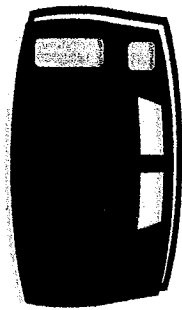


TOWN OF
FARMINGTON



**APPLICATION FOR
A PUBLIC INTEREST
PAYPHONE (PIP)**



May 14, 2010

**TOWN OF
FARMINGTON**



1000 County Road 8, Farmington, New York 14425-9565

"The Gateway to Ontario County" (Exit 44 NYS Thruway)

The Town of Farmington is an equal opportunity provider

TDD 1-800-662-1220

www.townoffarmingtonny.com

Town Supervisor
Theodore M. Fafinski

Deputy Supervisor
Peter Ingalsbe

**Town Clerk &
Receiver of Taxes**
Michelle A. Finley

Town Board
Peter Ingalsbe
Michael Casale
Timothy P. Mickelsen
Steven Holtz

Justices
John E. Gligora
Morris Lew

**Highway/Parks
Superintendent**
Ed McLaughlin

CONTACT US:

Assessor
Donna J. LaPlant
(315) 986-8194

**Building &
Code Enforcement**
Floyd Kofahl
(315) 986-8197

Development Dept.
(315) 986-8189

Highway Dept.
(315) 986-5540
Fax: (315) 986-9268

Town Hall
(315) 986-8100
Fax: (315) 986-4377

Town Court
(315) 986-8195
(315) 986-3113

Water & Sewer
(585) 924-3158
Fax: (585) 924-5146

New York State Department of Public Service
Office of Telecommunications
Att: Chad Hume, Director
Agency Building 3
Empire State Plaza
Albany, NY 12223

Dear Mr. Hume,

I am writing to formally apply for the designation of Public Interest Payphone (PIP) for the Verizon-owned telephone outside the Town Hall in Farmington, Ontario County.

Since 2002, Verizon has attempted to remove the telephone, citing declining profitability. Their efforts have been thwarted, however, by our fight for it to stay put. I and other town officials have argued it is a community need – a matter of public safety – considering it is mere steps from the bustling New York State Thruway and adjacent to several frequently used playing fields and a town park. Additionally, the Town Hall is a community hub with a busy Town Court.

Our efforts to spare the phone for the public good have been successful – until now. With no advance notice, Verizon sent a technician to remove the telephone in early April. I protested and immediately contacted Mary Monaco, who has been a supportive resource at the New York State Public Service Commission through this years-long ordeal. After reaching out to Verizon on our behalf, Ms. Monaco informed me that Verizon has decided to follow through with its plans to remove the phone, likely in the next two months. She suggested we make this application for PIP status given the pay phone's unique location.

Along with this letter, I offer an aerial map of the Town Hall where the phone is located. About 50 yards from the phone you will see the Thruway, intersected by County Road 8, a main thoroughfare for our town. In my 12 years working in the Town Hall I have regularly seen stranded motorists from both highways use the phone. I and other workers in the building have also seen and heard plenty of stories of stranded children using the phone to call mom and dad for a ride after a ball game in one of the several fields that surround the Town Hall and neighboring Town Park. Likewise, the Town Court, located inside the building, produces a regular pay phone users.

Though it contains a growing commercial hub and is a 30-minute drive from downtown Rochester, the Town of Farmington is a predominately rural community. The Town Hall is surrounded by

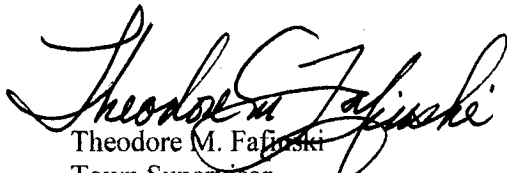
OFFICE OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS
ALBANY, NY

RECEIVED

farmland and but a few homes. The nearest pay phone, by our estimates, is at a gas station over two miles away.

Not everyone has the luxury of a cellular phone. We have plenty of senior citizens and children who frequent the Town Hall and Town Park. What are they to do if they become stranded or their vehicle breaks down and they've got no phone? A motorist stranded on the Thruway with no phone would have a long and dangerous walk to the nearest rest stop.

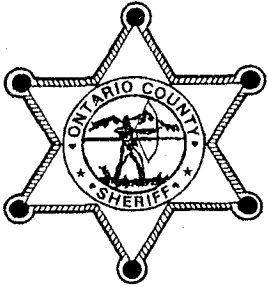
This is a matter of public safety. I urge you to grant our phone a permanent reprieve by giving it PIP status. Should you have any questions, feel free to contact my office at (315) 986-8193.
Thank you for your time and consideration.



Theodore M. Fafioski
Town Supervisor

Enclosures

Cc: Senator Michael Nozzolio
Assemblyman Joseph Errigo



Office of Sheriff County of Ontario

www.co.ontario.ny.us
74 Ontario Street
Canandaigua, New York 14424-1898

Philip C. Povero
Sheriff

David C. Tillman
Undersheriff

New York State Department of Public Service
Office of Telecommunications
ATTN: Chad Hume, Director
Agency Building 3
Empire State Plaza
Albany, NY 12223

Dear Mr. Hume:

I am writing to offer my support to Farmington Town Supervisor Theodore M. Fafinski's request for the designation of Public Interest Payphone (PIP) located outside the Farmington Town Hall. I believe it is in the best interest of public safety for this payphone to remain at the town hall.

