

**TOWNSHIP OF VERONA  
COUNTY OF ESSEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**ORDINANCE No. 2022-21**

**AN ORDINANCE SUPPLEMENTING THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP  
OF VERONA TO ADD CHAPTER 525 "SMALL WIRELESS FACILITIES IN  
THE RIGHT-OF-WAY" TO REGULATE SMALL CELL WIRELESS  
FACILITIES WITHIN THE TOWNSHIP RIGHTS-OF-WAY**

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Verona is aware that certain technological developments have made access to its public rights-of-way desirable by certain telecommunications companies for the placement of small cell wireless facilities, including but not limited to, the installation of antennas, small cells and other communication devices and associated equipment (collectively the "Small Cells"); and,

**WHEREAS**, the Township has determined that its public rights-of-way, such as they are or may be, themselves constitute a valuable resource, finite in nature, and which exists as a common right of the public to pass and repass freely over and across said lands without unreasonable obstruction or interference, and which therefore must be managed carefully; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Federal Telecommunications Act preserves local governments' ability to manage the public rights-of-way on a competitively neutral and non-discriminatory basis pursuant to 47 U.S.C. 332 (c)(7)(A); and,

**WHEREAS**, New Jersey municipalities must give consent before a Small Cell, i.e., a small antenna, can be placed on existing poles pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:3-19, and for the erection of new poles within the public rights-of-way pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:17-10; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC") has recently adopted an order entitled "Accelerating Wireless Broadband Deployment by Removing Barriers to Infrastructure Investment; Accelerating Wireline Broadband Deployment by Removing Barriers to Infrastructure Investment," WT Docket No. 17-79; WC Docket 17-84, which places a "shot clock" on municipal approval for the placement of Small Cells on existing poles and the placement of new poles in the public right-of-way; and,

**WHEREAS**, the erection of new poles and ground level cabinets in the Public Right-of-Way raise significant aesthetic and safety concerns; and,

**WHEREAS**, the FCC, in its recent order, provides that municipalities can impose aesthetic requirements on Small Cells where said requirement are: 1) reasonable; 2) no more burdensome than those applied to other types of infrastructure deployment; and 3) published in advance; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Township has determined that it is necessary to set forth clear standards in relation to the siting of poles, cabinets and antennas for the benefit of its citizens and any utilities which use or will seek to make use of said public rights-of-way;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED** as follows:

**SECTION 1.** The Code of the Township of Verona is hereby supplemented by the addition of the following:

**Chapter 525 Small Wireless Facilities in the Right-of-Way**

**§525-1 Definitions.**

Unless indicated otherwise in this article, the meanings of terms used herein shall be as follows:

**ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW**

Ministerial review of an application by the Designee and Township Engineer, as preferred by the Township, to determine whether the issuance of a permit is in conformity with the applicable provisions of this chapter.

**ANTENNA**

Communications equipment that transmits and/or receives electromagnetic radio frequency signals used in the provision of wireless services. This definition does not apply to broadcast antennas, antennas designed for amateur radio use, or satellite dishes for residential or household purposes.

**APPLICABLE CODES**

Uniform building, fire, safety, electrical, plumbing, or mechanical codes adopted by a recognized national code organization to the extent such codes have been adopted by the Township, including any amendments adopted by the Township, or otherwise are applicable in the jurisdiction.

**APPLICANT**

Any person or entity who submits an application under this chapter.

**APPLICATION**

A written request on a form provided by the Township.

**COLLOCATE or COLLOCATION**

To install or mount a small wireless facility in the public right-of-way on an existing support structure, an existing tower, or on an existing pole to which a small wireless facility is attached at the time of the application.

**COMMUNICATIONS FACILITY**

Collectively, the equipment at a fixed location or locations within the public right-of-way that enables communications services, including; (i) radio transceivers, antennas, coaxial, fiber-optic or other cabling, power supply (including backup battery), and comparable equipment, regardless of technological configuration; and (ii) all other equipment associated with any of the foregoing. A communications facility does not include the pole, tower or support structure to which the equipment is attached.

**COMMUNICATIONS SERVICE**

Cable service, as defined in 47 U.S.C. §522(6); information service, as defined in 47 U.S.C. §153(24); or telecommunications service, as defined in 47 U.S.C. §153(53).

