



Transcript of the Hearing of

Date: July 29, 2014

Volume: 2

Case: DOCKET NO. 449 - SITING COUNCIL - PUBLIC

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STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

Docket No. 449

Message Center Management and New Cingular
Wireless PCS, LLC, Application for a
Certificate of Environmental Compatibility
and Public Need for the Construction,
Maintenance, and Operation of a
Telecommunications Facility Located at
Redding Tax Assessor Map 23, Lot 72, Redding
Ridge Fire Department, 186 Black Rock
Turnpike, Redding, Connecticut.

Public Hearing held at the Redding
Community Center, Community Room, 37 Lonetown
Road, Redding, Connecticut, Tuesday, July 29,
2014, beginning at 7 p.m.

H e l d B e f o r e:

ROBERT STEIN,
Chairperson

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 117</p> <p>1 A p p e a r a n c e s: 2 Council Members: 3 ROBERT HANNON, DEEP Designee 4 LARRY LEVESQUE, PURA Designee 5 DANIEL P. LYNCH, JR. 6 DR. MICHAEL W. KLEMENS 7 DR. BARBARA C. BELL 8 SENATOR EILEEN M. DAILY 9 PHILIP ASHTON 10 11 Council Staff: 12 MELANIE BACHMAN, ESQ., 13 Executive Director and 14 Staff Attorney 15 MICHAEL PERRONE 16 Siting Analyst 17 18 For Cellco Partnership, d/b/a Verizon 19 Wireless: 20 ROBINSON & COLE LLP 21 280 Trumbull Street 22 Hartford, Connecticut 06103-3597 23 (860)275-8200 24 By: KENNETH C. BALDWIN, ESQ. 25</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 119</p> <p>1 THE CHAIRPERSON: Good 2 evening, ladies and gentlemen. 3 I want to get started. I 4 apologize. We were a little late in getting 5 back, but my name is Robert Stein. I'm 6 Chairman of the Connecticut Siting council. 7 This is a continuation of the public hearing 8 that began at 3 p m. this afternoon. Copies 9 of the hearing program and the Council's 10 Citizen Guide to Siting Council procedures 11 are available for members of the public in 12 the back there. 13 This hearing is held pursuant 14 to the provisions of Title 16 of the 15 Connecticut General Statutes and of the 16 Uniform Administrative Procedure Act, upon an 17 application from Message Center Management 18 Inc, and New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC, for 19 a certificate of environmental compatibility 20 and public need for the construction, 21 maintenance and operation of a 22 telecommunications facility located at the 23 Redding Ridge Fire Department, which is Tax 24 Assessor Map 23, Lot 72, address 186 Black 25 Rock Turnpike in Redding, Connecticut.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 118</p> <p>1 A p p e a r a n c e s (Cont'd.): 2 For Message Center Management and AT&T: 3 CUDDY & FEDER, LLP. 4 733 Summer Street, 5 Stamford, Connecticut 06901 6 (203) 969-9060 7 By: DANIEL M. LAUB, ESQ. 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 120</p> <p>1 This application was received 2 by the Council on May 19, 2014. This 3 application is also governed by the 4 Telecommunication Act of 1996, which is 5 administered by the Federal Communications 6 Commission. This act prohibits the Council 7 from considering the health effects of 8 radio-frequency emissions on human health and 9 wildlife to the extent the emissions from 10 towers are within the federal acceptable safe 11 limit standard. The same standard is also 12 followed by the State Department of Public 13 Health. 14 The federal act also prohibits 15 the Council from discriminating between and 16 amongst providers of functionally equivalent 17 services. This means that if one carrier 18 already provides service for an area, other 19 carriers have the right to compete and 20 provide service in the same area. 21 The applicant published notice 22 of the filing of this application to the 23 Council in the Redding Pilot on April 10th 24 and April 17th of this year. The Council's 25 legal notice of the date and time of the</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 121</p> <p>1 hearing was published in the Redding Pilot on 2 June 19, 2014. 3 Upon this Council's request, 4 the applicant erected a sign at the proposed 5 site so as to inform the public of the name 6 of the applicant, type of facility, hearing 7 date, location and contact information for 8 the Council. 9 This afternoon members of the 10 Council, staff, and the public personally 11 conducted a field review of the proposed site 12 in order to observe firsthand the potential 13 effects of the proposal. This hearing 14 session tonight has been reserved first for 15 the public to make short statements into the 16 record. These public statements are not 17 subject to questions from parties or the 18 Council, and members of the public making 19 statements may not ask questions of parties 20 or the Council. The statements will become 21 part of the record for Council consideration. 22 A sign-up sheet in the back is 23 available for those who would like to 24 participate. 25 As a reminder to all,</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 123</p> <p>1 neighbors. 2 Again, please advise that the 3 Council cannot answer questions from the 4 public, at this point, on the proposal. 5 A verbatim transcript will be 6 made of the hearing and deposited at the 7 Redding Town Clerk's Office for the 8 convenience of the public. 9 And before beginning the 10 public portion of the hearing, I'd just like 11 to ask the applicant to make a brief 12 presentation to -- to you all to describe the 13 facility and why it's necessary and what 14 alternatives have been investigated. 15 EUGENE CONNOLLY: A point of 16 order, Mr. Chairman. Would you kindly tell 17 me who the various people around the table 18 represent, just in sections. 19 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. I 20 will since we got here a little bit -- for 21 members of the Council, Mr. Hannon, who's a 22 designee from the Department of Energy and 23 Environmental Protection; Mr. Levesque, who's 24 a designee from the Public Utilities 25 Regulatory Authority.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 122</p> <p>1 off-the-record communication with a member of 2 the Council or member of the Council staff 3 upon the merits of the application is 4 prohibited by law. 5 There are two sign-up sheets, 6 but I think we -- one for public officials, 7 the other one for the public, but I think 8 several people have already -- have already 9 signed up. I wish to note for those who are 10 here and for the benefit of your friends and 11 neighbors who are unable to join us for the 12 public comment session that you or they may 13 send written statements to the Council within 14 30 days of today, and such written statements 15 will be given the same weight as if spoken at 16 the hearing. If necessary, the intervenor 17 cross-examination that began at the hearing 18 session held at 3 p m. may continue after the 19 public comment session if time remains. 20 We ask each person making a 21 public statement in the proceedings to 22 confine his or her statements to the subject 23 matter before the Council and to preferably 24 avoid unreasonable repetitions so that we may 25 hear all of your concerns and those of your</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 124</p> <p>1 Other members of the Council 2 are Mr. Ashton, Dr. Klemens, Mr. Lynch, Dr. 3 Bell and Senator Daily. 4 Members of the staff are 5 Attorney Bachman, who's our executive 6 director; and Michael Perrone, who's our 7 siting analyst. 8 The other individuals are -- 9 represent the applicant and also represent 10 the intervenor, which in this case, is 11 Verizon, the applicant being AT&T. While -- 12 and Message -- I said who the applicant was 13 representing, so the applicant being 14 technically, Message Center Management, Inc. 15 Those are the people with their backs to you. 16 And also -- so those are -- 17 they are not members of the Council. They 18 are those who have made the presentation at 19 the three o'clock session. And -- 20 EUGENE CONNOLLY: Thank you. 21 THE CHAIRPERSON: -- with 22 that, you're going to -- 23 MR. LAUB: Okay. Good 24 evening, ladies and gentlemen. My name is 25 Daniel Laub. I'm an attorney from Cuddy &</p>