By federal statute, any person may dial 9-1-1 from a pay phone at no charge. Located in proximity to this pay phone is a town park, which attracts thousands of people each year. The Farmington Town Court is located at this address. The New York State Thruway is in walking distance of the Farmington Town Hall. The facts that I mentioned all have occasion for public and law enforcement personnel to need access to a pay phone in a rural area, especially to contact 9-1-1 for emergencies.

Not all police officers at the Ontario County Office of Sheriff are issued cell phones. These police officers are frequently asked to make phone calls of an emergency and non-emergency nature. This pay phone, located in a rural area, provides telephone communications for emergency service providers who may not have any other access to phone service, especially at 3:00 a.m.

Therefore, in the interest of maintaining a high a level of public safety in this rural area, I would strongly support the Town of Farmington's request for the Public Interest Payphone designation at the Farmington Town Hall.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Philip C. Povero".

Philip C. Povero
Ontario County Sheriff

PCP/cam

STATE OF NEW YORK DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE
THREE EMPIRE STATE PLAZA, ALBANY, NY 12223-1350
www.dps.state.ny.us



PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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Chairman
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MAUREEN F. HARRIS
ROBERT E. CURRY JR.
JAMES L. LAROCCA
Commissioners



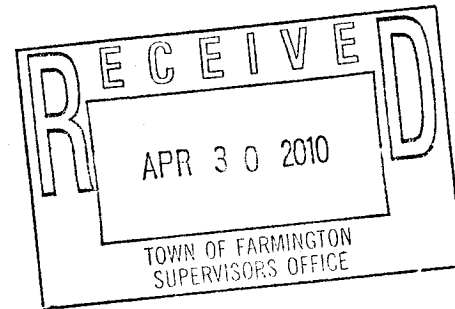
PETER McGOWAN
General Counsel

JACLYN A. BRILLING
Secretary

April 28, 2010

Supervisor Ted Fafinski
Town of Farmington
1000 Country Road #8
Farmington, NY 14425

Dear Supervisor Fafinski:




As per our telephone conversation, Verizon New York Inc. has advised us that they will be sending you a letter giving the town 60 days notice regarding removal of the payphone located near the Town of Farmington offices. There are several options that the town will have to replace this payphone. They are:

- Subscribe to a semi-public payphone from Verizon New York Inc. at the rate of \$75.00 a month,
- Install a Customer Owned Coin Operated Telephone (COCOT),
- Apply for a Public Interest Payphone.

I have included information on the process you would follow to apply for a Public Interest Payphone.

Should you have any questions, I may be reached at 518-486-2830.

Sincerely,


Mary B. Monaco
Utility Analyst III

Enclosure



PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

96-C-1174: Public Interest Payphones (PIP)

Case 96-C-1174, ORDER ESTABLISHING A PUBLIC INTEREST PAYPHONE PROCESS AND AUTHORIZING TARGETED ASSISTANCE FUND SUPPORT, (Issued and Effective September 25, 1998), was initiated by the New York State Public Service Commission (NYSPSC) to address and implement the requirements of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 and new federal payphone regulations adopted by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).

View all Case Related Commission Documents for this Case

PIP Definition:

The NYSPSC has adopted the FCC definition of a Public Interest Payphone (PIP) as "...a payphone which:

- (1) fulfills a public policy objective in health, safety, or public welfare,
- (2) is not provided for a location provider with an existing contract for the provision of a payphone, and
- (3) would not otherwise exist as a result of the operation of the competitive marketplace."

Eligibility:

The PIP process is triggered by requests from either 1) local government entities or 2) consumer organizations for one or more additional payphones at specific locations that conform to the PIP definition.

PIP applications are subject to the approval of the Director, Office of Telecommunications. Local government entities or consumer organizations that believe there is a need for a payphone that meets the definition of PIP, and wish to submit a request for PIP consideration, should submit a letter to the address at the bottom of this page.

As part of the request, applicants should:

- a) explain how the request meets the FCC definition of a PIP.
- b) provide the location of the proposed PIP and the general location of the next nearest payphone.

NOTE: Eligible PIPs will be funded from the Targeted Assistance Fund (TAF).

However, in municipalities that have payphone permit programs or location fees, TAF funding will generally not be available.

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Submissions:

Requests for PIP consideration should be submitted to the Director of the Office of Telecommunications at the following address:

**New York State Department of Public Service
Office of Telecommunications
Attn: Mr. Chad Hume, Director
Agency Building 3
Empire State Plaza
Albany, NY 12223**

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This page last modified 06/15/09 03:34:26 PM



Verizon Public Communications
1119 16th St, Flr 1
Altoona PA 16601

4/30/2010

Mr. Ted Fafinski
Supervisor
Town of Farmington
1000 County Road 8
Farmington, NY 14425

Dear Mr. Fafinski:

At Verizon, we continually evaluate the performance of our pay telephones. Our most recent review indicates that the pay telephone with the telephone number 315 986-7891 located at 1000 County Road 8 in Farmington, does not generate sufficient usage to cover its costs. The purpose of this letter is to advise you that Verizon will not continue to operate this pay telephone under your current no charge plan. We understand and appreciate that the Town of Farmington has concerns about the impact of removing this pay telephone. Therefore, we are giving you sixty (60) days from the date of this letter to evaluate alternatives and implement whatever arrangements meet your needs before we schedule the removal of this pay telephone.