**COMMUNICATIONS SERVICE PROVIDER**

A provider of communications services and includes a cable operator as defined in 47 U.S.C. §522(5).

**DECORATIVE POLE**

A pole that is specially designed and placed for aesthetic purposes.

**DESIGNEE**

The person appointed by the Township to serve as the initial point-of-contact and consultant for the Township for all matters pertaining to this chapter, and who may be contracted for professional services.

**ELIGIBLE FACILITIES REQUEST**

An eligible facilities request as set forth in 47 C.F.R. §1.6100, as that section may be amended from time to time.

**FCC**

The Federal Communications Commission of the United States.

**LAWS**

Collectively, any and all federal, state or local law, statute, common law, code, rule, regulation, order, or ordinance.

**ORDINARY MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR**

Inspections, testing and/or repair that maintain functional capacity, aesthetic and structural integrity of a communications facility and/or the associated support structure, pole or tower, that does not require blocking, damaging or disturbing any portion of the public right-of-way.

**PERMIT or R.O.W. PERMIT**

A written authorization to install, at a specified location(s) in the public right-of-way, a communications facility, tower or a pole to support a communications facility.

**PERMITTEE**

An applicant that has received a permit under this chapter.

**PERSON**

An individual, corporation, limited liability company, partnership, association, trust or other entity or organization, including a governmental entity.

**POLE**

A legally constructed pole, such as a utility, lighting or similar pole made of wood, concrete, metal or other material, located or to be located within the public right-of-way. A pole does not include a tower or support structure and does not include a pole or structure that supports electric transmission lines.

**PROVIDER**

A communications service provider or a wireless services provider, and includes any person that owns and/or operates within the public right-of-way any communications facilities, wireless facilities, poles built for the sole or primary purpose of supporting communications facilities or towers.

**PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY**

The area on, below, or above property that has been designated for use as or is used for a public roadway, highway, street, sidewalk, or similar purpose. The term does not include a federal interstate highway, state highway, county right of way or other areas that are not within the legal jurisdiction, ownership or control of the Township.

**REPLACE or REPLACEMENT**

In connection with an existing pole, support structure or tower, to replace (or the replacement of) same with a new structure, substantially similar in design, size and scale to the existing structure and in conformance with this chapter and any other applicable regulations in order to address limitations of the existing structure to structurally support collocation of a communications facility.

**SMALL WIRELESS FACILITY**

A wireless facility that meets the following qualifications: (i) each antenna could fit within an enclosure of not more than three cubic feet in volume; and (ii) all other wireless equipment associated with the antenna, including the preexisting equipment, is cumulatively no more than 28 cubic feet in volume, (iii) the maximum height of the Small Wireless Facility is 50 feet.

**STATE**

The State of New Jersey.

**SUPPORT STRUCTURE**

A structure in the public right-of-way other than a pole or a tower to which a wireless facility is attached at the time of the application.

**SURROUNDING STREETSCAPE**

The visual elements of a street, including the road, adjoining buildings, street furniture, trees and open spaces, etc., that combine to form the street's character.

**TOWER**

Any structure in the public right-of-way built for the sole or primary purpose of supporting a wireless facility. A tower does not include a pole or a support structure.

**WIRELESS FACILITY**

The equipment at a fixed location or locations in the public right-of-way that enables wireless services. The term does not include: (i) the support structure, tower or pole on, under, or within which the equipment is located or collocated; or (ii) coaxial, fiber-optic or other cabling that is between communications facilities or poles or that is otherwise not immediately

adjacent to or directly associated with a particular antenna. A small wireless facility is one type of a wireless facility.

## **WIRELESS SERVICES**

Any wireless services using licensed or unlicensed spectrum, whether at a fixed location or mobile, provided to the public.

### **§525-2 Access to public right-of-way.**

Prior to installing in the public right-of-way any communications facility or any pole built for the sole or primary purpose of supporting a communications facility, or any tower, a person shall enter into a Right-of-Way Use Agreement with the Township of Verona expressly authorizing use of the public right-of-way for the communications facility, pole or tower proposed to be installed.