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<p>1 Feder, outside counsel for Message Center 2 Management and AT&T making an application for 3 the proposed facility. 4 We're here tonight as part of 5 a long day. We had a site visit at two 6 o'clock. At three o'clock there was 7 testimony heard from the witnesses and 8 cross-examination by the Council of the 9 witnesses. And then, as the Chairman 10 mentioned, tonight is for us to make a 11 presentation to you and for the Council to 12 hear comments from the public. 13 I'm just going to go over -- 14 I'm going -- with the assistance of 15 Mr. Chasse, who's our project engineer, I'll 16 just go over a few of the details of the 17 site. I think some of you were probably 18 present at the public meeting that we had 19 earlier this year. So some of this will 20 probably seem familiar but, you know, for 21 those -- for the benefit of those who may not 22 be familiar, with the project. 23 So this is -- this is the 24 general area where we're looking to cover, 25 with Black Rock Turnpike here. This is</p>	<p>1 The proposed Message Center 2 telecommunication facility will involve 3 decommissioning the existing tower and 4 replacing it with 150-foot monopole. The 5 150-foot monopole will be complemented by an 6 irregularly shaped, fenced-in utility 7 compound at the base of the facility, which 8 will have enough space for two equipment 9 shelters and two future equipment slabs for 10 any future carriers. 11 The pole will be designed to 12 have four carriers, one being AT&T at 13 150-foot AGL, Verizon Wireless at 140-foot 14 AGL, and then two future carriers, one at 130 15 and one at 120. 16 As well, the town fire 17 department will relocate their existing 18 antennas from the existing 80-foot tower onto 19 the new facility at the 80-foot part -- 20 80-foot height. 21 The proposed facility at 22 the -- behind the -- excuse me -- the fire 23 department will also be surrounded by a 24 chain-link fence. There's a small retaining 25 wall that will be on the east side of the</p>
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<p>1 showing where we still have areas of need, 2 from AT&T's perspective. Verizon has also 3 made their own case. These are plots 4 demonstrating existing coverage. 5 This would be with the 6 proposed site at this location, and then the 7 filled in portions are what a certain amount 8 of coverage that we would be able to achieve 9 with this site. And the details regarding 10 the site, Mr. Chasse is going to go over in a 11 minute. 12 I'm moving along. So here's 13 just some area -- oops. A little fast. So 14 this is sort of an aerial photo view of the 15 site location. I'm sure you're all familiar 16 with it at the Redding Ridge Fire District on 17 Black Rock Turnpike. 18 So if, Scott, you could go 19 over some of the details. 20 MR. CHASSE: Good evening. As 21 Attorney Laub had indicated, there's an 22 existing facility behind the Black Rock Fire 23 Department. It currently consists of an 24 80-foot lattice tower situated behind the 25 existing facility.</p>	<p>1 facility with service from Telco and power 2 from the nearby street pole out at the 3 front -- excuse me -- out at the front or the 4 southwest corner of the property. 5 Again on -- for reference this 6 is north. Thank you. 7 MR. LAUB: As part of -- part 8 of the application, the applicants did 9 develop a visual analysis of -- they 10 conducted a visual study to understand what 11 the facility would look like in the area and 12 the potential visual impacts. That included 13 both a computer model examining-- 14 incorporating many different data layers, 15 including topography and tree cover and 16 things like that, to forecast where tree 17 cover -- where the site might be visible 18 from. 19 And then also an independent 20 balloon float that was done in the field and 21 then with photographs taken. Some of those 22 photographs were then used to simulate what 23 the tower -- proposed facility would look 24 like. We had a few of these available. 25 Just -- just to back up, this</p>