You may wish to consider a service offered by Verizon called Custom Payphone Service. With Custom Payphone Service, you receive valuable benefits, such as:

- A valuable customer service by providing convenience for your customers or employees
- Free maintenance handled by a fully qualified and experienced Verizon technician
- No up front investment and one single point of contact for all your payphone needs

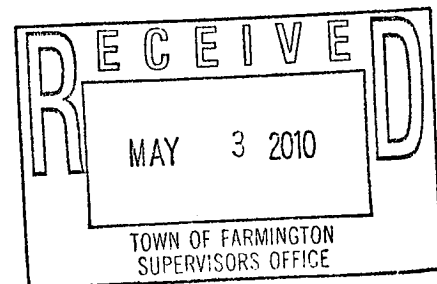
This cost of Custom Payphone Service is \$75, plus taxes and applicable surcharges, per month per pay telephone.

If you wish to take advantage of this offer, or have any questions, please contact us by calling 1-800-310-1445 or faxing 814 946-4861 or 814 946-9823. If we do not hear back from you or an authorized representative of your business within 7 (seven) business days, the pay telephone will be scheduled for removal.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Renee Best
Verizon Public Communications
814 946-5596
Fax 814 946-4861 or 814 946-9823



Verizon Public Communications
1119 16th St., Flr 1 LPR Dept.
Altoona, PA 16601



Dear Valued Customer,

Thank you for your continued interest in Verizon Payphone Service. Although we are no longer able to provide free Payphone service, we're happy to offer Custom Payphone Service, a subscription-based payphone service. With Custom Payphone Service, you still receive valuable benefits, such as:

- A valuable customer service by providing convenience for your customers or employee's
- Free maintenance handled by a fully qualified and experienced Verizon technician
- No up front investment and one single point of contact, 1-800-PUB-TELL, for all your questions about your payphone

In order to keep your payphone, you will need to subscribe to Custom Payphone Service. The rate is \$75 per month not including taxes and applicable surcharges, which may be assessed.

Please fill in the billing responsibility information below and fax or mail this form to the number or address listed below. When the records are updated, we will send you Terms and Conditions for Custom Payphone Service.

Sincerely,

Verizon Public Communications

Billing Responsibility Information (Please Print):

Payphone Number: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Contact Name: _____

Contact Number: _____

Fax or Mail Completed Form to:

Verizon Public Communications
1119 16th St, Flr 1 LPR Dept
Altoona PA 16601

Fax: 814-946-4861 or 814-946-9823

For Internal Use Only	
SO#: D/O _____ N/I _____	Effective Date _____
Typists Initials: _____	
CusCon: _____	
Date T/C Mailed _____	Date Received: _____

**TOWN OF
FARMINGTON**



1000 County Road 8, Farmington, New York 14425-9565

"The Gateway to Ontario County" (Exit 44 NYS Thruway)

The Town of Farmington is an equal opportunity provider

TDD 1-800-662-1220

www.townoffarmingtonny.com

Town Supervisor

Theodore M. Fafinski

Deputy Supervisor

Peter Ingalsbe

**Town Clerk &
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Justices

John E. Gligora

Morris Lew

**Highway/Parks
Superintendent**

Ed McLaughlin

CONTACT US:

Assessor

Donna J. LaPlant

(315) 986-8194

Building &

Code Enforcement

Floyd Kofahl

(315) 986-8197

Development Dept.

(315) 986-8189

Highway Dept.

(315) 986-5540

Fax: (315) 986-9268

Town Hall

(315) 986-8100

Fax: (315) 986-4377

Town Court

(315) 986-8195

(315) 986-3113

Water & Sewer

(585) 924-3158

Fax: (585) 924-5146

May 14, 2010

Renee Best

Verizon Public Communications

119 16th St., Flr 1

Altoona, PA 16601

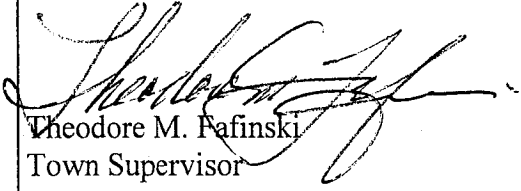
Dear Ms. Best,

You sent me a letter on April 30, 2010, a copy of which is enclosed, notifying me that the Town of Farmington has 60 days from that date to explore alternatives for our Verizon-owned pay phone. After the 60 days, meaning after June 30, your letter says Verizon would schedule the removal of the phone.

Yesterday, on May 13, a Verizon technician came to my office to inform my staff that he received a work order to remove the telephone on June 11, 2010. That conflicts with your letter and I am asking that you cancel this work order at least until the 60 days have elapsed, per your letter. The technician who came to the Town Hall yesterday said his name was Al and his supervisor is Felix Swierski.

The 60 day period is important as we are continuing to review our options and have applied for Public Interest Payphone status with the Public Service Commission.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact my office at (315) 986-8193. Thank you.


