

**CASTLE ROCK TOWNSHIP
PLANNING COMMISSION**

Approved

**PUBLIC HEARING TO REVIEW CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT FOR THE
INSTALLATION OF A NEW WIRELESS TOWER FACILITY AT 24402 DENMARK AVE,
FARMINGTON, MN
December 17, 2014 @ 7:00 p.m.**

A Public Hearing of the Planning Commission of Castle Rock Township was held on Wednesday, December 17, 2014 at 7:00p.m. Present were Jon Juenke, Chair; Gerald Larson, Vice-Chair, Jeff Partington, and Barbara Lang, Commission members. Mary Ann Enggren was absent. Also present were Carol Hanson, Steve Hanson, Russ Zellmer, Pearl Shirley, Kris Akin, Dave Akin, Dee Churchill, Gary Smith, and Karyn O'Brien.

CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Jon Juenke called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Jon read the purpose of this meeting, which is to review a Conditional Use Permit application for the installation of a new wireless tower facility within the parcel located at 24402 Denmark Ave, Farmington, MN. He then opened the floor to discussion. Pearl Shirley, landowner, brought extra copies of the map showing the location of the new tower for those who were interested.

Steve Hanson asked to see a photo of the type of tower that will be installed. A sketch of the tower was passed around. Karyn O'Brien, Verizon representative who was present, explained that it will be a monopole, and no guidewires are required for this structure. The tower will be 120 feet tall.

Gary Smith asked about the procedure that was used for sending the written notices to surrounding property owners. Barbara Lang, who is also the Town Clerk, explained that Dakota County has a software application that is used to create the mailing list. It creates a map of property owners within the required half-mile radius, and also creates the corresponding mailing list. The notice for the Public Hearing was also published in the local newspapers as required.

Mr. Hanson asked if the citizens present will be allowed to vote on this to be approved. Jon Juenke explained that the Public Hearing is required for interested parties to attend to ask questions and make comments, but the Planning Commission would be the ones who would vote to make the recommendation to the Board of Supervisors, who actually approve the process.

Mr. Hanson also had concerns what the advantages are to install another tower in the area. He feels that there have been too many structures added to the landscape in the past few years and it is going to de-value everyone's property. Gerald Larson explained that such a tower would benefit residents by improving cell coverage for everyone in the area. He also explained that prior to choosing this particular location, the Verizon corporation had done studies to help choose an appropriate site where cell coverage is weak. Karyn O'Brien stated that they (Verizon) have complied with the township requirements for the conditional use to proceed with installing the tower.

The question was raised by several people attending the hearing about radiation concerns from this type of equipment. Ms. O'Brien explained that the FCC regulates the equipment and it has to be compliant to the federal regulations, which supercede state or local government. Typical cell tower transmitters have very low emission rates and they are tested several times a year for compliance, to the best of her knowledge. Kris Akin stated that the Shirley family has researched this, especially regarding radiation emissions, prior to moving forward with the project and they couldn't find evidence of harmful effects that have ever been recorded from cell towers. Ms. O'Brien also stated that the site will be fenced in, and appropriate warning signage will be posted at the site.

Gerald Larson asked if the FCC tests the system after it is in place to make sure frequencies, radiation, etc. are in compliance with the FCC guidelines. Karyn O'Brien replied that yes, the appropriate agency will regulate the site and it will be inspected at regular intervals to make sure it continues to meet FCC requirements.

Jon Juenke asked if there were any further comments or questions and asked for a motion.

MOTION: Gerald Larson moved and Jeff Partington seconded to recommend to the Board of Supervisors to approve the Conditional Use application, and the required building permit for the facility. 4 ayes. Motion carried.

Jon Juenke confirmed with Clerk, Barbara Lang that at the December 8, 2014 meeting, the Board of Supervisors had authorized this project to proceed contingent on the results of the Public Hearing. The Conditional Use Permit is granted, and will proceed to process the building permit required once the paperwork and signed engineering drawings are received.

MOTION: Jeff Partington moved and Gerald Larson seconded to adjourn the Public Hearing. 4 ayes. Motion carried.

Hearing adjourned at 7:30 p.m.
Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Lang, Town Clerk
Castle Rock Township

Attest: Jon Juenke, Chair, Castle Rock Planning Commission