

Inside Towers

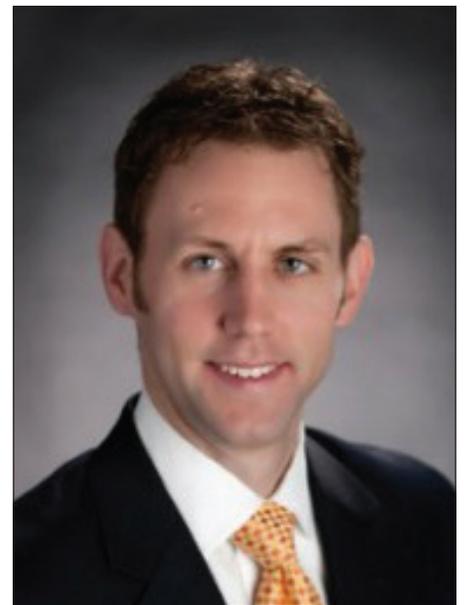
School Board Approves \$900,000 Deal

The Livonia, MI, school board approved a perpetual easement agreement with American Tower for the company's use of a tower at Stevenson High School in exchange for a one-time cash payment of \$900,000.

Interim Superintendent Andrea Oquist said this money is nearly half of what they planned to bring in to help balance the \$144.2 million general fund budget for the 2015-16 school year, Hometown Life reported. Board trustee Mark Johnson noted that even if the company doesn't utilize the tower in the future, the money remains with the district.

The school officials discussed the agreement for the tower on the school's football field for months after they learned of budget cuts last winter.

A third-party appraisal was conducted and showed that \$900,000 was a fair price, and American Tower offered the most money for an easement agreement for the tower. The cell tower was being leased for \$60,000 a year. Hometown Life reported that the district's legal counsel, Jeremy S. Motz of Clark Hill, said the agreement gives the district certain protections, including being able to continue using the tower for part of the football field lighting.



Clark Hill attorney **Jeremy S. Motz**

Jeremy S. Motz is a Member in Clark Hill's Education, Municipal and Real Estate Practice Groups. Jeremy principally focuses his practice in assisting public and private sector entities in a wide variety of transactional matters.

Jeremy regularly counsels public school districts and charter schools with respect to a variety of educational and operational issues, as well as compliance with the Revised School Code, the Freedom of Information Act, the Open Meetings Act, the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act and other laws governing public bodies. Jeremy has extensive experience advising educational entities in the areas of: transportation, custodial and food services; procurement of supplies and equipment; construction; technology, telecommunications, intellectual property rights and licensing; public bidding; contract drafting; real estate; facilities and property management; employment and labor issues; outsourcing of non-instructional services; and corporate governance. **Contact him at: 248.988.5895 or jmotz@clarkhill.com.**

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