Theodore M. Fafinski
Town Supervisor

Enclosure

**TOWN OF
FARMINGTON**



1000 County Road 8, Farmington, New York 14425-9565

"The Gateway to Ontario County" (Exit 44 NYS Thruway)

The Town of Farmington is an equal opportunity provider

TDD 1-800-662-1220

www.townoffarmingtonny.com

Town Supervisor
Theodore M. Fafinski

Deputy Supervisor
Peter Ingalsbe

**Town Clerk &
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Michael Casale
Timothy P. Mickelsen
Steven Holtz

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Morris Lew

**Highway/Parks
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Ed McLaughlin

CONTACT US:

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Water & Sewer
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Fax: (585) 924-5146

Manager

Verizon Public Communications
1119 16th St., Flr 1LPR Dept.
Altoona, PA 16601

April 7, 2010

To whom it may concern,

Since 2002 your company has made a few attempts to remove the Verizon pay phone located outside our Town Hall at 1000 County Road 8 in Farmington, Ontario County. The argument has been simply that it is no longer profitable based on usage. However, the phone is located just off the New York State Thruway, adjacent to a Town Park and ball fields and outside a building that, in addition to serving as the Town Hall, is home to a busy Town Court. It's an important place for a pay phone.

Back in 2006 we were given the option of either having you remove our phone or paying a monthly fee for it to stay put. After an appeal to Verizon as well as the Public Service Commission, it was given a reprieve and we were advised by the PSC that we fit the criteria for a Public Interest Payphone. When we were told Verizon planned to remove the phone two years later, in 2008, we once again made an appeal and, after reaching out to the PSC, that matter was dropped and the phone spared.

This morning a Verizon technician came to the Town Hall with a work order to remove our pay phone. Needless to say, he left empty-handed and I contacted the PSC's office in Albany and spoke with Mary Monaco. She informed me that the phone may qualify as a Public Interest Payphone. You should be hearing from the PSC within the next few days and hopefully, that will resolve this issue. We appreciate your cooperation and should you have any questions, feel free to contact my office at (315) 986-8193.

Sincerely,

Theodore M. Fafinski
Town Supervisor
Town of Farmington

**TOWN OF
FARMINGTON**



1000 County Road 8, Farmington, New York 14425-9565

Town Supervisor
Theodore M. Fafinski

Deputy Supervisor
Lawrence E. Potter

**Town Clerk &
Receiver of Taxes**
Rose M. Kleman

Town Councilman
Peter Ingalsbe
Michael Casale
Timothy P. Mickelsen
Rudy vanderVelden

Justices
John E. Gligora
Morris Lew

**Highway
Superintendent**
Ed McLaughlin

Telephones:

Assessor
Donna J. LaPlant
(315) 986-8194

**Building Dept. & Code
Enforcement Officer**
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**Water & Sewer
Department**
(585) 924-3158
Fax: (585) 924-5146

Farmington...
(Exit 44 NYS Thruway)
**Gateway to
Ontario County**

December 10, 2008

New York State Department of Public Service
Attn: James Kittleman, Utility Engineer 3-Telecom
Three Empire State Plaza
Albany, NY 12223-1350

Dear Mr. Kittleman:

I am writing to seek your assistance again in helping us again retain a payphone which has been in our town hall parking lot since 1991 to remain here without a cost to the taxpayers of our town. We have asked Verizon to allow the phone to remain here in the interest of public service and safety.

The town received the attached letter from Verizon dated June 27, 2008, regarding the payphone located outside the town hall. I have left three messages at your office on July 1, 2008, August 13, 2008, and December 10, 2008, seeking your assistance in keeping the payphone. In 2006, you advised the town to contact you should Verizon try to remove the phone again and since we have not heard anything until today, we assumed it was taken care of. We received a call today from "Al" of Verizon stating he was removing the payphone on December 12, 2008, but he recalls the situation before and placed a hold on the removal until we can figure this out again. I have given them your contact information so they may be contacting you on this matter.

The town request that this letter be kept part of the Commission's record of complaints so that when Verizon petitions the Commission for rate increases or other requests that their denial of a public service request from a local municipality be considered as part of those requests. I would appreciate any assistance that you could provide in this matter.

I can be reached at (315) 986-8193 should you need anything.

Sincerely,

Theodore M. Fafinski
Town Supervisor

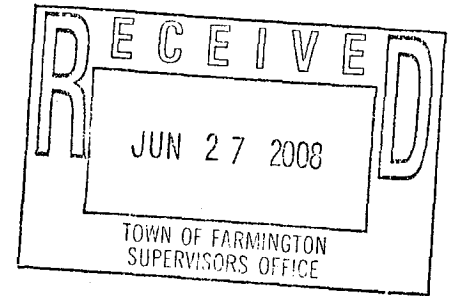
Michelle
Save for
Future
Arthur
Lab.



Verizon Public Communications
1119 16th St, Flr 1-LPR
Altoona PA 16601

June 10, 2008

TOWN OF FARMINGTON
1000 COUNTY RD 8
FARMINGTON, NY 14425



Dear Valued Customer:

As we have all observed in the last several years, the significant growth of wireless services has caused a dramatic reduction in pay telephone usage. Pay telephones are being used less and less. This diminished usage has had an impact on the ability of pay telephones to generate sufficient revenues to cover their costs.