- A. The term of the Right-of-Way Use Agreement shall not exceed 30 years.
- B. The Right-of-Way Use Agreement authorizes the provider's non-exclusive use of the public right-of-way for the sole purpose of installing, maintaining and operating communications facilities, including any pole built for the sole or primary purpose of supporting the communications facilities and to provide the services expressly authorized in the agreement subject to applicable codes and applicable laws, this chapter and the terms and conditions of the agreement. The agreement authorizes use only of the public right-of-way in which the Township has an actual interest. It is not a warranty of title or interest in any public right-of-way and it does not confer on the provider any interest in any particular location within the public right-of-way. No other right or authority is granted except as expressly set forth in the agreement. Nothing herein shall authorize the use of the Township's poles, towers, support structures, or other structures in the public right-of-way. All use of the Township's poles, towers, support structures and other structures in the public right-of-way shall require a separate agreement and the payment of separate fees for such use.
- C. The provider shall, at its sole cost and expense, keep and maintain its communications facilities, poles, support structures and towers in the public right-of-way in a safe condition, and in good order and repair.
- D. The provider shall provide insurance and indemnification of the Township as described in the Right-of-Way Use Agreement. The provider shall provide proof of the following coverages:
  - (1) Worker's Compensation and Employer's Liability insurance in compliance with the State's Worker's Compensation Law, with minimum limit of liability of \$500,000.
  - (2) Comprehensive General Liability insurance with minimum limit of liability of \$2,000,000 per occurrence.
  - (3) Automobile Liability insurance covering claims for bodily injury and property damage arising from all owned, hired and non-owned vehicles with minimum limit of liability of \$1,000,000 combined single limit.

### **§525-3 Right-of-way permit.**

- A. No person may construct, maintain or perform any other work in the Public right-of-way related to communications facilities, poles built for the sole or primary purpose of supporting communications facilities, or towers without first receiving a permit to the extent required under this chapter, and any subsequent permits or authorizations required by applicable laws or the Township.
- B. The Township shall not issue a permit unless the applicant, or a provider on whose behalf the applicant is constructing communications facilities, poles or towers, has applied for and received the Right-of-Way Use Agreement required by Section 268-2 of this chapter, or otherwise has a current and valid franchise with the Township expressly authorizing use of the public right-of-way for the communications facilities, poles or towers proposed in the application, and all applicable fees have been paid.

- C. The provider shall not locate or maintain its communications facilities, wireless facilities, support structure, poles and towers so as to unreasonably interfere with the use of the public right-of-way by the Township, by the general public or by other persons authorized to use or be present in or upon the public right-of-way.

**§525-4 Location and siting.**

- A. Height. No pole shall be taller than 50 feet in height including the antennas or 110% of the height of poles in the surrounding streetscape, whichever is higher.
- B. Distance from curb line. No pole shall be farther than five feet from the curb line.
- C. Location, safety and aesthetics. No pole shall be erected in the public right-of-way unless it:
  - (1) Is replacing an existing pole; or
  - (2) Is approved by the Township; or
  - (3) Is located within the public right-of-way; and
  - (4) Is at least 150 linear feet from any other existing pole or proposed pole, which is used to support a small wireless facility; and
  - (5) Is not located in an area with underground utilities except as specified in paragraph I below; and
  - (6) Does not inhibit any existing sight triangles; and
  - (7) Allows adequate room for the public to pass and re-pass across the public right-of-way; and
  - (8) Applicant will heed reasonable requests by the Township to utilize stealth technology and decorative poles when requested to preserve the existing character and streetscape and minimize impact on surrounding properties by causing the proposed pole and small cell to blend in compatibly with their background.
- D. The Township may require new poles to be decorative poles if appropriate.
- E. Pole mounted antennas are permitted on new and existing poles, provided that each pole mounted antenna:
  - (1) Does not exceed three cubic feet in volume; and
  - (2) Is finished and/or painted and otherwise camouflaged, in conformance with best available stealth technology methods, so as to blend in compatibly with its background and so as to minimize its visual impact on surrounding properties; and
  - (3) Does not inhibit sight triangles; and
  - (4) Allows adequate room for the public to pass and repass across the public right-of-way.
- F. Pole mounted cabinets are permitted on new and existing poles, provided that each pole mounted cabinet:
  - (1) Does not exceed 16 cubic feet; and
  - (2) Is finished and/or painted and otherwise camouflaged in conformance with best available stealth technology methods so as to blend in compatibly with its background and so as to minimize its visual impact on surrounding properties; and
  - (3) Does not inhibit sight triangles; and
  - (4) Allows adequate room for the public to pass and repass across the public right-of-way.
- G. The Township may also require that an applicant provide a certification from a licensed engineer attesting to the structural integrity of any pole mounted antenna or pole mounted cabinet.
- H. Ground mounted equipment may be used only to house equipment and other supplies in support of the small wireless facility.
- I. Underground utilities. Unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the Township or otherwise required by applicable laws, whenever any existing electric utilities or communications facilities are located underground within a public right-of-way, the provider with permission to occupy the same portion of the public right-of-way shall locate its communications facilities underground at its own expense. The Township may, in its sole discretion, approve above-

