



**Statement from Village President Alice Gallagher**  
**Board of Trustees Meeting**  
**January 27, 2020**

PRESIDENT  
 Alice Gallagher

TRUSTEES  
 Heidi Rudolph  
 William Siffermann  
 James Tyrrell  
 Nicole Chen  
 Alan Fink  
 James John

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 James Horvath

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At the last Board of Trustees meeting on January 13, the Village Board and staff listened to resident concerns regarding 5G cellular installations within the Village. Since that time, the board and staff have acted quickly to address those concerns. As background, the Illinois Small Cell Wireless Facilities Deployment Act and certain FCC regulations limit municipal control over the permitting and placement of wireless facilities within their town’s borders. This is true for every municipality in the state, including the Village of Western Springs (although the City of Chicago is exempt from the state Act).

In August 2019, following a special presentation on the state and federally-imposed limitations by Attorney Michael Marrs of KTJ Law, the Village Board swiftly adopted stringent guidelines authorized under the Act to recapture control over design standards - control we would otherwise lose absent those guidelines. The board was not satisfied with this limited control and, shortly thereafter, I sent letters to the state sponsors of the Act, requesting an amendment to regain local control. To address rising resident concerns about the safety of 5G, I also asked the sponsors to identify health and safety resources they relied upon when sponsoring the legislation. Subsequent letters requesting the same information and relief were then sent to our federal representatives.

In addition to these letters, Trustees Rudolph, Chen, and I advocated for local control with each of our federal representatives and their aides at a regional conference in Washington DC in November. One week later, Senator Durbin co-sponsored Senator Feinstein’s Bill to restore local control over wireless carriers and the deployment of 5G equipment. Please see the Village’s website to review copies of the proposed federal legislation, which consists of a House Bill and a senate Bill. The names of the sponsors and co-sponsors of these proposed legislative initiatives are listed as well.

In December, the Village received a permit application for one small cell wireless facility from Crown Castle. After meticulous scrutiny, staff deemed the application incomplete, and following the Village’s written response, it was withdrawn. To date, that remains the only formal application that the Village has received.

In addition to the efforts already enumerated, the Village Board and staff have actively engaged with our neighbors and other municipalities grappling with the lack of local control over 5G deployment, and resident concerns over safety throughout. Village Manager Velkme has been active in a working group of neighboring village managers; including Hinsdale, La Grange, La Grange Park, Hinsdale, Clarendon Hills, Brookfield, Berkeley and Riverside. At my request, our

local Council of Government has tasked their state and federal lobbyists with monitoring legislation relating to telecommunications.

Much has happened since our last board meeting:

- With the concurrence of the trustees, I assigned this matter to the Planning and Zoning Committee and appointed three ad hoc community liaisons to represent the Stop 5G Western Springs & Neighbors group at Village committee meetings, when this topic is on the agenda for discussion. We hope this structure will help improve communication and relations between the board and the Stop 5G group. We thank the liaisons: Pam Conlon, Moira Zellner, and Connie Spencer for accepting these appointments, and look forward to working with each of them in the future.
- I have written letters to the ILEPA, Cook County Department of Public Health, and USEPA requesting guidance and information regarding the health impacts of 5G implementation.
- The Planning and Zoning Committee has begun the process to evaluate the services of a qualified lobbyist and environmental consultants to be shared with neighboring communities.
- Village Attorney Jurusik is reviewing the current Village Code and Design Standards as they relate to 5G and small wireless facilities. Mr. Jurusik is reviewing 5G rulings and pending cases, and evaluating legal arguments that may be raised to challenge the validity of the state Act.
- Finally, the Village is hosting a Town Hall meeting on February 13<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in the cafeteria of the South Campus of Lyons Township High School. We are inviting our county, state, and federal representatives, representatives from the telecommunications industry, other municipalities, and of course, our residents, and those of neighboring communities.

If you are concerned about the implementation of 5G small cell wireless facilities in Western Springs, there are steps you can take to make sure your voice is heard. You can:

- contact your state and federal representatives,
- send emails and letters to your cellular and telecommunications providers – you are the customer - let the corporate officers know how you feel,
- send similar letters to ComEd's corporate officers, letting them know you do not want small cell wireless facilities attached to their poles in your yards

Finally, the Village Board appreciates the advocacy and interest of the Stop 5G civic group. This board is a municipal body, subject to the laws and regulations imposed upon us by state and federal legislatures and agencies. Please remember that in regard to radio frequency emissions ("RFs"), Village officials are prohibited by the current federal laws from denying any small cell equipment permit applications based on the health effects of RFs. We are not a public health organization and cannot determine the validity of the multitude of articles, research, and data on the subject. Both sides of this issue have cogent research and data to support their position, and until we obtain an official statement from a state, national, or international public health regulatory agency, we cannot take a position on the public health concerns.

What we can do, what we have done, and will continue to do, is advocate for a return of local control over the implementation of 5G; and facilitate the outreach efforts of the Stop 5G group and concerned residents.