3159867891

At Verizon, we continually evaluate the performance of our pay telephones. Our most recent review indicates that the phone listed above is not generating sufficient usage for Verizon to continue to operate it under your current no charge plan. We are happy to advise you, however, that we can offer you our Custom Payphone Service. With Custom Payphone Service, you receive valuable benefits, such as:

- A valuable customer service by providing convenience for your customers or employees
- Free maintenance handled by a fully qualified and experienced Verizon technician
- No up front investment and one single point of contact for all your payphone needs

This cost of Custom Payphone Service is \$75, plus taxes and applicable surcharges, per month per pay telephone.

If you wish to take advantage of this offer, or have any questions, please contact us by calling 1-800-PUB-TELL (1-800-782-8355), emailing PayphoneRequest@verizon.com, or faxing 814 946-4861 or 814 946-9823. If we do not hear back from you or an authorized representative of your business within 7 (seven) business days, the pay telephone will be scheduled for removal.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us. Thank You for using Verizon products and services!

Sincerely,

Verizon Public Communications
1-800-782-8355
Fax 814 946-4861 or 814 946-9823
PayphoneRequest@verizon.com

AR - Verizon Tech.

STATE OF NEW YORK DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE
THREE EMPIRE STATE PLAZA, ALBANY, NY 12223-1350

Internet Address: <http://www.dps.state.ny.us>

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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MAUREEN F. HARRIS
ROBERT E. CURRY JR.
CHERYL A. BULEY



DAWN JABLONSKI RYMAN
General Counsel

JACLYN A. BRILLING
Secretary

July 25, 2006

Mr. Theodore M. Fafinski
Supervisor, Town of Farmington
1000 County Road
Farmington, New York 14425-9565

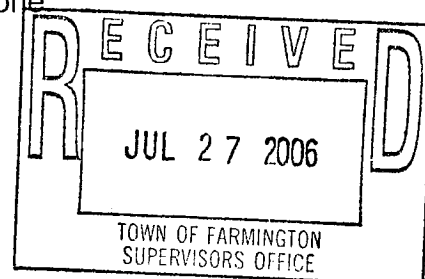
Dear Mr. Fafinski:

Thank you for your letter of June 19, 2006, concerning the paystation in the town hall parking lot. We have been in contact with Verizon and they have agreed not to remove the paystation in question at this time. However, Verizon will continue to evaluate the profitability of this paystation in the future. If in the future, Verizon decides to remove this paystation, the Town of Farmington can apply to the New York State Public Service Commission for a Public Interest Payphone.

The Commission defines a Public Interest Payphone (PIP) as a payphone which:

- (1) fulfills a public policy objective in health, safety, or public welfare;
- (2) is not provided for a location provider with an existing contract for the provision of a payphone, and
- (3) would not otherwise exist as a result of the operation of the competitive marketplace.

In 1998, the Commission in Case 96-C-1174 established a PIP process to address and implement the requirements of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 and new payphone regulations adopted by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). The New York PIP process is triggered by a request from either a local government or a customer organization for one or more additional payphones at specific locations that conform to the PIP definition. As part of the request, applicants must explain how a PIP request meets the definition of PIP and provide the location of the proposed PIP and the general location of the next nearest payphone.



SOR
THEODORE M. FAFINSKI

CLERK & RECEIVER OF TAXES
ROSE M. KLEMAN

COUNCILMEN
LAWRENCE E. POTTER
BONNIE A. LEW
JOHN E. GLIGORA
TIMOTHY P. MICKELSEN

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER
DANIEL R. O'BINE

TOWN OF
FARMINGTON



1000 COUNTY ROAD 8, Farmington, New York 14425

JUSTICES
CHARLES R. COOKSEY
PATRICIA R. AXSMITH

ASSESSOR
BARBARA BOUNDS, I.A.O.

HIGHWAY SUPT.
LEWIS MARTZ

WATER & SEWER SUPT.
JAMES E. CRANE

February 27, 2002

Verizon
Presidential Complaint Dept.
1095 Avenue of Americas
Room 2001
New York NY 10036

Re: Removal of Verizon PayPhone - 315-986-7891 - located at Town of Farmington, 1000 County Road 8, Farmington NY 14425

Dear Sir or Madam:

I'm writing to you to appeal the decision to remove the Verizon payphone at our rural town complex which includes a regional park.

The payphone was originally installed in 1991 at the request of the Town Clerk and the Justice Court. It was installed to provide access to a public telephone for public gatherings as well as for people attending court. Since it is located in a rural setting adjacent to the New York State Thruway it has become a valued communication tool for Fire and public safety concerns.

The Town of Farmington is also a valued customer of Verizon Telephone Company as our town offices and town parks are serviced exclusively by Verizon Telephone by using the 315-986 exchange. Our records reflect that the period of 1/1/00 to 12/31/01, our phone services amounted to the payment of \$18,993.99 to Verizon Telephone.

I'm appealing to you to reconsider your decision to remove this payphone solely of the basis of revenues since it serves this community in the interest of public safety.

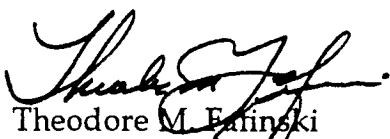
COPY

I would appreciate any consideration that can be given in this matter. I am aware that the taxpayers of this community could pick-up an additional fee of \$75.00 per month to maintain this payphone. However, in light of the taxpayers money that is currently being expended with Verizon and this alternative is not viewed as acceptable.