ground placement of equipment cabinets, pedestals and similar equipment. For facilities or equipment such as wireless facilities that cannot, by their nature, operate unless located above ground, the provider and Township shall work to find a suitable location for such facilities or equipment, and which may be outside the public right-of-way, only if the Township owns or otherwise manages said locations and has the authority to make them available to applicant for its communications facilities under similar terms and conditions as locations are made available in the public right-of-way. The applicant shall not be compelled to locate its above ground wireless facilities on private property that is not owned, controlled or otherwise managed by the Township.

- J. All wireless equipment associated with the pole or tower, including the wireless equipment associated with the antenna and any preexisting associated equipment shall not be more than 28 cubic feet in volume.
- K. The provider shall, upon completion of construction, provide the Township with as-built drawings and a map showing the location of the facility and equipment.
- L. Fewest Possible New Poles. Applicant shall use existing poles when possible for the placement of its Small Wireless Facilities and shall minimize the number of new proposed poles in the public right-of-way to the fewest possible to meet the coverage and capacity requirements.
- M. Fewest Possible Small Wireless Facilities. Applicant shall minimize the number of new proposed Small Wireless Facilities in the right-of-way to the fewest possible to meet its coverage and capacity requirements.
- N. Collocation. To the maximum extent practical, Applicant shall make its poles available to subsequent and additional applicants who desire to utilize the Right-of-Way to provide Wireless Services. Applicants shall collocate on existing Poles when possible.
- O. Advertising and Signage. Small Wireless Facilities and supporting Poles shall not contain any advertising or signage, other than that which is required by the FCC and New Jersey Board of Public Utilities, as well as other applicable state, local and federal laws and regulations.
- P. Noise. Small Wireless Facilities shall not cause noise that will result in a disturbance to nearby properties or interfere with the right of quiet enjoyment to same, and shall not violate the provisions of any applicable noise ordinance, including local state and federal standards. Small Wireless Facilities shall adhere to noise standards for stationary commercial and industrial sources promulgated by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) via its statutory authority under the 1971 Noise Control Act and specified in detail in the Model Local Noise Control Ordinance. This includes the standard that sound levels emitted from Small Wireless Facilities may not exceed 65 decibels between 7:00am and 10:00pm and may not exceed 50 decibels between 10:00pm and 7:00am, as well as any such and related standards which are revised by the NJDEP from time to time.

#### **§525-5 Restoration requirements.**

- A. The provider, or its agent or contractor, shall restore, repair and/or replace any portion of the public right-of-way that is damaged or disturbed by the provider's communications facilities, poles, towers or work in or adjacent to the public right-of-way. Said restoration, repair and replacement shall be done to the satisfaction of the Township engineer who will determine good workmanship as well as compliance with applicable standards and ordinances regarding road openings and pavement and sidewalk repair.
- B. If the provider fails to timely restore, repair or replace the public right-of-way as required in this section, the Township or its contractor may do so and the provider shall pay the Township's costs and expenses in completing the restoration, repair or replacement.

#### **§525-6 Removal, relocation and abandonment.**

- A. Within 30 days following written notice from the Township, the provider shall, at its own expense, protect, support, temporarily or permanently disconnect, remove, relocate, change or alter the position of any of its communications facilities, poles, support structures or towers

within the public right-of-way, including relocation of above-ground communications facilities underground (consistent with the provisions of this chapter), whenever the Township has determined, in its sole discretion, that such removal, relocation, change or alteration is necessary for the construction, repair, maintenance or installation of any Township improvement, the operations of the Township in, under or upon the public right-of-way, or otherwise is in the public interest. The provider shall be responsible to the Township for any damages or penalties it may incur as a result of the provider's failure to remove or relocate communications facilities, poles, support structures or towers as required in this section.