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<p>1 is the two-mile search area, the two-mile 2 viewshed area. The visibility is fairly 3 proximate to the tower, the tower location, 4 the proposed tower location itself. And I 5 realize some of the lighting isn't the best, 6 but in some of these pictures what you'll see 7 are an arrow pointing to where the balloon 8 was flying on the day they conducted this 9 study and -- followed by a simulation of what 10 the tower would like from that particular 11 view, this one from -- being from Green Hill 12 Road.</p> <p>13 And, again, if you are out -- 14 if you are interested in seeing these again, 15 they are -- this application is online at the 16 Siting Council's website under Docket 449, so 17 you can view it from your computer.</p> <p>18 This is from Redding Ridge 19 Cemetery. This is the -- you can sort of 20 make out the existing tower right there.</p> <p>21 Okay. Just working through -- 22 these are some views. This is from -- this 23 is from Black Rock Turnpike. That would be a 24 simulation of the proposed tower from Black 25 Rock Turnpike. This is from Silversmith Lane</p>	<p>1 Thank you.</p> <p>2 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you.</p> <p>3 The first speaker on the list 4 is Bennett Pardee from the fire district.</p> <p>5 BENNETT PARDEE: Thank you.</p> <p>6 Good evening. Welcome to Redding. I'm Ben 7 Pardee, Fire Commissioner for Redding Fire 8 District Number One, who is the owner of 186 9 Black Rock Turnpike, the cell tower site.</p> <p>10 The fire district supports 11 this application and feels that the proposed 12 replacement 150-foot cell tower provides for 13 both a daily convenience of good service to 14 our taxpayers and the best service for any 15 homeowner, motorist or outdoorsman who may 16 need to summon emergency help by phone.</p> <p>17 I'd like to speak briefly to 18 this afternoon's discussion of water storage 19 tanks and generators. Our 2,000 -- 20,000 20 gallon underground water storage tank is old, 21 and we are open to the discussion of its 22 replacement and relocation. Our 2,000 gallon 23 underground propane storage tank for our 24 standby generators is presently seven years 25 old and is properly installed and inspected.</p>
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<p>1 which there may be seasonal views through the 2 trees in off -- in leaf-off conditions.</p> <p>3 Again, this is further up on Black Rock 4 Turnpike. We don't think it would be 5 visible.</p> <p>6 The intersection of the 7 Turnpike and Cross Highway where you can see 8 it in the far distance down the highway.</p> <p>9 This is from Sullivan Drive. 10 You'd be able to see it distant. And 11 this is -- so here's Silversmith Lane at 12 Black Rock Turnpike. This is the existing 13 view. And this is what's proposed -- oops, 14 sorry. That's what -- that's what's 15 proposed.</p> <p>16 And, again, there were several 17 areas where we took -- we -- we concluded 18 that it wasn't visible from. And then, just 19 to summarize, here is the site, the existing 20 firehouse, the existing tower, and just so 21 you know, we also have wetlands back here 22 which we have taken into account as part of 23 our construction protocols and soil and 24 erosion protection assures in order to 25 protect that wetland.</p>	<p>1 It could be relocated if needed.</p> <p>2 The fire district supports a 3 permanent standby generator solution for the 4 cell site and is willing to consider any 5 reasonable proposal regarding generators and 6 fuel sharing. Thank you.</p> <p>7 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you.</p> <p>8 And I'll just apologize in 9 advance if I mispronounce your names and do 10 the best I can. And also, when you come up, 11 if you could please spell your last name so 12 we can make sure we get it on the record.</p> <p>13 So the first person on this 14 list is Jo-An Brooks.</p> <p>15 JO-AN BROOKS: Jo-An Brooks, 16 B-r-o-o-k-s.</p> <p>17 I was happy to hear that the 18 Council was familiar with the planning 19 commission's letter and the equal coverage 20 given by the 120-foot study and the 150-foot 21 study.</p> <p>22 The view from the Aspetuck 23 Valley will be affected adversely by either 24 height, but we realize that the valley lacks 25 adequate cell coverage, so we ask that you</p>

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1 approve the 120 feet. This will cover our
2 needs and the needs of our fire and police,
3 who, I understand, are only licensed to
4 operate in the 80-foot range. Building up
5 from that, Verizon and AT&T should have ample
6 coverage at the 120 feet.

