



**Caswell County Planning Department
Planning Board Meeting
October 24, 2017**

Members present:

Russell Johnston *Chairman*
Michael Poteat *Vice-Chairman*
Keith Blalock
Leon Richmond
Don Swann
James Shaffner
Steven Harris

Members absent:

Jason Daniel
Bill Carter

Called to Order

Mr. Russell Johnston called the meeting to order at 1:00pm.

Approval of Agenda

Mr. Steve Harris Motioned to approve the agenda, and Mr. Leon Richmond seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Approval of August 2017 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Russell Johnston asked for an amendment to be made to the August 2017 minutes, he asked that Mr. Keith Blalock be added to members present section of the August 2017 minutes. Mr. Blalock motioned to the August 2017 minutes with amendments, and Mr. Steve Harris seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Hearing

Tower and Antenna Use Application for Verizon Wireless

Ms. Catesby Denison stated that she had received all the applications for the Verizon cell phone tower; which will be located in the Prospect Hill and Orange County line on 86 North. Mr. Russell Johnston asked Ms. Denison if she had reviewed the applications, and if there had been any feedback for the public. Ms. Denison stated that she had reviewed all the applications and they meet all of the requirements; and the public only had a few general questions but everyone approved of the tower. Mr. Johnston asked if anyone had any questions for Ms. Denison there were no further questions. Moving forward Mr. Russell Johnston introduced Ms. Jenny Adams the Verizon wireless representative. Ms. Adams presented the room with coverage maps, showing coverage before the tower and after the tower; which there will be a great improvement in the coverage area after tower is in place. Ms. Adams stated that they would have the lease in hand by 10/25/2017, and that Verizon wireless follows all FCC requirements. With that being said Ms. Adams handed out a non-inference statement for the board. She also stated that this tower would be a 230ft tower, and it also has potential for other carriers to work off this tower; which would eliminate a lot of ground space. Mr. Johnston asked if anyone had any questions for Ms. Adams. Mr. Steve Harris questioned Ms. Denison if she had been to the inspection site. Ms. Denison stated that she went to the location, and that the land was cleared off. Mr. Keith Blalock asked Mrs. Adams when the tower would be in place and functioning. Ms. Adams stated that there waiting on inspections. Ms. Denison said that the Caswell County Building Inspections had also looked at the plans. Mr. Johnston asked if any further questions in the public hearing, there were no further questions. Mr. Steve Harris motioned to close the public hearing Mr. Keith Blalock seconded the motion.

Mr. Russell Johnston went over the presentation from Ms. Adams, and asked if there was any discussion; there was no further discussion. Mr. Don Swann motioned to approve the wireless communication tower application and Mr. Keith Blalock seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

New Business

Ms. Catesby Denison introduced Ms. Ashley Kirby as the new Administrative Assistant who would be recording the minutes for the Planning Board.

Planning Department Updates

Ms. Catesby Denison gave the updates on the Planning Board

1. Ms. Catesby Denison stated that she had spoken to Benshae Metals (formerly known as Hayes Iron and Metal) they are still in the process of cleaning up but due to low staff the process was moving slowly. Mr. Steve Harris questioned Ms. Denison had the soil testing taken place. Ms. Denison stated that she has not received the testing, but they would have to have testing completed before they were permitted to operate.

2. Ms. Denison gave an update on the Conditional Use Permit in approved by the Planning Board in August 2017. She said that the Board of Adjustment approved the permit in September 2017.
3. The 2020 Census is coming up; it is as high importance that it should be accurate. Because it affects the funding that the county receives. Ms. Denison said that the County was registering for the Census Bureau's program to update address information for the County.

Updates on Road Construction for 86 North

Ms. Catesby Denison introduced Caswell County Commissioner Mr. David Owen to give an update on some NC DOT projects. Mr. Owen gave an overview on how the meeting went; stating that the original project was designed to have passing lanes on 86. Mr. Owen stated that there were several projects in mind, and the following projects are listed below:

- Turning lane at 86 Convenient Mart*
- Passing lanes on 86 North*
- Make the intersection of Old Hwy 86 and New Hwy 86 more modern
- Redo merging traffic at the intersection of Old Hwy 86 and New Hwy 86 near ABC store *

The estimated amount of funding could \$10-15 million, but the funding would depend on what projects would be done. (The projects listed above with * will be the main priorities) The start dates for these projects are April 2019. Mr. Russell Johnston questioned Mr. David Owen who was funding the project. Mr. Owen replied that the DOT was funding the project. Mr. Michael Poteat questioned Mr. Owen was this the only road that was going to go under construction on this project. Mr. Owen said that 86 is the only road on this project, because it is highest priority. Ms. Catesby Denison said that we are competing against other jurisdictions; so breaking down our projects into smaller ones allows us to have a better chance to get more funding.

Other Business

None.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:26 pm motioned by Mr. Steve Harris and seconded by Mr. Leon Richmond

Ashley D Kirby, Administrative Assistant, prepared the minutes above.