Your staff at the various customer service centers have been extremely cooperative in referring me to you, based on what I believe, this is an unique and unusual circumstance that should be reviewed at the highest level.

Thank you again for any consideration in this matter and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,


Theodore M. Rafinski
Town Supervisor

cc: Lewis Martz, Highway Superintendent
Dennis Wax, Director of Regulatory Affairs - Verizon



13 Forest Street
Wellesley, MA 02481

February 8, 2002

TOWN OF FARMINGTON
1000 COUNTY RD 8
FARMINGTON NY 14425

FEB 22 2002

Re: Removal of Verizon Pay Phone -3159867891
Located at: TOWN OF FARMINGTON
1000 COUNTY RD 8 FARMNGTN

Dear Valued Customer:

The pay phone industry, and more specifically, Verizon Public Communications is facing significant changes in the provisioning of pay phones. The deregulation of pay phone services in 1996 required the removal of all subsidies associated with this service. The significant growth of wireless services has caused substantial reductions of pay phone usage. These changes have had an impact on the ability of our pay phones to generate revenues to cover their costs. Accordingly, Verizon Public Communications has been evaluating the performance of its pay phones to identify those phones that do not meet the minimum monthly revenue requirement. Under our Agreement, we have the right to remove these stations because of their low usage.

The Verizon pay phone mentioned above does not meet the minimum revenue requirement. Because this phone does not produce the minimum revenues to support its continued operation, we plan to remove the phone.

In lieu of removing the phone, we extend to you the opportunity to retain the phone as a Custom Payphone Service at the applicable monthly service rate plus taxes and surcharges. Please call us at 1 800 PUB-TELL and we will assist you in making the change in service. If we do not hear from you within 10 days of the date of this letter, we will schedule this pay phone for removal.

Sincerely,

Robert Harcum


Robert Harcum
Verizon Public Communications

Custom PayPhone \$75 PER MONTH
AND VERIZON KEEPS THE
COINS DEPOSITED -

Pres. Office Complaint 1-800-950-7400
1095 Ave of Americas 1-800-722-7300
NY 10036


INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

**TOWN OF FARMINGTON
HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT
LEWIS J. MARTZ, SUPERINTENDENT
5630 COLLETT ROAD
Farmington, New York 14425-9565
(315) 986-5540
(315) 986-9268 (FAX)
Email Address: wfarming@rochester.rr.com**

DATE: February 27, 2002
TO: Ted Fafinski
FROM: Lewie Martz - Highway Superintendent 
SUBJECT: Pay Phone at Town Hall


The Pay Phone at the Town Hall was installed in 1991 at the request of the Town Clerk and the Court Office. It was installed to provide access to a public telephone for public gatherings at the Town Hall and Town Park as well as for people attending Court.

For Fire and Safety reasons, I feel that the public telephone should remain in place and that perhaps a compromise could be reached with Verizon regarding the charge for this telephone.



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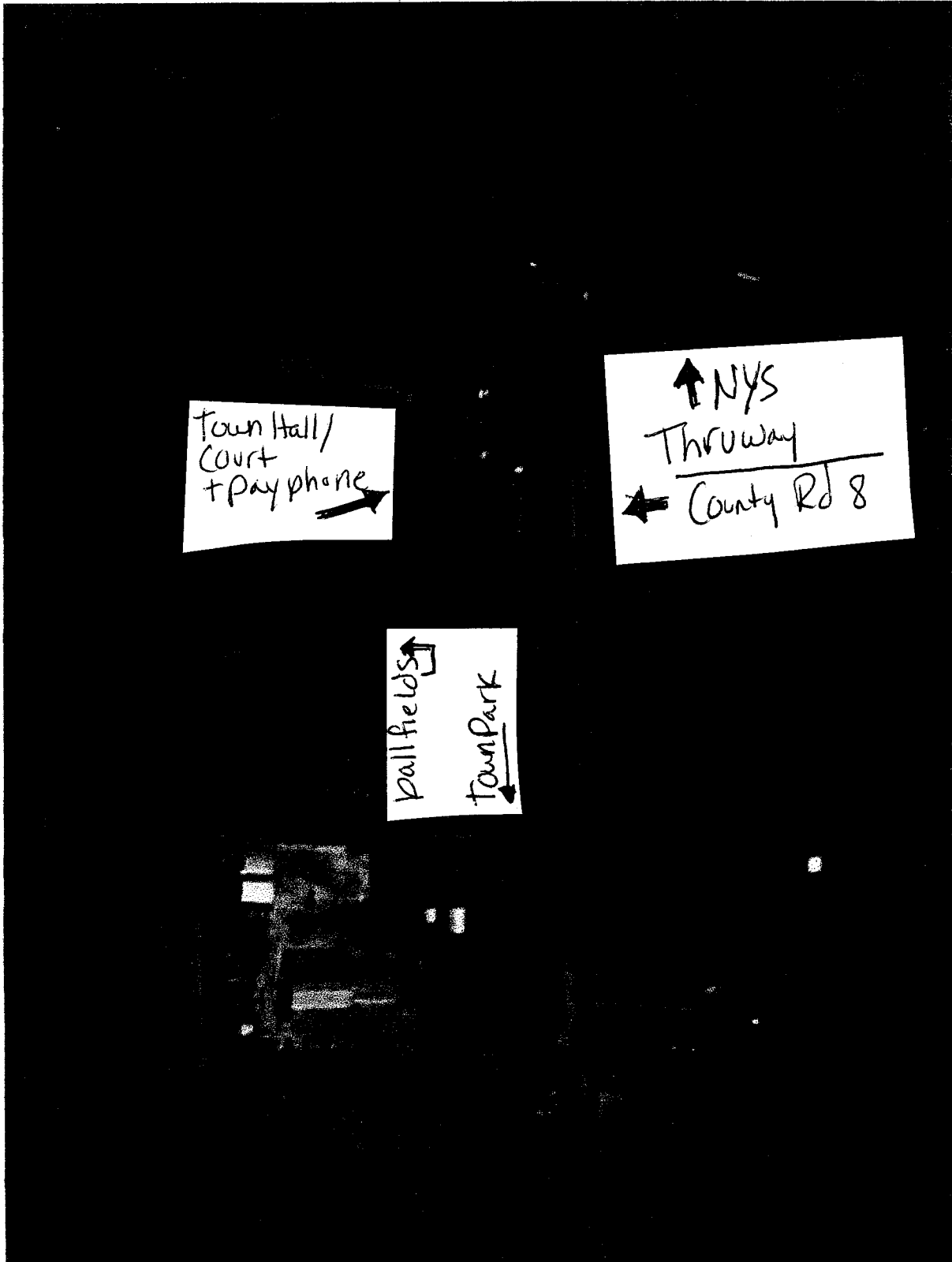
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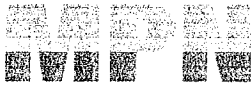
USGS 7 km E of Victor, New York, United States 22 Apr 1994