7 Additional footage, I heard
8 this afternoon at the hearing, will be more
9 robust, more flexible, and 120 feet is
10 expected to become obsolete. But I've also
11 heard that cell towers are becoming obsolete
12 and satellites will take over. So I still
13 maintain that 120 feet is adequate for now.

14 Many people have worked hard
15 and long to keep Redding a beautiful country
16 town. I ask that the Council help maintain
17 this tradition by minimizing this tower at
18 120 feet and require the company to research
19 additional designs, which I heard this
20 afternoon they had done nothing about. These
21 designs are available today in modern --
22 using modern techniques, especially trees,
23 which would be far more in keeping with
24 Redding's landscape.

25 One other thought from this

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1 but it's -- this part of Redding where it's
2 Hopewell Woods Road and Beck Road.

3 This is an important area for
4 Redding, because not only do I live there,
5 but the Redding Recycling Center is there
6 which played an important role -- I'll get to
7 that in a minute -- during the natural
8 disasters we suffered in 2011 and 2012. But
9 also to the, sort of, upper-left side of
10 Hopewell Woods Road is Huntington State Park,
11 which is used by thousands of visitors every
12 year for hiking, biking, horseback riding and
13 rock climbing.

14 As I said, we suffered through
15 Hurricane Irene in August of 2011, the
16 October 2011 snow -- surprise storm and, of
17 course, Hurricane Sandy in 2012. We
18 personally were without electricity, the
19 Internet and telephone service, landline
20 service, for a total of three weeks combined
21 in those storms, in the aftermath of those
22 storms.

23 The roads were literally
24 impassable in just about every direction with
25 downed trees and power lines and utility

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1 afternoon's session is that if we are to
2 sacrifice our views and our property values,
3 we should be assured that this cell coverage
4 will be available 100 percent of the time.
5 Any portable generators should be prohibited,
6 in my opinion.

7 Thank you.
8 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you.
9 Ron -- is it Gass?

10 RON GASS: Mr. Chairman,
11 members of the Siting Council, welcome to
12 Redding. My name is Ron Gass, G-a-s-s, and
13 I'm here on behalf of myself and my wife, who
14 unfortunately had a prior engagement, which
15 she, in this instance, allowed me to speak on
16 her behalf.

17 I've submitted a letter, which
18 you all should have, setting forth in greater
19 detail my comments that I'd like to make to
20 you now. We are, of course, Redding
21 residents, but we're in a particular part of
22 Redding that has rather weak cell phone
23 coverage. And if you look at any of these
24 site maps, if you -- it's probably where the
25 hole punch is. I know you can't see this,

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1 poles. Cell phones were the only reliable
2 means of communication during these terrible
3 times.

4 The recycling center in that
5 area of the neighborhood became an important
6 emergency services hub. Debris was hauled
7 there from the fallen trees and utility poles
8 and wires as a temporary way-station to clear
9 the roads and get things moving for emergency
10 services vehicles and city government or town
11 government vehicles.

12 I offer four recommendations
13 to you: First, that you grant this
14 application as being in the public need,
15 environmentally compatible, and best suited
16 to meet our current and future
17 telecommunication needs. It will help bring
18 Redding into the 21st century, particularly
19 in terms of data transmission.

20 Second, as you may remember,
21 an application for a 120-foot tower was
22 previously approved after rigorous review by
23 the Siting Council in 2007. And that was
24 Docket Number 334.

25 Whatever optimal height you

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1 decide is appropriate for this tower, I do
2 think you need to give some weight to the
3 following considerations. Given the signal
4 propagation maps that you have, I sincerely
5 doubt that a 120-foot tower will do the job,
6 particularly in my neighborhood.

7 I agree with Mr. Ashton that
8 the -- I don't know if I'm saying this
9 right -- SHPO is that -- the State Historical
10 Preservation Office -- letter recommending
11 that a 120-foot tower is the appropriate
12 height and no higher, and the absence of any
13 identified or currently designated historic
14 properties in the area is arbitrary,
15 capricious, for Ms. Bachman's benefit,
16 probably ultra vires, meaning beyond the
17 office's authority and just irresponsible.

