

May 22-23, 2014

**ITEM 163-1501-R0514**

**Approval of Lease with Verizon Wireless**

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**THAT**

Consistent with Regents Policy 1003.6.III, the Board of Regents authorizes Montana Tech of the University of Montana to enter into a lease agreement with Verizon Wireless for locating a cell phone antenna tower at the Alumni Coliseum facility.

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**EXPLANATION**

Cell phone coverage in most buildings on the Montana Tech Campus is inadequate. Student and staff safety is a top priority on the campus and, because of this, Montana Tech has implemented an Emergency Notification/Text Messaging System and the poor cell reception in the buildings has limited the effectiveness of this system. Montana Tech is interested in improving cell phone coverage for the campus and surrounding area.

Montana Tech is working with Verizon Wireless to establish improved cell coverage. Verizon has proposed installing a combination light/cell tower on the southwest end of the Bob Green football field at the Alumni Coliseum. This location has been surveyed and has been determined to be optimal for improved cell coverage. A metal monopole is proposed with light banks to assist lighting the football field. The lights will be similar to the other lights on the east end of the field; the cell antennas would extend above the lights on the new monopole. As part of this project, a light pole that already exists on the southwest end of the stadium will be moved to the northwest end of the football field. Moving this pole will improve illumination of the football playing field.

Verizon will pay for all expenses related to the design, construction, maintenance, and electrical power used related to the cell equipment of this project.

It is the intent of Montana Tech to enter into a long-term lease agreement with Verizon Wireless. The lease agreement will provide fair market value for the easement. Once a lease agreement has been drafted, legal counsel will be asked to review and a copy will be shared with the Commissioner of Higher Education. It is anticipated that the initial term of the lease will be for five (5) years and Verizon Wireless shall have the option to extend the lease term for three (3) consecutive periods of five (5) years each, for a total lease term of twenty (20) years.

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**ATTACHMENTS**

None