

SANDYSTON TOWNSHIP

R-28-2018

RESOLUTION MAKING FORMAL COMPLAINT TO THE BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES FOR THE NEGLECT AND LACK MAINTENANCE OF PHONE AND CABLE LINES AND REQUESTING PHONE AND CABLE COMPANIES VISIT SANDYSTON TOWNSHIP TO INSPECT THEIR LINES IN AN EFFORT TO IMPROVE AND/OR INITIATE VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PLAN

WHEREAS, Hurricane Irene in 2011, Superstorm Sandy in 2012 and Winter Storm Riley in 2018 caused extensive damage to utility lines in Sandyston Township; and

WHEREAS, after each storm Jersey Central Power & Light has worked to clear downed trees in power lines and fix and replace telephone poles to restore power to municipalities; however, phone and cable companies are negligent and inattentive in clearing their lines after storms and many poles remain damaged, broken and leaning after storms and trees, tree limbs and branches remain in precarious and dangerous situations long after storm restoration; and

WHEREAS, in the aftermath of these storms, utility companies are called upon to review their procedures with regard to their vegetation management plans in the municipalities where they provide service in an effort to improve service and better serve the public; and

WHEREAS, for example, in the years following Superstorm Sandy, Jersey Central Power & Light reviewed and improved their vegetation management program realizing the program had been neglected for several years knowing trees are the leading cause of power outages. At least once every four years, power lines are inspected and plans are developed for the pruning, trimming, rounding and, if necessary, removal of trees. Sandyston Township has witnessed this vegetation management program since 2014; and

WHEREAS, in Sandyston Township we have phone (Centurylink) and cable (Cablevision & Service Electric) utility lines that are on utility poles which are separate from JCP & L utility poles, and it has been several years since any vegetation management maintenance has been performed. In instances where phone and cable lines are on the same poles as power lines, the phone and cable companies reap the benefit of the maintenance of the power company and neglect their responsibility to maintain vegetation on these poles; and

WHEREAS, there are phone and cable lines which have become overgrown with tree limbs and branches and phone and cable lines which have grown into and around limbs and branches and vegetation has been allowed to grow along and into the wires. When storms, no matter the season, strike Sandyston Township, these falling telephone poles, trees, tree limbs and branches are the cause of service interruption. After motor vehicle accidents, broken telephone poles are not repaired or removed and guide wires are not secured, leaving hanging and dangerous cables dangling along roadways. Currently in Sandyston Township there are broken poles, dangerous tree limbs and branches which lean on poles and wires and hang over the utility lines and into the roadway causing concern to Sandyston Township, their residents and motorists that travel through our township; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Township Committee of the Township of Sandyston submits this Resolution as a formal complaint to the Board of Public Utilities for the neglect and lack of maintenance of phone and cable lines and urges the Board of Utilities to investigate this matter and require the phone and cable companies to inspect and maintain their utility lines for the safety and welfare of our residents and motorists who travel our roads each day.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Township Committee of the Township of Sandyston, hereby requests a representative of the phone company (Centurylink) and cable company (Cablevision & Service Electric) contact the Mayor of Sandyston Township and visit Sandyston Township in an effort to inspect these utility lines and develop a plan for vegetation management.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the following: State of New Jersey Board of Public Utilities; Centurylink; Cablevision; Service Electric; Senator Steven Oroho; Assemblyman Parker Space; Assemblyman Harold J. Wirths; Sussex County Board of Chosen Freeholders, Director Jonathan Rose; United States Congressman Josh Gottheimer; United States Congressman Rodney P. Frelinghuysen; United States Senator Cory Booker; United States Senator Robert Menendez; Sussex County municipalities

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution is a true and certified copy of the resolution adopted by the Sandyston Township Committee at the regularly scheduled meeting held on Tuesday, March 13, 2018 at 7:00 pm, at the Sandyston Township Municipal Building, 133 Route 645, Sandyston, New Jersey.



Amanda F. Lobban, RMC
Municipal Clerk