

Town of Niagara

New deal on telecom easement to pay for water tower painting

BY MICHAEL DEPIETRO
Interim Tribune Editor

A new lease agreement in the Town of Niagara for the telecommunication easement on the municipality's water tower will pay for a much-needed paint job.

On Tuesday, the Town of Niagara Board voted to approve a resolution to enter into a contract with Crescendo Capital Partners for the Verizon and T-Mobile services. Payments are to be made in installments of \$160,000 per year for a period of 10 years.

"The tower ... needs to be repainted and this will help us cover some of the costs," Supervisor Lee Wallace said. "This significantly increases (the revenue) we would gain off the top of the tower, over a 10-year period. As you can see, it would be \$1.6 million. We're not even close to that right now. So this is a nice project for us and a nice little windfall for the town."

Wallace said extra money is particularly helpful now as the town, like many in the nation, has taken a significant financial hit since the pandemic began.

"In times when it's difficult for (the town) to make ends meet, every time you can gain some income it really helps," Wallace said.

While a paint job for the tower has been discussed for a number of years, the issue came to a head in June. Robert Lannon of GHD Engineering reported to the board that the water tower's exterior was severely weathered, having last been painted in 2001.

There, Lannon said some exposed areas showed the tower's original coat. He also added that areas of the legs have what appear to be green paint exposed. He explained that it was actually

the primer coat showing where the top coat has peeled off.

The board went on to award the "water tank exterior painting project" to Utility Service Co. Inc. for \$1,581,600.

Lannon expounded on the paint job's high price point. He said an adhesion test found the new paint job would not simply adhere to the old, peeling paint, and so a simple top coat was not an option. Furthermore, he explained tests indicating lead paint meant the entire existing paint would have to be sandblasted off before a primer can be applied.

Lannon said the new paint job should last a minimum of 20 years.

At Tuesday's meeting, Councilman Richard Sirianni asked how the offer from Crescendo compared to a previous offer. During the Town Board's Aug. 5 work session, Wallace mentioned a previous offer from Blackdot Capital and Real Estate, which would have paid the town \$450,000 over 13 years.

"Well, that one was the same thing except the difference was their company's offer was a lot lower and we were actually going to give them rights to it forever. This isn't forever," Wallace said. "And then the other thing with this company, if they find (another cellular service) to go on top of that tower in the future, we get 50% of that, too. So, it's a really good deal for us."

Councilman Marc Carpenter said, "So, in essence, if you look at the long term and the cost of repainting and refurbishing the water tower, this pretty much washes that."

"Pretty much," Wallace replied.

Per the agenda, the starting date for payments will be negotiated and determined by contract.

Town of Wheatfield

Safety changes coming to Niagara Falls Boulevard; town looking to extend fire contracts

BY MICHAEL DEPIETRO
Interim Tribune Editor

Last week, Wheatfield Supervisor Don MacSwan said he had a "positive meeting" with Department of Transportation officials where they provided a schedule for roadwork for the oft-maligned intersections along Niagara Falls Boulevard at Witmer and Ward roads.

The overall schedule has not changed and the project will see bid openings in June 2022. However, in the interim, it was announced the speed limit will be permanently lowered in the areas between Errick and Cy roads. The DOT also said additional signage will be added to the area.

In an email, DOT Regional Public Information Officer Susan Surdej clarified the interim plans.

"In advance of a planned intersection enhancement project currently scheduled to begin in the summer of 2022, interim measures are currently getting underway at Route 62 at Ward Road," Surdej wrote. "NYSDOT is adding reflective strips on the 'Signal Ahead' sign posts, adding advance street name signs (Ward Road) onto the 'Signal Ahead' signs, adding 'Be Prepared to Stop' signs downstream of the 'Signal Ahead' signs and adding hatched pavement markers on the paved shoulders on Ward Road with 'Do Not Drive on Shoulder' signs.

"The posted speed limit on U.S. Route 62 will be reduced from 50 mph to 45 mph from just south/east of Errick Road to just south/east of Sy Road."

The message details some

of the overall plans expected in 2022, as well: "NYSDOT has a project planned intersection improvement currently in the design phase for U.S. Route 62 at Ward and Witmer Roads, which we anticipate getting underway in mid-2022. At this time, preliminary designs include designated left turn lanes on U.S. Route 62 and Ward Road North and South, intersection repaving, replacement and/or installation of curb ramps, crosswalks and pedestrian signals as needed, and new traffic signals."