18 It also seriously discourages
19 other collocating carriers, restricts their
20 signal coverage, particularly for Verizon --
21 for full disclosure, we're Verizon
22 subscribers, so we'd like them to have as
23 good as coverage as possible. And I think
24 that the enhanced coverage would be important
25 for patrons of Huntington State Park and the

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1 would just be impossible.

2 And also, I was a little
3 surprised by the consultant's report that Mr.
4 Gelinas referred to. It's Attachment 7 to
5 their first set of interrogatories. That
6 letter, as far as I can tell, dated June
7 30th, from McPhee simply says that the
8 generator that exists there cannot
9 accommodate the additional cellular
10 carriers's electric loads, that it's not
11 large enough. Okay. And I think we all knew
12 that.

13 And then, at the end, there's
14 a non sequitur conclusion. We feel it best
15 that the cellular carriers have their own
16 independent generator. It doesn't follow
17 from their review. And all their review says
18 is up the capacity and maybe you could have a
19 solution.

20 After the three storms, as I
21 said, I think it's simply unrealistic to
22 think that portable generators could be
23 hauled into the fire department and be hooked
24 up before the backup batteries for the
25 carriers fail. And, again, it was just so

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1 recycling center.

2 I personally have been on -- a
3 volunteer with the fire department. I've
4 been on calls where people have fallen, had
5 medical emergencies at Huntington State Park,
6 and cell phones were crucial in meeting their
7 needs and their ability to quickly summon
8 help.

9 Second, I agree with Chairman
10 Stein, Dr. Klemens, and Mr. Ashton, and share
11 what seemed like their disappointment in
12 Message Center Management's consideration of
13 the emergency generation capabilities of the
14 site. In my view, the Siting Council should
15 make it a condition of its certificate that a
16 single, shared propane fuel backup generator
17 be installed to provide an uninterrupted
18 power supply for the -- for the facility.

19 Some of the propane
20 infrastructure is already in place. There's
21 a 2,000 gallon tank that the fire district
22 has already installed. MCM has repeatedly
23 said that it's an admittedly small space.
24 Having multiple generators trying to drag in
25 portable generators after Hurricane Irene

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1 critically important to have access to cell
2 service during that time that I think having
3 an on-site, propane-fueled generator would be
4 the best solution.

5 And as Mr. Pardee has
6 indicated, the fire department has always
7 been open to a shared generator solution. It
8 surprises me a little bit that MCM has not
9 pursued with much diligence a solution like
10 that and is still on the fence about how to
11 power these carriers and this important cell
12 facility.

13 Lastly, the diesel fuel
14 generator idea -- and I know Verizon has
15 modified its comments on that -- but even
16 portable generators pose serious water, air
17 and noise pollution risks at the site. It
18 would be located within a public watershed, a
19 public water supply watershed, as you can see
20 from the DHP's drinking water section letter
21 of June 27th, and is located near wetlands.

22 Of course, it violates a term
23 of MCM's lease to store any diesel fuel at
24 the site and certainly could endanger the
25 fire department's emergency apparatus and

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 141</p> <p>1 medical equipment. 2 I think MCM should invoke its 3 own model. Your solution is in sight. The 4 solution is a propane-fueled generator shared 5 by all concerned. 6 I want to thank you for giving 7 me this time to make comments on the 8 proposals, and I ask that you include our 9 letter and these comments on the record of 10 this application. 11 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you 12 very much. 13 Sherry -- is it Kacker? 14 SHERRY KARRAKER: Karraker. 15 THE CHAIRPERSON: Close. 16 SHERRY KARRAKER: Sherry 17 Karraker, 278 Poverty Hollow Road. It's 18 K-a-r-r-a-k-e-r. 19 I went out in my yard today 20 and noticed your red balloon. And I -- 21 frankly, I was quite surprised because I'm 22 way down in the hollow, and there's a lot of 23 trees, and even with the trees, it was pretty 24 up there. And I will leave you with my 25 picture.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 143</p> <p>1 citizens benefiting from current technology. 2 Our position supports both the need for power 3 and technology as well as protecting the 4 environment. 5 Additional cell tower height 6 beyond 120 feet, we think, would compromise 7 the town's rural views dramatically as it 8 would be visible from the Aspetuck Valley. 9 It has been demonstrated in 10 MCM's own propagation studies submitted to 11 the -- submitted to the planning commission 12 that the 120-foot tower supplies coverage 13 equal to the 150-foot proposal. The 14 additional height is not necessary for the 15 health and safety of the town. We urge you 16 to adopt a maximum height of 120 feet for the 17 cell tower at the Ridge Firehouse, which 18 would balance the need for power and 19 technology with the need to protect our 20 environment. 21 As has been said earlier, our 22 rural views are priceless and should not be 23 compromised by unnecessary financial gain. 24 Thank you. 25 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 142</p> <p>1 I think the 150 feet is really 2 way too high. I know it's been said that 3 maybe this is the last tower. I've lived 4 here 18 years. This will be the third tower 5 in that place. They just keep growing. So 6 let's start at 120 before we go to 150. 7 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you. 8 Raymond D'Angelo. 9 RAYMOND D'ANGELO: I'm Raymond 10 D'Angelo. That's D, apostrophe, A-n-g-e-l-o. 11 And I'm representing the Redding Preservation 12 Society. 13 So Chairman Stein and members 14 of the Council, thank you for this 15 opportunity to let our voice be heard here. 16 The Preservation Society is an 17 active 140-member organization with a mission 18 to preserve the historic and rural character 19 of the town. We request that you approve a 20 maximum height of 120 feet for the cell 21 tower -- for the proposed cell tower at the 22 Redding Ridge Firehouse. 23 Along with our commitment to 24 historic preservation, we are concerned with 25 the safety of the town, along with its</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 144</p> <p>1 Eugene Connolly. 2 EUGENE CONNOLLY: Eugene 3 Connolly, like cannoli, C-o-n-n-o-l-l-y, 4 Connolly, 30 Meeker Hill Road, Redding, to 5 encourage you to limit the height to 120 6 feet, which will propagate about 98 percent 7 of what you would propagate at 150 feet for 8 the interest of making it less visible around 9 town. 10 And it sounds like visibility 11 and what Gene Connolly sees would not be 12 technically or scientifically very important, 13 but it is better to consider what is the only 14 environmental impact I know of concerning the 15 tower, and that is the sight, too many 16 people -- and people have been saying that 17 for years and years. And you must be so 18 tired of hearing Gene Connolly and everybody 19 else saying we don't want any towers. 20 Excuse me. I have to get my 21 cell phone. 22 I fought it for years, and I 23 finally rolled over and said it's here. I 24 know I better get a cell phone. And I think 25 we just have to be as -- to moderate as much</p>

