

MARATHON TOWNSHIP
PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING
Public Hearing Minutes
March 2, 2026

DRAFT

Smokey Meinecke, Chair
Sandi Glesenkamp, Secretary
Charlie Brockriede
Justin Church

Russell Cossaboom
John Deitering
Stacy Baker

Petitioner Patricia Buckner, 6140 White Sands
RE: Bitwise Communication Tower

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chairman, Meinecke. Roll call was taken showing all members were present except Baker and Church. See Guests list

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited

A motion was made by Glesenkamp with support by Deitering to approve the agenda. All votes aye, motion carried.

A motion was made by Deitering with support by Brockreide to approve the minutes of February 18, 2026. All votes aye, motion carried.

Chairman Meinecke called the Public Hearing to order at 6:02. Brian Wills representing Bitwise spoke about the history of the existing tower at 6140 White Sands owned by Patricia Buckner which was installed in 2013 for the personal use of the property owner. In 2018 the tower was transitioned from a small private tower to a commercial tower serving about 50 customers. There are no plans to increase the height or width. There is a 20 x 20 fence surrounding it. The panels that were added was to extend the service to about 50 residents. The maximum the tower could accommodate would be 100 subscribers. The commercial communication tower requires a special land use in the agriculture/residential district in which the property is located.

Public Comment: People spoke about the concern for the environment (what the rays might be emitting). One comment was that there was no benefit to the community and that it is an eye sore. A comment was made concerning the increase to 5 gigs having a negative effect on the cell service of others. Several people referred to the Communication tower as a cell tower. Mr. Wills was able to explain the difference between the cell and internet services. The current service provides internet to about 50 subscribers within a 2-mile radius. There was a request to stick to the ordinances and not let other companies hook-up to it. A comment was made about traffic concerns and Mr. Wills explained that the tower only needs servicing about 2 or 3 times a year.

The Public Hearing was closed at 7:10. Planning Commission members listened to the written comments received. There was discussion and a motion was made by Brockreide with support by

Deitering to table the decision until the March 9, quarterly meeting at which time the PC can study the request and obtain legal counsel. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Meinecke, Brockreiede, Cossaboom, Deitering, Glesenkamp. Absent: Baker and Church. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Cossaboom with a second by Brockreide to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Submitted by _____
Sandi Glesenkamp

Approved _____
Smokey Meinecke