- B. The Township retains the right and privilege to cut or move any communications facility, pole, support structure or tower located within the public right-of-way of the Township, as the Township may determine, in its sole discretion, to be necessary, appropriate or useful in response to any public emergency. If circumstances permit, the Township shall notify the provider and give the provider an opportunity to move its own facilities prior to cutting or removing the communications facility, pole, support structure or tower. In all cases, the Township shall notify the provider after cutting or removing the communications facility, pole, support structure or tower as promptly as reasonably possible.
- C. A provider shall notify the Township of abandonment of any communications facility, pole, support structure or tower at the time the decision to abandon is made, however, in no case shall such notification be made later than 30 days prior to abandonment. Following receipt of such notice, the provider shall remove its communications facility, pole, support structure or tower at the provider's own expense, unless the Township determines, in its sole discretion, that the communications facility, pole, support structure or tower may be abandoned in place. The provider shall remain solely responsible and liable for all of its communications facilities, poles, support structures and towers until they are removed from the public right-of-way unless the Township agrees in writing to take ownership of the abandoned communications facilities, poles, support structures or towers.
- D. If the provider fails to timely protect, support, temporarily or permanently disconnect, remove, relocate, change or alter any of its communications facilities, poles, support structures or towers or remove any of its abandoned communications facilities, poles, support structures or towers as required in this section, the Township or its contractor may do so and the provider shall pay all costs and expenses related to such work, including any delay damages or other damages the Township incurs arising from the delay.

#### **§525-7 Fees and charges.**

- A. One-time fees and recurring rates. As consideration to the Township for entering into the Right-of-Way Use Agreement and also as a condition precedent for the issuance of any required permit pursuant to this chapter, the applicant shall pay the required one-time fees and recurring rates as set forth in this section, and which may be amended or modified from time to time per revision and modification to local, state and federal laws and regulations. Said fees shall include application or one-time fees and recurring right-of-way occupancy rates.
- B. Permit application escrow. A permit application escrow of \$1,000 per new small wireless facility, including any new pole or support structure, as applicable, and \$500 per alteration, expansion, modification to an existing small wireless facility or pole or support structure, shall be submitted along with each application for a permit and held in escrow to be billed against actual incurred costs. Any expenses above the escrow shall be invoiced to applicant directly and shall be paid by applicant prior to the issuance of any permit.
- C. Reasonable approximation. All one-time fees will be a reasonable approximation of objectively reasonable costs.
- D. One-time fees apply to all work. One-time fees and event fees apply to the initial installation of facilities as well as to any subsequent upgrade, replacement, expansion, modification or alteration of same, with each instance of an upgrade, expansion, alteration, modification or repair being a separate project subject to a permit application and one-time fees. Ordinary maintenance and repair does not trigger any one-time fees.

- E. Designee consulting fee. Applicant shall be responsible for Designee consulting fees which will be a reasonable reflection of objectively reasonable costs, and which shall be first paid to Designee via the permit application escrow. Said fee shall be at the rate of \$350 per hour and shall not exceed three hours per installation, modification, alteration, upgrade or expansion of a small wireless facility or pole or support structure. Said consultation shall supplement Township personnel with expertise and knowledge not otherwise possessed by Township agents and officials.
- F. Annual right-of-way occupancy rate shall be \$270 per annum, and shall be paid within 30 days of the issuance of the applicable permit and annually thereafter, with payment being due on the anniversary of the first payment date for the balance of the term. However, under no circumstances shall the rate be remitted later than 90 days after the full execution of the applicable Right-of-Way Use Agreement between Township and applicant.
- G. Annual attachment rate shall be equal to an amount that represents a reasonable approximation of the objectively reasonable costs incurred by the Township for the attachment of each small wireless facility to Township-owned structures in the public right-of-way. This amount shall be paid within 30 days of issuance of the applicable permit(s) and annually thereafter. The annual rates in this subsection and the annual right-of-way occupancy rate subsection combined shall not exceed \$270 annually per small wireless facility location.
- H. All fees and rates will be applied in a non-discriminatory manner to all communications service providers.
- I. Other fees. The applicant or provider shall be subject to any other generally applicable fees of the Township or other government body, such as those required for electrical permits, building permits, or street opening permits, which the applicant or provider shall pay as required in the applicable laws, as well as attachment fees for the use of the Township owned poles, towers, support structures, ducts, conduits or other structures in the public right-of-way, as set forth in attachment agreements authorizing such use.
- J. No refund. Except as otherwise provided in the Right-of-Way Use Agreement, Franchise Agreement or License, the provider may remove its communications facilities, poles or towers from the public right-of-way at any time, upon not less than 30 days prior written notice to the Township, and may cease paying the Township any applicable recurring fees for such use, as of the date of actual removal of the facilities and complete restoration of the public right-of-way. In no event shall a provider be entitled to a refund of any fees paid prior to removal of its communications facilities, poles or towers.