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1 as possible the visual impact in this case.
2 I did not see the balloon when
3 it went up. Partly my own ignorance -- and I
4 promise I'll stop in 45 seconds -- but I
5 would like to have seen it so I could have
6 looked out my door. And I don't know how you
7 would advertise it so every Gene Connolly in
8 the world would look, but when I see the
9 pictures, I can see from my own house a half
10 mile away how it will be objectionable. Not
11 the end of my life by any means, but
12 objectionable. That's all. And to others
13 apparently down in the valley, much more so.
14 So I would love to see the
15 balloon again. I guess I will, but I think
16 I've already made up -- I've already made up
17 my mind, so I won't be influenced one way or
18 the other. Just to be as moderate as
19 possible, it's the 80/20 rule. And by
20 shortening this 30 feet or 20 -- 30 feet,
21 from 150 to 120, we'll accomplish 98 percent,
22 I believe, of what you would at 120 feet.
23 Thank you very much for being
24 so patient and driving so far to be here
25 tonight.

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1 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you.
2 Chris Kendall.
3 CHRIS KENDALL: I'm Chris
4 Kendall. My name is K-e-n-d-a-l-l. I live
5 at 161 Black Rock Turnpike, which is
6 approximately across from Meeker Hill Road,
7 which is the intersection that was on your
8 map off of Black Rock, south of the fire
9 station.
10 Personally, I -- I think there
11 are many issues with the cell tower, not just
12 the visual, but the radiational hazards, as
13 well, that should be looked at carefully.
14 There are many people who don't believe that
15 it's only a siting and a visual issue.
16 I think that the firehouse
17 already is fairly large and very prominent,
18 the firehouse itself. Then the tower that's
19 there, the 80-foot tower is, in fact, high
20 enough already, from a purely decorative
21 point of view, let's say.
22 I would be willing to see it
23 go up a few more feet for the fire
24 department, for whatever they need it
25 themselves personally. But I think the idea

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1 of hanging a number of other installations on
2 top of the monopole is pretty inconceivable
3 as far as, say, my property values or the
4 visual impact. And by property values, I
5 mean, the visual impact and the possibility
6 of people considering radiational hazards.
7 My recommendation, personally,
8 would be to leave the fire station alone as
9 it exists, in terms of the visual impact, and
10 to locate the tower somewhere else. I don't
11 know exactly where that would be. I'm not an
12 expert.
13 My dad actually was a person
14 who located microwave towers back in the day.
15 And that would have been back in around the
16 sixties. And he located a string of them,
17 but I know that -- and these were not cell
18 towers. They were straight-line transmission
19 towers, long-distance transmission. But he
20 wouldn't have located those towers anywhere
21 near communities like this.
22 And I don't know what the
23 wattage of the tower is. That hasn't come up
24 at all. Nobody is expressing the maximum
25 wattage in terms of the energy that's going