m 50 100 150
yds 50' 100' 150'

Image courtesy of the U.S. Geological Survey

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Hands off my pay phone

By Fred Schühle, staff writer

Messenger Post

Posted Apr 12, 2010 @ 11:20 AM

Last update Apr 12, 2010 @ 12:36 PM

Farmington, N.Y. — The Verizon phone technician never saw it coming.

Armed with the customary work order, and with the uneventful removal of a pay phone at Newark's Village Hall fresh in his mind, he entered Farmington Town Hall on County Road 8 Wednesday morning.

He had no idea that he was about to face a town supervisor with an aggravation that had been mounting since 2002.

As Supervisor Ted Fafinski recounted the tale, the unsuspecting pay-phone yanker — who was only trying to do his job — agreed that perhaps this pay phone shouldn't be removed.

At least not by him. At least not this week.

In a letter sent Wednesday to Verizon's Public Communications office in Altoona, Pa., Fafinski reviewed the case of the Farmington Town Hall pay phone.

Noting that the company's "argument (for removing the phone) has been simply that it is no longer profitable based on usage," Fafinski pointed out that the phone sits "just off the New York State Thruway, adjacent to a Town Park and ball fields and outside a building that, in addition to serving as the Town Hall, is home to a busy Town Court. It's an important place for a pay phone."

So there are several people who could benefit from the phone being where it's been since 1977, when Town Hall was built, he believes.

"This is a rural area," Fafinski said Wednesday. "There are no neighborhoods around here, and not everybody has cell phones."

Verizon's Web page notes that the company managed more than 2 million pay phones several years ago, and now operates only about 150,000 across the country, with the increased popularity of cell phones.

Fafinski's letter to Verizon goes on to explain that in 2006, "after an appeal to Verizon as well as the Public Service Commission, it (the pay phone) was given a reprieve and we were advised by the PSC that we fit the criteria for a Public Interest Payphone."

On Friday, the Verizon Public Communications office in Altoona, Pa., directed callers to an e-mail address. Messages left with Mary Monaco of the Public Service Commission in Albany were not immediately returned.

The commission has adopted the FCC definition of a Public Interest Payphone (PIP), in part, as one that fulfills a public policy objective in health, safety, or public welfare, says its Web site.

Fafinski's letter to Verizon concludes by explaining that he has again called the commission, and learned "that the phone may qualify as a Public Interest Payphone. You should be hearing from the PSC within the next few days and hopefully, that will resolve this issue."

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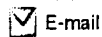
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Brother, can you spare a quarter?

By JESSICA PIERCE

Messenger Post Staff

Posted: Jul 5, 01:00 PM EDT

With cell phones on the rise, it's not easy being a pay phone these days.

It stands at the edge of the parking lot, waiting for someone to slip in a quarter.

But the coins are coming fewer and further between these days. Once in a while, a kid who needs a ride home from the nearby park will stop by. Other times, it's a stranded motorist off the Thruway or an unfortunate soul who has just lost his license in Town Court and needs a lift.

Put up in 1991 as a matter of convenience and safety, the pay phone outside the Farmington Town Hall on County Road 8 has seen fewer and fewer users in recent years. And now its owner, Verizon Communications Inc., wants to remove it or charge the town a monthly fee to keep it.

But town officials are putting up a fight on behalf of their lonely phone. They deem it a necessity, regardless of how often it gets used.

The fuss over the lone pay phone highlights the social transformation that's underway in this new age of technology and fancy techno-gadgets like BlackBerrys, iPods and digital camera phones. Pay phones used stand ready to serve at restaurants, gas stations, drug stores — themselves not what they used to be — and on the streets in Anytown, USA. By these days, it's not as easy as it used to be to find one.

