residents that live there year-round.

Helen Vail asked Supervisor Rhodes to present to the County Board of Supervisors the alternate sites that were discussed at this meeting.

The first problem the residents felt was that they should have been notified by the county that this was being considered. Supervisor Rhodes explained that this project was being considered before he was elected. There have been discussions about towers in Hope Arietta and Morehouse to give greater communication in the county. Supervisor Rhodes also explained that the APA has the last say and controls what and where a tower can be placed. They have not given any approval to the county at this time.

Supervisor Rhodes thanked the residents and the board for coming to the meeting and appreciated their input in this matter.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00pm

Respectfully submitted:

Laura Morehouse