

Planning Commission Hearing  
August 5, 2014

I. CALL TO ORDER

Members Present: Chairman, Dwight Freeman, Gene Glover, Grover Hathorn, Leonard Brown, Mike Mitchell and Rose Vanderpool, Secretary.

Members absent: Wesley O'Rourke

Others Present: Alan Wehe, Patrick Sewell and Sue Davis

Chairman Freeman called the meeting to order at 1:31pm. Chairman Freeman asks for acceptance of the Agenda as submitted; Mike Mitchell moves to approve the Agenda as amended; Grover Hathorn seconds motion; motion carried unanimously. The minutes from July 22, 2014 we approved as submitted, motion was made by Mike Mitchell; seconded by Grover Hathorn, motion carried unanimously.

First item of Business: Chairman Freeman read the application submitted by the Sargent School and Alan Wehe for a conditional use review. The Applicants are requesting approval to place a 180' telecommunications tower. The Board of Adjustment met on July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2014 to approve setback reduction and during that meeting it was decided that the tower be moved to the se corner of the parcel closer to the bus garage area. The Board of Adjustment then approved setbacks of twenty-five feet from the east and south property lines and a survey of that corner be established. Mr. Wehe gave an overview of the project; The Sargent School needs better service and allowing this tower at the Bus Garage would enhance telecommunication capabilities. The Bus Garage currently does not have internet service and is very much needed. This tower would also expand services for the surrounding area of approximately 10 miles. (If you can see the tower you can get service) A discussion as to how towers fall if struck by lightning. Mr. Wehe explained that it's not going to fall or from high winds; towers are engineered to withstand very high winds and are made of metal, if struck by lightning - towers don't fall they bend. The tower is a ground-self-supporting tower. It will be like the one on Lariat Road feet all /Kelloff parcel. This is NOT a cell tower but looks like one. It is a telecommunication tower for internet and landline phone service. We will have to submit our plans to the FAA for review and approval but it is the chicken and egg thing, we have to go to the local jurisdiction first. This will increase internet bandwidth for the Sargent School as well as service the surrounding area of approximately 10 to 15 miles. (if you can see it you can get it) I will allow colocation. A discussion was held in regards to painting the tower for safety reasons per House Bill 14-1216. Mr. Wehe explained that the Bill explains on Page 3 that this Bill does not apply to Towers that are licensed by the FCC. Ms. Davis is concerned with the placement of the tower as well as interference with her current Verizon service. Mr. Wehe stated that it would not interfere with other providers. Mr. Patrick Sewell Sargent Board Member stated that by allowing this tower will allow broadband to the bus garage to have in-house networking and outside networking. It will allow us to put a data center and allow us to have off-site backup. This will have lots of benefits. We understand the impacts and by moving the tower from the original location lessens the impact. In Loren Buss's opinion painting of the tower for local crop dusting should be

required. Mr. Wehe stated that if painting is required it would stand out more. Mr. Brown asked if Smokin Spuds (Kenny Behil) was notified again due to the change requested by the Board of Adjustment. Mr. Wehe stated that he met with Kenny twice, once with Mr. Sewell and then by himself after the Board of Adjustment Hearing and explained to Kenny about moving the tower to the se corner. Kenny's response was "why" and then I don't care.

Chairman Freeman entertains a motion; Mike Mitchell moves to recommend approval to the Board of County Commissioners; Grover Hathorn seconds motion; motion carried unanimously.

Second item on the agenda - Final review of the Amendments to the Rio Grande County Development Code. We got through to the second page of the list of uses. We will have to continue review at the next scheduled meeting.

With no further business, meeting adjourned at 4:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rose Vanderpool, Secretary

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Secretary