

**Thetford Township  
Planning Commission  
Meeting of 12/13/2018  
6:30 P.M.**

Called meeting to order: Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: Members Present: Michael Fromweiller, (Chairperson), Dennis Bloss, Peggy Castle, and Ralph Henry. Also present was Gary Stevens (Supervisor) and Marie Canterbury for minutes.

Absent: Eric Gunnels (Trustee)

Motion by: Dennis Bloss to open the Public meeting, supported by Ralph Henry, all ayes, motion approved.

Michael Fromweiller advised that the meeting was now open for public comments, to please keep your comments to 3 minutes and to state your name and address when you speak at the podium.

Kay Zubke – 12267 N Center had concerns regarding the power and hoped that her questions will be answered.

Rose Cousins - 12350 Center Road wanted to know how large the base was, how close to the road, how tall the tower will be and where the power was coming from. She also turned in a letter that was given to the Board Members with the same questions.

Dennis Matheson – 4056 E Farrand is in favor of it. His wife Laura did call the township and stated that since there are so many dead spots in the Township, they hope that the new tower will help that problem.

Fromweiller asked if there were any more questions, hearing none, he recommended to close the Public meeting at 6:37 – Bloss motioned to close the Public meeting, Castle seconded, Public meeting closed.

Motion by Bloss to approve the November 11, 2018 meeting minutes, seconded by Henry, all ayes, minutes approved.

Open Regular Planning Meeting:

No Old Business

New Business:

1. Paul Nyswaner – 12407 N Center Road is requesting a site plan review for a new cell tower to be located on his property.

Mr. Nyswaner as well as Ed Block from the Engineering Firm GPD Group who represents AT&T were both in attendance.

Mr. Block stated that the cell tower would be 195' in height and does not require a light as it is under 200'. Henry asked how far off the road it will be and was told 240' from the Road Right of Way. There will also be a fence compound all around the tower.

The distance from the cell tower to any of the residential homes will be 455'. Henry was concerned about how serious AT&T was as the last time the Planning Commission approved a cell tower for Sprint by Buell Lake, it was never built. He asked Mr. Block when they would start to build and he was told that they would try to get it done by 2019 if it was approved by the Planning Commission and the Township Board.

Some of the questions answered were:

1. What is the distance the tower will cover? It would be a 5 mile radius.
2. Since it is in the NE part of the township, will it help cell phone only or wireless? It will help all wireless services, with plans to put up more to improve services.
3. With a generator back-up for power, how loud is it? It is a small generator and will sound like a vacuum cleaner. It will operate only once a week to make sure it stays in working order and will go off Saturday around noon.

Fromweiller stated that the last one that was approved had a break point in the tower and was informed that this one is straight and it will not come down. They are designed to collapse onto themselves.

Mr. Block also stated that the base of the monopole is 4 x 2 and the compound is approximately 100 x 100 with a chain link fence, gravel drive and the power will go through the drive.

Kay Zubke wanted to know if the tower would interfere with other cell phone signals and was told no, they operate under a different frequency. She also wanted to know who to contact if there is a problem and was told to call the Township first, then the Township would contact them. She was also concerned about the pipeline as the planes fly over it at least twice a month. She also stated she is closest to the tower and does not want a light in her bedroom. And what kind of adverse effect would it have on the wildlife.

Mr. Block stated that birds, especially eagles, build their nests at the top of the antenna and when nesting season is done, the nests are removed. After many environmental studies, there is no effect on the wildlife from the towers. He will look into the flying of the pipeline, but planes are required to fly higher than the 195' which is the height of the tower. And all towers are registered with the Aeronautics' division.

Everyone agreed that we do need improved cell service, especially at the Township.

Board discussion: Castle is concerned about the wildlife and using diesel fuel for the generator, which is not environmentally friendly. She was told that it would run once a week for 15 minutes only and that code required it to be diesel, but it does have a double wall tank.

Bloss and Fromweiller thanked Mr. Block for the complete set of plans and that the drawings and specifications were good.

Bloss motioned to accept the site plan for a new cell tower, Henry seconded, all ayes, motion approved.

Kay Zubke stated a concern about the Beauty Shop located at the corner of Center and Vienna that has a light that blinds you at night when you are entering the intersection. Mr. Stevens stated that he would ask them to tone it down.

Bloss motioned to adjourn, seconded by Henry, all ayes. Adjourned at 7:12 pm

Respectfully Submitted