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1 to be dissipated throughout the region. And
2 this is the region. It's not just me. There
3 is the other side of this, which is the
4 regional aspect of it.
5 How far does the tower send
6 and impact people, the flora and the fauna,
7 if that's what it is? I don't know what it
8 is. I just suspect I know what sort of
9 energy goes on coming out of a tower, because
10 of my dad's expertise in it. He was trained
11 in the military. He was in the Signal Corps,
12 and he was also trained by MIT and good old
13 Harvard as well. And he was responsible for
14 designing these systems in upper New England.
15 So I would think that there
16 might be another location somewhere that
17 would be a little quieter, a little bit more
18 off the road, and just -- I don't know
19 exactly how the fire department would be
20 served, but that -- I'm sure that could be
21 worked out, like all things, like through
22 some form of compromise.
23 I've heard that there was
24 supposed to be a location for a cell tower on
25 Hopewell Woods Road and that got rejected. I

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1 don't know exactly how, but now it appears
2 that that situation has come around the
3 corner. And because it's the fire station,
4 then it seems to be that nobody has any real
5 objections to it, and I can understand that.
6 But without repeating myself, I think there
7 is a better location for the -- at least for
8 the immediate neighbors. And I think the
9 town and the Siting Council would do well to
10 consider an alternative location.

11 Thank you.

12 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you.

13 We don't have anybody else who
14 signed up. Is there someone else who has not
15 signed up and would like to speak?

16 I see a hand. If you would
17 please come up and identify yourself by your
18 last name. Thank you.

19 CHARLIE COUCH: Yeah, I'm
20 Charlie Couch, as in sofa. I'm also the
21 Redding town historian. And what I would
22 like to comment about is really that I concur
23 with a few people here, ranging from Jo-An
24 Brooks to Sherry Karraker from the
25 Preservation Society, and also with the

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1 reviewed by the planning commission.
2 Everyone came to terms with it. We saw the
3 balloon that was up.

4 Now, at that time when the
5 balloon went up there, there was no foliage
6 on the trees. And that was a 120-foot height
7 that they did. That was very visible from
8 Karraker's Field, less than a quarter-mile up
9 the road, which is a dedicated open space
10 within the community. And that field,
11 actually, at one time, also served as the
12 training ground for the Redding militia on
13 the ridge.

14 So what's being proposed now,
15 I don't think it's necessary. I think
16 everyone finds that they can swallow this
17 120-foot tower as it was proposed earlier.
18 But to put a 150-foot tower, which is a 25
19 percent increase in height, is going to have
20 a very dramatic effect that is unnecessary.

21 Now, I understand for the fact
22 we have a volunteer fire department within
23 this community, and the Ridge Fire Department
24 is one of them. They will benefit from the
25 extra income, which will lessen the tax load

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1 information that was provided by the state
2 historic preservation office.

3 And contrary to what Mr. Gass
4 said, their comments are not capricious and
5 arbitrary, and they're well founded and it
6 has to do with the fact that this is a very
7 historic community. But in particular, Black
8 Rock Turnpike itself is a very historic strip
9 of road along there, dating back over 300
10 years ago. Some of the properties themselves
11 go back 300 years along there.

12 We take great pride in the
13 efforts to try to preserve the community as
14 it is, that reflects both the rural
15 character, but also the historic character of
16 the town as well.

17 My feelings are that this new
18 proposal of putting a 150-foot tower in is
19 a -- unnecessary and will have an adverse
20 effect on the character, both historic and
21 rural, of Black Rock Turnpike.

22 It seems like deja vu all over
23 again, because it was just a couple of years
24 ago we went through the initial proposals of
25 a 120-foot tower, and that was basically

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1 for those within Fire District Number 1. But
2 I think the idea of having an additional
3 couple of slots on there beyond the Verizon,
4 AT&T, it opens the potential for two more
5 carriers to come on a later date, thus
6 contributing more money into the coffers of
7 the Ridge Fire Department is a positive,
8 although I think that's a trade-off, and a
9 very bad one, for, really, the aesthetic,
10 historic, and rural ramifications that are
11 going to be affected by having a tower that
12 large.

13 So I strongly urge the Siting
14 Council to stick with the original plan of a
15 120-foot. And I think, as some people have
16 pointed out, that will meet all the needs
17 within that part of Redding, in the eastern
18 part of Redding, stretching all the way up to
19 Sunset Hill to the park up there and to
20 Poverty Hollow. And it will be less of a
21 negative impact within the community for the
22 reasons that I've already presented.

23 Thank you.

24 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you.
25 A final call, anybody else?