"Boy, they used to be so important," Farmington Town Clerk Rose

advertisement



Kleman said with a sigh and a certain amount of resignation. "I guess they're getting to be a thing of the past. It's, you know, probably sad. I'm an old-timer, and I hate to lose a lot of those things we thought were necessities."

As it turns out, Kleman isn't alone.

Straight line to the Vatican

Believe it or not, there is, in fact, a whole legion of pay phone admirers out there, from midtown Manhattan to Rome, Italy.

And they're fearless leader is Mark Thomas of New York City. He is a pay-phone aficionado and runs a Web site that is a database of sorts for pay phones across the world. The site, payphone-project.com, contains the numbers and locations of about a half million pay phones, everywhere from a basement in the Vatican (there's even a photo to go with it) to a phone at the top of the Eiffel Tower to various gentlemen's clubs in cities around the United States.

His site even has old numbers for pay phones in the Fairport Public Library and at one of the Nick Tahoe Hots — famed for its "garbage plate" — in Rochester.

Thomas is a classical musician, and he used to get a thrill making random calls to public phones. He would play a musical piece to whoever answered — a homeless person, a businessman. And if someone left the phone dangling, he would get a rise out of listening to passing cars.

The reason he has pretty much stopped making the calls is simple: More and more public phones block incoming calls, and there are fewer and fewer phones to call.

According to the Federal Communications Commission's statistics, the number of pay phones in the United States dropped to 1.5 million in 2003, down from 2.1 million five years earlier.

In 2001, Verizon had 440,000 pay phones in 28 states and the District of Columbia. Today, the company has 300,000, said spokesman Jim Smith.

Even Wegmans is citing a drop of 30 to 50 percent in pay phone usage in its stores.

"In spite of that, we continue to keep pay phones in all of our stores," said the chain's spokesperson, Jo Natale, noting that there are two public pay phones in the Canandaigua store. "We'll do that until the usage does not justify the service."

On Death Row, appeal denied

Verizon started removing pay phones that weren't earning their keep about five years ago. But Smith pointed out the company gives property owners the option of paying to keep their phones in place.

"That has been working pretty well," he said. "They can pay us a flat monthly fee, and then we'll leave it there because by charging that fee, we've covered the costs."

Verizon first sent a letter to the town of Farmington in 2002 asking for \$75 a month, plus fees, to keep their pay phone in place outside Town Hall. The Town Board objected to the expense, and the matter seemed to fall by the wayside.

But in May, a town hall staffer was contacted by a Verizon technician who wanted directions to the pay phone so it could be dismantled. The troubled staffer told the technician to hold off, and town Supervisor Ted Fafinski sent a letter to the phone company appealing the decision.

Verizon's Public Communications office sent the town a letter two weeks ago, denying the appeal.

"Given the importance that access to telephone services plays at your location, as described in your correspondence, Verizon encourages you to take advantage of our Verizon Custom Pay phone Service," the letter said.

Verizon now wants Farmington's taxpayers to pay \$45 a month, plus taxes and surcharges.

"I think it's a matter of principle," said Fafinski, who appealed Verizon's order with a letter to the state Public Service Commission earlier this month. "It's a matter of public service."

Not everyone has a cell phone, he pointed out, and it's good to have the pay phone on hand for emergencies, given the Town Hall's proximity to the Thruway and the town park.

The supervisor has found an ally in Thomas.

"It seems obvious to me that there are so many possible scenarios where a working phone would be critical that it should go without saying that (pay phones) need to be maintained," he said. "I would think Verizon knows better than to charge the town for this phone."

Profitability vs. safety

If a pay phone is located in a area where a lack of phone access could pose a safety risk, phone companies sometimes deem them "public interest" phones and maintain them free of charge — regardless of their profitability. Such phones could be near "a dark and gloomy alley in a dangerous part of town," said Verizon's Smith.

Farmington's Town Hall certainly isn't in a bad neighborhood — in fact, it's surrounded by cow pastures and rolling countryside. But it is home to the town court, which convenes two nights a week.

Kleman, who has been the town clerk for more than three decades, said the pay phone has been something of a relief for her over the years. Before it arrived, she would occasionally get phone calls from

people who were in a bind after a court appearance at Town Hall. Kleman's home phone number is posted outside, as it is required, and with no one else to turn to and no pay phone in sight, people who needed bail money or a ride home would use the courtroom phone and ring her, hoping she would help them track down help.

"It doesn't happen that much anymore," Kleman said.

Both Kleman and Fafinski said they occasionally see stranded Thruway motorists venture over to the Town Hall to use the pay phone. It has come in handy, too, for kids who have gotten left behind after a ball game at the town park.

The pay phone's plight frustrates Thomas.

"It seems to me that the zeal with which pay phones have been removed does not necessarily correspond to the practical reality that access to public communication is essential," he said. "Profitability has been the standard for keeping public phones when public safety should be an equally weighted factor."

Farmington's pay phone might wind up in the telecommunications graveyard, but will pay phones face extinction entirely?

"Oh no," said Verizon's Smith. "There will always be people in motion who need to stop and make a call for a number of reasons and we're confident that the market will be there for a long, long time."

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