MacSwan seemed overall pleased with the interim plans, but admittedly hoped for more.

"I was hoping they would put up some advanced turns, but they told me at this time, because of the difficulty putting in additional lanes in temporarily, it just would not work," he said.

The supervisor said the entrance to Oppenheim Park will be moved. Currently, drivers traveling down Witmer have to make a left and then an immediate right into the park entrance. The road will now lead directly into the park.

"If you look at Witmer Road, where it comes out now, that will eventually straighten out right across the road into the park, which has always been a big problem there, too. So that will be a big improvement," MacSwan said.

He noted the DOT's architectural team would be working with the Wheatfield Enhancement Volunteers to work on some beautification efforts along the boulevard.

In other news, the Town of Wheatfield is looking to extend

its current contracts with local fire departments for an additional year.

At an informal meeting last Tuesday, MacSwan, Town Attorney Matthew Brooks and Budget Director Ed Mongold met with representatives from each of the town's five fire companies.

The proposal would extend the contract as-is for an additional year as the town tries monitor its financial position in light of the pandemic.

MacSwan indicated most of the fire companies seemed receptive to the proposal.

"They seem to understand everywhere has some financial issues right now ... obviously because of COVID 19 and the financial issues that ours and other municipalities (are facing). It's obviously still preliminary, but they seem to be very good about it," he said.

Negotiations are still early and MacSwan stressed the meeting was very casual.

"We're hoping that, by next year, things are much better and then we can negotiate the three-year contract," he said.

The current contract is set to expire at the end of the year.

IN THE NEWS

Lewiston author pens humorous book

Mental Dental

Tooth be Told



Sandra A. Mooradian Klein

Looking to add a little levity into a somber moment in history, Lewiston author Sandra A. Mooradian Klein recently published "Mental Dental: Tooth be Told." The 136-page book provides "humor from the dental chair."

The author said, " 'Mental Dental' presents anecdotes about happenings in the dental offices, tooth-trivia, and educational information in a fun, easy-to-read book."

Mooradian Klein noted she began journaling funny stories to entertain coworkers at the annual Christmas party. She compiled comical situations found over the course of 35 years in the dental field - changing the names and places to protect those involved while still bringing laughter and comfort to readers.

"Mental Dental" can be purchased online via Amazon, in both print and Kindle editions.

DWI crackdown

Acting Niagara County Sheriff's Office Sheriff Michael J. Filicetti announced law enforcement agencies will participate in a special enforcement to crackdown on impaired driving.

In a combined effort to stop impaired driving, prevent injuries and save lives, law enforcement officers across New York will take to the roads. The statewide STOP-DWI Labor Day crackdown efforts start Aug. 19 and will end Sept. 7. The NCSO, as well as law enforcement agencies across Niagara County, will be out in force.

The STOP-DWI Labor Day crackdown is one of many statewide enforcement initiatives promoted by the New York State STOP-DWI Association with ad-

ditional funding from the STOP-DWI Foundation and the Governor's Traffic Safety Committee.

A press release said, "While STOP-DWI efforts across New York have led to significant reductions in the number of alcohol and drug-related fatalities, still too

many lives are being lost because of crashes caused by drunk or impaired drivers. Highly visible, highly publicized efforts like the STOP-DWI crackdown campaign aim to further reduce the incidence of drunk and impaired driving. Don't drive, get a sober ride!"

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Migraine Headache Help
An estimated 30 million Americans suffer from the debilitating condition known as migraine headaches. While migraines have been documented in the medical literature for 5,000 years, their actual cause remains a mystery. According to research conducted at Northwestern Chiropractic College in Minneapolis, migraines resulting from neck injury may respond to chiropractic treatment. In fact, those migraine patients in the study treated with spinal manipulation reported the same degree of relief from their symptoms as those treated with muscle relaxants. However, over time, those who received chiropractic treatment had fewer and less severe headaches.
Many headache sufferers are turning for relief to the safe, natural, drugless, chiropractic approach to health. Chiropractors have, for over a century, observed that after chiropractic spinal care, children and adult migraine sufferers report improvement or alleviation of their condition. Through specific techniques chiropractors perform spinal adjustments to remove nerve pressure and spinal distortions that can cause headaches.
Other sources of headaches such as toxins, food intolerances, chemical and environmental sensitivities, and hormonal imbalance may also be helped through natural, alternative methods.
Rose Chiropractic, P.C. is located at 435 Ridge St., Lewiston. Call 754-9039 for help.