**§525-8 Permit applications.**

- A. Permit required. Unless expressly authorized in this chapter or in writing by the Township, no person may construct, install, modify, expand, alter or maintain in the public right-of-way any communications facilities, poles built for the sole or primary purpose of supporting communications facilities or towers, including the installation or collocation of communications facilities on existing poles, towers, support structures or other structures within the public right-of-way without first receiving a permit. Notwithstanding the foregoing, in the event of an emergency, a provider or its duly authorized representative may work in the public right-of-way prior to obtaining a permit, provided that the provider shall attempt to contact the Township prior to commencing the work and shall apply for a permit as soon as reasonably possible, but not later than 24 hours after commencing the emergency work. For purposes of this subsection, an “emergency” means a circumstance in which immediate repair to damaged or malfunctioning facilities is necessary to restore lost service or prevent immediate harm to persons or property.
- B. Permit application requirements. The application shall be made by the provider or its duly authorized representative. It shall be submitted to the Township engineer and shall contain the following:
  - (1) The applicant’s name, address, telephone number, and email address, including emergency contact information for the applicant.

- (2) The names, addresses, telephone numbers and email addresses of all consultants, if any, acting on behalf of the applicant with respect to the filing of the application.
  - (3) A description of the proposed work and the purposes and intent of the proposed communications facility, pole, tower, support structure or wireless facility (as applicable) sufficient to demonstrate compliance with the provisions of this chapter.
  - (4) If applicable, a copy of the authorization for use of the property from the pole, tower or support structure owner on or in which the communications facility will be placed or attached.
  - (5) Detailed construction drawings regarding the proposed communications facility, pole, tower, support structure or wireless facility (as applicable). Construction drawings shall include, at minimum, a clear delineation of the right-of-way, distance of the proposed communications facility, pole or support structure from certain existing public right-of-way features such as curb ramps for handicap accessibility pursuant to the Americans With Disabilities Act, sidewalk width and other details standard for these types of telecommunications installations in the public right-of-way.
  - (6) To the extent the proposed facility involves collocation on a pole, tower or support structure, a structural report performed by a duly licensed engineer evidencing that the pole, tower or support structure will structurally support the collocation (or that the pole, tower or support structure will be modified to meet structural requirements) in accordance with applicable codes.
  - (7) For any new aboveground facilities, accurate visual depictions or representations. If not included in the construction drawings.
  - (8) The following additional permits, approvals and authorization, as each is reasonably applicable to the proposed application:
    - a) Street opening permit in accordance with Township ordinances.
    - b) Construction permit in accordance with Township ordinances or State codes, as applicable.
    - c) County approval, for sites located in the County right-of-way.
- C. Proprietary or confidential information in application. Applications are public records that may be made publicly available pursuant to the New Jersey Open Public Records Act. Notwithstanding the foregoing, Applicant may designate portions of its application materials that it reasonably believes contain proprietary or confidential information as “proprietary” or “confidential” by clearly marking each portion of such materials accordingly, and the Township shall treat the information as proprietary and confidential, subject to the New Jersey Open Public Records Act and the Township’s determination that the applicant’s request for confidential or proprietary treatment of application materials is reasonable. The Township shall not be required to incur any costs to protect the application materials from disclosure, other than the Township’s routine procedures for complying with the New Jersey Open Public Records Act.
- D. Ordinary maintenance and repair. A permit shall not be required for ordinary maintenance and repair. The provider or other person performing the ordinary maintenance and repair shall obtain any other permits required by applicable laws and shall notify the Township in writing at least 48 hours before performing the ordinary maintenance and repair. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Township reserves the right to inspect applicant’s small wireless facilities at any time in order to determine if the existing configuration matches the configuration contained in the most recently issued permit, and the applicable Right-of-Way Use Agreement. Applicant shall bear no costs for said inspections. However, if it is determined that an existing small wireless facility is found to be larger than the dimensions specified in the most recently issued applicable permit, then applicant shall be in violation of this chapter. Applicant shall receive notice from the Township and, upon receipt of such notice, be required to restore the site within ten days to the configuration of the most recently approved permit or retroactively apply for administrative approval for the unapproved modifications. In such instances, Applicant will be responsible for costs and fees incurred by the Township to perform inspections and review.
- E. Material changes. Unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the Township, any material changes to an application, as determined by the Township in its sole discretion, shall be considered a new application for purposes of the time limits set forth in chapter, unless otherwise provided by applicable laws.

