

BENNER TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION

MINUTES

March 13, 2003

CALL TO ORDER

Regularly scheduled meeting of the Benner Township Planning Commission was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Robert Fugate at the Benner Township Municipal Building.

ATTENDANCE

Members present: Tim Robinson, Jim Swartzell, Joe Shultz, Robert Fugate, Mike Anthony, and Robert Morrell. Member absent: Genny Robine. Also attending Renee Swancer, Zoning Officer; Joe Richmond of Avail Medical; Richard Williams of Horrigan, Klinger & Quinn, Attorneys at Law; Gary Stouffer of Rettew Assoc.; Herb Hungerman and Tom Warfield of Verizon Wireless; Bruce Stegman of Stegman Engineering; Scott Devlin of Strategic Communication Services; and Eric Brooks of Centre Communications.

MINUTES

Planning Commission received the regular meeting minutes of February 13th, 2003 for their review and approval. Mr. Shultz moved the minutes be accepted. Mr. Swartzell seconded the motion.

Vote: Mr. Swartzell: yes Mr. Fugate: yes Mrs. Robine: absent
Mr. Shultz: yes Mr. Morrell: yes Mr. Robinson: yes
Mr. Anthony: yes

Mr. Robinson arrived at 7:05 p.m.

PERSONS TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

NEW BUSINESS

Avail Medical Conditional Use Request: Mr. Joe Richmond was present to discuss Avail Medical's Conditional Use Request. Avail Medical is located in the Penn Eagle Industrial Park along the Benner Pike. Avail Medical requests to place two bulk silos on their property to storage plastic pellets. These pellets are similar to milk jug plastic. The silos will measure 12 ft in diameter and will be 24 ft. high, and painted white. Pellets are loaded into the silos, and transported to the building. No additional paving is required. No fire protection is required for the silos. Mr. Fugate asked if there would be a lot of dust. Mr. Richmond stated "no." One truckload of pellets is expected a week. The silos are to be placed to the rear of the existing facility.

With no other concerns, Mr. Shultz recommended approval of the proposal to the Supervisors. Mr. Swartzell seconded the motion.

Vote: Mr. Swartzell: yes Mr. Fugate: yes Mrs. Robine: absent
Mr. Shultz: yes Mr. Morrell: yes Mr. Robinson: yes
Mr. Anthony: yes

Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless Conditional Use Request: Verizon Wireless requests to place 9 panel antennas on Centre Communication's radio tower located along the Benner Pike. Additionally a 11.6" x 30' prefabricated equipment shelter to be surrounded by an 8 foot chain-link fence is proposed. Documentation presented to the Commission included:

1. Full set of Verizon Wireless' prposed plans;
2. Pre-hearing Statement of Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless;
3. FAA Determination of No Hazard to Air Navigation;
4. RF Emissions Compliance Report prepared by SiteSafe Inc.;
5. Foundation analysis prepared by Stegman Engineering, P.C. dated January 8, 2003;
6. Addition and Antenna Mapping Report prepared by Stegman Engineering P.C. dated November 8, 2002;

7. Tower Reanalysis Report prepared by PiRod, Inc.;
8. Correspondence dated November 5, 2002 from the Centre County Conservation District;
9. Correspondence dated December 13, 2002 from Mr. Robert M. Lauriello, P.E., Rettew Associates, Inc., advertising as to the availability of alternative tower structures;
10. FCC/NEPA Environmental Compliance Checklist; and
11. Stormwater Management Plan, Erosion and Sedimentation Control Plan and Abbreviated Traffic Study prepared by Rettew Associates.

Testimony was presented regarding the above documentation. Maps showing cellular coverage was presented showing existing coverage areas and proposed coverage areas. In the I-99 corridor, coverage is not very good.

Mr. Fugate asked if the frequency used on the antenna would be for standard cellular phones, and it was presented that it would be. Mr. Fugate asked Mr. Brooks that it was Mr. Fugate's understanding that the tower was to be used for Centre Communications, exclusively, and not for other users. Mr. Brooks responded that it was never the company's intentions. Mr. Fugate noted he remembered differently.

Mr. Fugate asked if the antenna would raise the height of the tower, and it was presented that it would not. Mr. Fugate asked if the application was not approved to place the antenna, would Verizon seek building a tower? It was presented that the company would probably seek tower construction.

With all comments and discussion ending, Mr. Robinson moved to recommend approval to the Supervisors. Mr. Swartzell seconded the motion.

Vote:	Mr. Swartzell: yes	Mr. Fugate: yes	Mrs. Robine: absent
	Mr. Shultz: yes	Mr. Morrell: yes	Mr. Robinson: yes
	Mr. Anthony: yes		

OLD BUSINESS
CORRESPONDENCE
ADJOURN

With all business complete, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by:
Renee Swancer, Zoning Officer