## DISCUSSION OF VERIZON LEASE AGREEMENT FOR COURTHOUSE WATER TOWER

For a number of years, AT&T and NTELOS have co-located telecommunications equipment and antennae on the Courthouse Water Tank. The County Utilities Department over the years has received compensation and rent payments for allowing use of the water tank for telecommunications equipment. NTELOS has abandoned their existing lease to use the Courthouse water tank and Verizon has requested that the County grant a lease so that Verizon can install and maintain their telecommunications equipment on the tower to replace NTELOS. Cell phone coverage in the Courthouse area can be poor at times and the expectation is that the new Verizon equipment will significantly improve coverage and quality of service in the Courthouse area.

In negotiating the lease, Verizon has now requested that the County sell a portion of the water tank parcel to Verizon in the area where the maintenance shed exists. Since NTELOS operated their equipment through a lease agreement, the Utilities Department opposes sale of any portion of the County parcel because it would hamper the County's flexibility in using the site and repairing the water tank. Unless the Board directs otherwise, we will inform Verizon that the County will not sell land to them but will continue to grant a similar lease arrangement that was used for NTELOS for use by Verizon.