- F. Application fees. Unless otherwise provided by applicable laws, all applications pursuant to this chapter shall be accompanied by the required fees.
- G. Effect of permit. A permit from the Township authorizes an applicant to undertake only the activities in the public right-of-way specified in the application and permit, and in accordance with this chapter and any general conditions included in the permit. A permit does not authorize attachment to or use of existing poles, towers, support structures or other structures in the public right-of-way; a permittee or provider must obtain all necessary approvals from the owner of any pole, tower, support structure or other structure prior to any attachment or use. A permit does not create a property right or grant authority to the applicant to interfere with other existing uses of the public right-of-way.
- H. Duration. Any permit for construction issued under this chapter shall be valid for a period of 365 days after issuance, provided that the period may be extended for up to an additional 180 days upon written request by the applicant (made prior to the end of the initial 365 day period) if the failure to complete construction is as a result of circumstances beyond the reasonable control of the applicant.
- I. Batch permit. An applicant may simultaneously submit not more than 25 applications for communications facilities, or may file a single, consolidated application covering such communications facilities, provided that the proposed communications facilities are to be deployed on the same type of structure using similar equipment and within an adjacent, related geographic area of the Township. If the applicant files a consolidated application, the applicant shall pay the application fee calculated as though each communications facility were a separate application.

**§525-9 Application review.**

- A. Pre-application Meeting. Prior to making a formal application with the Township for use of the public right-of-way, all applicants are advised to meet voluntarily with the Township Engineer and Designee to review the scope of the applicant's proposal.
- B. All applications made under this chapter shall be expedited so as to comply with the shot clocks set forth in the FCC Order entitled "Accelerating Wireless Broadband Deployment by Removing Barriers to Infrastructure Investment; Accelerating Wireline Broadband Deployment by the Removal of Barrier to Infrastructure Investment." WT Docket No. 17-79; WC Docket No. 170-84.
- C. The Designee and Township Engineer shall review all applications for the placement of new poles and ground level cabinets within the public right-of-way and the placement of pole mounted antennas and pole mounted cabinets within the public right-of-way and advise the Township whether the application is complete and whether it meets the requirements of this chapter.
- D. Except as otherwise provided by applicable laws, the Township shall, within 30 days of receiving an application, notify the applicant if the application is incomplete and identify the missing information. The applicant may resubmit the completed application within ten days without additional charge, in which case the Township shall have 30 days from receipt of the resubmitted application to verify the application is complete, notify the applicant that the application remains incomplete or, in the Township's sole discretion, deny the application.
- E. The Township shall review the application and, if the application conforms with applicable provisions of this chapter, the Township shall issue the permit, subject to the standard permit requirements published by the Township.
- F. The Township shall make its final decision to approve or deny the Application within 60 days for a collocation of a small wireless facility to an existing structure, and 90 days to deploy a small wireless facility on a new structure, after the Application is complete (or deemed complete in the event the Township does not notify the applicant that the application or resubmitted application is incomplete). Review of an application to deploy a facility other than a small wireless facility using a new structure shall be decided within 150 days.

