

## Introducing the Waite Hill Wireless Committee (WHWC)

Date: August 30, 2017

What: A citizen advisory committee tasked to study wireless communications in the Village

When: Forming now

Contact: [WHWC@waitehilloh.gov](mailto:WHWC@waitehilloh.gov)

As has been discussed, the Village has experienced poor cell coverage for years. A special Council meeting was held 7/31/2017 for the purposes of considering legislation that would put an issue on this November's ballot. Council has investigated various solutions and has determined that a cell tower on the Village Hall property may be a feasible approach. Rather than unilaterally acting, Council determined that a vote of the electorate would be both informative and equitable, and has enacted the legislation to give the residents a chance to be heard at the polls. Therefore, an ordinance that would authorize the Mayor to sign an agreement that would allow a cell tower to be constructed on the Village Hall property will be subject to a referendum vote. The election will be on November 7, 2017.

A number of residents have stated they oppose a tower. Their contention, aside from the aesthetic impact on the Village, is that the Village has not sufficiently investigated alternate solutions.

In response to this concern, the Mayor has appointed a committee to study the relevant issues. The Waite Hill Wireless Committee (Committee) is composed of both Village officials and residents. It includes people who have already voiced opposition to a tower, those who have voiced support for a tower, and others who are undecided. Some members of the Committee have significant training and experience in the field to be studied; others have a strong understanding of the public safety issues implicated by poor cell coverage. Still others live closest to where a tower might be located and have concerns regarding the impact on their property values.

The purpose of the Committee is to study the issues and advise the Mayor, Council, and all interested residents about the realities of wireless coverage in the Village. The Committee will examine every approach for feasibility. To be feasible, an alternative must be effective in solving the coverage problems that the Village experiences and must not impose significant financial costs on the Village.

Between now and November, the Committee will explore many topics including existing coverage, public safety, aesthetics, technology, efficacy, economics, reliability, regulatory burdens, and other issues pertaining to wireless coverage in the Village. The study may continue beyond the election, as the Mayor and Council want the Village to make an informed decision. All reasonable points raised by anyone will be explored as

objectively and accurately as possible. The meeting schedule is being developed, and all of the proceedings of the Committee will be open to, and reported to, the public.

All residents are welcome to attend meetings and express questions and concerns or provide input by email to [WHWC@waitehilloh.gov](mailto:WHWC@waitehilloh.gov). If you have not already, please consider providing your email address to Robbi Laps or Chief DeWitt and we will make sure you are informed regarding all Committee activities. Also, check the [waitehilloh.gov](http://waitehilloh.gov) website often for dates and information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karl F. Scheucher". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "K" and "S".

Karl Scheucher  
WHWC, Chairperson  
Village of Waite Hill, Council