

Wind socks Point's electricity

By **LESLIE TRULUCK**
Cape May Star and Wave

WEST CAPE MAY – Cape May City Police Department received the original call at 1:30 p.m. on Dec. 3.

Police, fire and emergency officials were informed that northern wind coming in from Cape May Point through the open spaces of Les Rea's Farm snapped a 50-foot electric utility pole on Bayshore Road south of the canal.

The department set traffic barricades and contacted the fire police and the electric

company. Police officials said Atlantic City Electric arrived on the scene at 2:30 p.m. and had the grid supplying electricity to Cape May Point shut down in over an hour in order to make repairs.

Officials were told it would take five hours to return electricity to Cape May Point but electricity was recovered in less than four hours.

A total of 785 Atlantic City Electric customers' electricity was out of service until recovered at approximately 8 p.m.

Sandra May of Atlantic City

Electric said the company regularly accesses the structural integrity of the poles through a pole inspection program.

"We were concerned for the residents and the borough appreciates their good job," said Dan Rutherford, emergency coordinator for West Cape May.

Rutherford said he gives "high marks" to the Cape May City Police Department for arriving on the scene quickly to keep people safe.



Leslie Truluck/Cape May Star and Wave

High wind had this pole tottering on Bayshore Road near Stevens Street causing a four-hour power outage at Cape May Point.

WiFi

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encourages a municipality to design a network and then put the project out to bid.

That way the city lets the contractor know what its needs are.

"Otherwise you are getting a network the vendor thinks you want," he said.

He said the municipality, or in the case of Cape Island, the three participating municipalities would identify assets where the main transmitters would be located. If they did not have the rights to install

the transmitters they would have to acquire the rights. A detailed, physical site survey would be done and the data would be put into a "mesh planner" program, which would tell them how well the radio signals would function in the area.

The program would also tell

the municipality how many radios would be needed in the network. Generally, 35-40 nodes per square mile are required. Shannon said the municipality could then go to vendors and shop for the best price.

Shannon said the cost to have BIG Wireless set up the network would be around \$35,000. The cost of the entire project, including the entire infrastructure needed to support the system would be around \$750,000. He said the city would then need to find an Internet service provider and a company to maintain the network. He said BIG Wireless provides maintenance service, which includes 24-hour monitoring.

Councilman David Craig asked how long before the network would become self-liquidating. Shannon said most networks pay for themselves in five years.

Deputy Mayor Niels Favre asked about the public safety aspect of the network. Shannon said the network could provide for a lot of pub-

lic safety issues.

"Video surveillance is a huge use for this network," Shannon said.

He said he assumed this would also be of interest to the U.S. Coast Guard, if they did not already have a video surveillance system in place.

The city of Philadelphia, he said, recently installed about 2,000 cameras in their network in an attempt to monitor crime.

Asked how a citywide wireless Internet network would benefit the residents, Shannon said it would provide personal Internet and could run a phone system whereby people inside the network could talk to other people inside the network at no additional cost. Receiving television signals, he said, would be "a bit much" for the system.

At the end of the meeting, Kurkowski recommended a committee be formed to look at a business model for city-wide WiFi.

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Meeting

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referred to previous discussions about the city's new vision plan for revitalization. "Don't you dare pound your fist at me," Gaffney said, still standing at the podium. "Who do you think you are?" Mayor Jerry Indriewicz intervened and said although he is sometimes angered by the spreading of misinformation he has learned to hold his tongue.

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