G. Waiver. The Township, via its council, administrator or any person designated as having the right to do so, may waive any siting standard set forth in this chapter where the applicant demonstrates that strict enforcement of said Standard:

- a) Will prohibit or have the effect of prohibiting any interstate or intrastate telecommunications service pursuant to 47 U.S.C. 253(a); or
- b) Will prohibit or have the effect of prohibiting personal wireless service pursuant to 47 U.S.C. 332(c)(7)(B)(i)(11); or
- c) Will violate any requirement set forth by the FCC Order entitled "Accelerating Wireless Broadband Deployment by Removing Barriers to Infrastructure Investment; Accelerating Wireline Broadband Deployment by the Removal of Barrier to Infrastructure Investment." WT Docket No. 17-79; WC Docket No. 170-84.

H. The Township shall advise the applicant in writing of its final decision.

**§525-10 Permitted use.**

Notwithstanding anything else in the Code of the Township of Verona, the installation of antennas, small cells and other communication devices and associated equipment in the public right-of-way either on existing or new poles are permitted and considered a permitted use if a Right-of-Way Use Agreement and right-of-way permits are obtained pursuant to this chapter.

**§525-11 Governance of deployments outside of the public right-of-way.**

This chapter is intended to govern the installation, placement, maintenance, modification, upgrade and repair of communications facilities, including small wireless facilities, in the public right-of-way. The placement of telecommunications equipment outside of the public right-of-way shall be governed by the applicable codes and ordinances of the Township, including the provisions of Chapter 150 Zoning. Article XIV Wireless Telecommunications Facilities.

**§525-12 Preexisting sites and municipal agreements.**

- A. Any communications facilities in the public right-of-way existing at the time of the adoption of the provisions of this chapter, whether or not a Right-of-Way Use Agreement exists or is in force and effect with regard to same, shall be required to comply with the provisions of this chapter.
- B. Any Right-of-Way Use Agreements entered into between the Township and any provider regarding communications facilities in the public right-of-way shall be required to conform to the provisions and standards of this chapter. To the extent the provisions of any existing such agreement conflict with this chapter, said provisions, at the discretion of the Township, shall be replaced and superseded by the applicable terms of this chapter.

**§525-13 New Jersey One Call.**

In addition to compliance with the applicable provisions of this chapter, prior to the start of any installation of poles, support structures, small wireless facilities or other communications facilities that requires excavation, Applicant shall contact New Jersey One Call at 811 at least three full business days prior to the commencement of work.

**§525-14 Violations.**

Violation of any of the provisions of this chapter shall be punishable with a civil penalty of \$500 for each violation which continues more than ten days after written notice of such violation is provided to the person or applicant. Each day, after such notice, that a violation occurs or is permitted to exist by the person or applicant, constitutes a separate offense.

**SECTION 2. Repealer.**

All ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent or in conflict with this Ordinance are hereby repealed as to said inconsistencies and conflicts.

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**SECTION 3. Severability.**

If any section, part of any section, or clause or phrase of this ordinance is for any reason held to be invalid or unconstitutional, such decision shall not affect the remaining provisions of this ordinance. The governing body of the Township of Verona declares that it would have passed the ordinance and each section and subsection thereof, irrespective of the fact that any one or more of the subsections, sentences, clauses or phrases may be declared unconstitutional or invalid.

**SECTION 4. Effective Date.**

This ordinance shall take effect immediately upon passage and publication according to law.



ATTEST:

*Jennifer Kiernan*  
JENNIFER KIERNAN  
MUNICIPAL CLERK

**NOTICE**

**I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE AFOREMENTIONED ORDINANCE WAS PUBLISHED IN THE STAR LEDGER, A NEWSPAPER PUBLISHED IN THE COUNTY OF ESSEX AND CIRCULATED IN THE TOWNSHIP OF VERONA, IN THE ISSUE OF JULY 29, 2022 AND AUGUST 12, 2022.**

**JENNIFER KIERNAN  
MUNICIPAL CLERK**

INTRODUCTION: July 25, 2022  
PUBLIC HEARING: August 8, 2022  
EFFECTIVE DATE: August 28, 2022