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 153</p> <p>1 Okay.</p> <p>2 JULIA PEMBERTON: I'm a public</p> <p>3 official.</p> <p>4 THE CHAIRPERSON: Well, please</p> <p>5 come out.</p> <p>6 JULIA PEMBERTON: I didn't see</p> <p>7 the sign-up sheet for public officials, I</p> <p>8 thought I missed that. Thank you for</p> <p>9 allowing me to address you. I'm Julia</p> <p>10 Pemberton. I am the First Selectman of the</p> <p>11 Town of Redding.</p> <p>12 And if I could just say a few</p> <p>13 things with regard to the gentleman who</p> <p>14 commented on the earlier proposal for the</p> <p>15 tower at Hopewell Woods.</p> <p>16 Certainly, the town has long</p> <p>17 recognized that there's a need for an</p> <p>18 additional -- additional cell coverage in</p> <p>19 that part of Redding to address, you know, a</p> <p>20 void and certainly the public safety issue.</p> <p>21 And after a proposal came</p> <p>22 forward and we considered Hopewell Woods, we</p> <p>23 were urged to take a look at locating the</p> <p>24 tower at the Redding Ridge location because</p> <p>25 they already had approval for 120 feet.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 155</p> <p>1 have today, add Verizon and AT&T, address the</p> <p>2 needs of our fire department, and allow for</p> <p>3 future capacity but build what we need now,</p> <p>4 and also, require the applicant to do</p> <p>5 whatever is necessary to mitigate the visual</p> <p>6 impact to our community.</p> <p>7 Thank you.</p> <p>8 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you</p> <p>9 very much.</p> <p>10 Thank you. Thank you all for</p> <p>11 coming this evening. And so I'm going to</p> <p>12 close this portion of the public hearing.</p> <p>13 And just to let you know, the</p> <p>14 evidentiary portion of the hearing, which</p> <p>15 started three o'clock this afternoon, that</p> <p>16 will be continued to another time and date.</p> <p>17 We will let you know as soon as we confirm</p> <p>18 what that date is, because we still have some</p> <p>19 additional cross-examination to go through.</p> <p>20 So that will be on the Siting Council website</p> <p>21 for everyone who is interested in that.</p> <p>22 Let's -- anyone who is not a</p> <p>23 party or intervenor, including those who --</p> <p>24 if you know people who were not here tonight,</p> <p>25 but wish to get any statements into the</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 154</p> <p>1 And so that is how, you know,</p> <p>2 we settled on exploring that option. And the</p> <p>3 fire district -- of course, here we are --</p> <p>4 was willing to explore that option as well.</p> <p>5 We do believe that this location is the most</p> <p>6 appropriate location for the tower at this</p> <p>7 time.</p> <p>8 The board of selectmen did not</p> <p>9 take a position on what the appropriate</p> <p>10 height of the tower would be. But what I</p> <p>11 would say, in agreeing with many of my</p> <p>12 colleagues, is that we do value the rural</p> <p>13 character of our community and we protect it.</p> <p>14 And I would ask that the Siting Council weigh</p> <p>15 very carefully the 120-foot versus 150-foot</p> <p>16 tower height and assure that we are building</p> <p>17 sufficient height to address the public</p> <p>18 safety need but not overbuilding.</p> <p>19 It's also my understanding</p> <p>20 that you can expand a tower, so if there were</p> <p>21 carriers in the future that wanted to come on</p> <p>22 the tower, that a tower could be built that</p> <p>23 could be expanded.</p> <p>24 So what I would say is, build</p> <p>25 a tower that meets the public safety need we</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 156</p> <p>1 record, as well as if any of you wish to</p> <p>2 elaborate on what you've stated or heard, you</p> <p>3 may file written statements with the Council</p> <p>4 within 30 days of the date hereof.</p> <p>5 The Council will issue a draft</p> <p>6 findings of fact, and thereafter, parties and</p> <p>7 intervenors may identify errors or</p> <p>8 inconsistencies between the Council's draft</p> <p>9 findings of fact and the record. And, again,</p> <p>10 copies of the transcript of the hearing will</p> <p>11 be filed at the Redding Town Clerk's office.</p> <p>12 And I hereby declare the</p> <p>13 hearing adjourned. And thank you all for</p> <p>14 your participation and your courtesy to come</p> <p>15 out. Thank you.</p> <p>16 (Whereupon, the witnesses were</p> <p>17 excused and the above proceedings were</p> <p>18 concluded at 7:58 p.m.)</p> <p>19</p> <p>20</p> <p>21</p> <p>22</p> <p>23</p> <p>24</p> <p>25</p>

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CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing 41 pages are a complete and accurate computer-aided transcription of my original verbatim notes taken of the Council Public Hearing in Re: DOCKET NO 449, APPLICATION FROM MESSAGE CENTER MANAGEMENT, INC , AND NEW CINGULAR WIRELESS PCS, LLC, FOR A CERTIFICATE OF ENVIRONMENTAL COMPATIBILITY AND PUBLIC NEED FOR THE CONSTRUCTION, MAINTENANCE, AND OPERATION OF A TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITY LOCATED AT REDDING TAX ASSESSOR MAP 23, LOT 72, REDDING RIDGE FIRE DEPARTMENT, 186 BLACK ROCK TURNPIKE, REDDING, CONNECTICUT, which was held before ROBERT STEIN, Chairperson, at the Redding Community Center, Community Room 37 Lonetown Road, Redding, Connecticut, July 29, 2014

Robert G Dixon, CVR-M 857
Court Reporter
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