

COMMUNITY ISSUES COMMITTEE MEETING
APPROVED MINUTES

June 22, 2009

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Ron Treabess, Judy Friedman – Committee members

STAFF PRESENT: Cindy Gustafson, General Manager
Tony Laliotis, Director of Utilities
Carol Hackbarth, Administrative Secretary

PUBLIC PRESENT: Steve Christiansen, R. S. & L.
Nick Furitino, U.S. Coast Guard
Virginia Graham

Director Treabess called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

A. GENERAL

Proposed SBA Cellular Tower Project – Tony reviewed his memo to the Committee dated June 18, 2009. Tony explained we notified everyone within a 1000 radius unfortunately we forgot to put the time of the meeting. Cindy said that TRPA and possibly Placer County only require 350 feet notification. We have received email messages and phone calls. We explained that we won't be taking action at this meeting. Ron said the material provided was pretty clear. We are clear on the purpose, the advantages and location and don't have concerns. It comes back to the possible negative health impact. If Steve could address that in particular it would help the committee.

Steve Christiansen, R.S. & L., showed the balloon he floated 140 feet in the air. The first sighting from the lake was 1200 feet. When you get closer it blends into the trees. We tried to put it in the corner of the lot. Basically only two homeowners will be able to detect the tree. Visually he doesn't think it is that much of an issue. They blend their antenna's in with the trees. Judy has concern about the color of the camouflage. That's a minor issue. Steve showed the tree in Sugar Pine point with a different color. Cindy said she is impressed with the one on El Dorado County's DPW/corporation yard in the middle of Tahoma. Houses are very close. She was thinking perhaps we could take the van and some of the homeowners to see existing sites. Cindy explained that this site is public property. The public owns the land. When the homeowners in this area bought their property they knew this land was owned by the public. It could have been a well with a generator. It was also looked at for a treatment plant site.

Ron said he will keep coming back to the health thing. Steve put together information from the FCC regarding health issues. This meets the standards governed by the FCC. Ron asked if enough time has elapsed for studies to show that there has or hasn't been any level of danger. Steve said he has been in the business since 1986. There has not been one waiver from the Federal government or the local agencies from the original stance in 22 years. Every five years it gets addressed with the FCC. Cindy said if the standards change it would incumbent on R.S.L. to make changes to meet the newer more stringent standards. Steve agreed. Cindy said that would be part of our lease agreement – to remain within FCC standards at all times. Steve said the levels are so low, 1% of the allowable tolerance, which is at the ground level at the base of the pole. As you move away from the antennas the power decreases. The pole location is 150 feet from the gate then a minimum of another 150 feet to the back of the closest house. In the old days they used to say you should stay away from television tubes. This is the issue Steve addresses more than any other. Tony explained the World

Health Organization started doing Electro Magnetic Field (EMF) studies in 1996. Their 2006 reports say the same things.

Judy said the benefits are clear. She realizes this site was selected because of accessibility. Are there any other sites further out that are accessible that could be considered? And in the information/packet it talks about evaluations, factors to be considered, an evaluation sheet, and on page 4 on Local Official's Guide to RD there are several questions to be answered. She liked to see those questions answered for our specific use.

Tony said he has identified another district site, McKinney Well #1 site. This is the site we have been talking with Homewood for snowmaking. The site has power, a well we don't use, and an access road through Homewood. A negative side is there are some tight areas that might constrict construction access. Steve and Tony will look at the site after this meeting. Also winter access is an issue. Steve said Grouse site is flat ground, has power and telephone, and is at the end of a paved street. Coast guard will want a generator on site. The lead tenant is Verizon. Sprint and T mobile would like access.

Nick Furintino, U.S. Coast Guard, Real Property Contract Officer for the Rescue 21 Project. Rescue 21 is a coast guard project to increase search and rescue communication equipment. It is a Congressionally mandated project. For information on it you can check www.uscg.mil/rescue21. Their current equipment is 25 years old, has coverage gaps, etc. Their equipment now and in the plans is like comparing an old black and white television to a high definition television. It allows interoperability with other agencies and directional finding. Their process in finding a site is similar to that of SBA. General Dynamics is building their pole. They gave General Dynamics a list of criteria that they need from a site. To accomplish that on the current coast guard site they would have to build a 200 foot pole right on the lake. They looked at existing towers. Direction finding equipment is very sensitive so other sites wouldn't work. None of the sites provide a one site solution for complete coverage over the lake. That limited them to sites on the west side of the lake. They have looked at 27 sites and spent a year trying to find a location. One site they proposed was a site on CTC land in Tahoma which didn't work. They contacted the water company regarding a possible site. The coverage from this spot is fantastic. They also surveyed other water companies water tanks. They need and will have a tower. This site would work wonderfully for them. Selecting this site would also save the government a lot of money and expense in trying to find another site. Their radio frequency transmits at 50 watts of power, mostly a listening service, not transmitting and transmits less than a microwave oven, 100 watts. They follow FCC guidelines as well.

Ron asked about EMF health concerns. Steve will prepare more of that information for the next meeting. Steve said Placer County cannot cancel or not approve a project strictly because of that issue. Nick Furintino is from the San Francisco bay area. He said in cities people actually want sites on their properties. Cindy asked Steve for photos of other towers with neighbors nearby, maybe in more urban settings and to describe how many towers are within xx number of feet. Our telemetry system which is critical to our operations is on our facilities throughout the neighborhoods. If we didn't have this we would have to have twice as many employees checking sites every day 24/7.

We have a cell tower on Cove Way tank. Judy asked why not the top of Homewood ski area. Steve said they are 1400 feet up on side of hill. Steve approached Homewood. They have an AM radio station and something else that they are going to ask they be removed. Homewood is going to build a telecommunications facility for wireless around 2012. That doesn't meet Steve's timeline nor the coast guards. Judy would like Steve to review the checklist information on page 4 and respond to that. She is concerned about the staff costs involved with this; we are already into this \$1200.00 and only getting reimbursed \$1000.00. We need to look at this on behalf of our taxpayers. Tony said we are fairly complete with the lease review and legal cost. With \$1000 offset we are about \$500 spent today. Steve if we go to another facility we start adding more costs. Tony said with future rent this cost will be offset.

Cindy asked if you can you separate the tower from the equipment? Steve said there has to be a flat access site for generator. He said SBA wants the tower in their lease area. There may be ground impaction concerns with going uphill.

Tony said our telemetry system operates at 450 megahertz. Steve said this is way more powerful than what they propose. CHP operates on 450 – two way broadband systems. Cellular is 1900 megahertz. They project 400 watts total for 12 antennas and there is only six proposed. Telemetry antennas are closer to the ground.

Steve will try and get more things from Bill Hammett, try to address the costs issues as an internal issues (we can do figure that out too), and will get the pictures Cindy asked for. He really wants to get the lake picture with the cell sites. Cindy said our tax payers will feel better that their property values won't plummet down because there are lots of them around.

Tony in conclusion outlined his next steps. He asked if the committee feels 1000 feet notification is adequate. There were about 40 homes. Notices to 1000 feet is sufficient, and notify the Homeowners Association for Chamberlands. Steve & Tony will look at alternative site, McKinney Well #1, and check feasibility for it. Tony asked Nick Furitino for a one page brief letter stating what he described earlier. The next mailing will include more information than they want.

Judy said health and safety issue will always being apparent. But people have to see the other health and safety issue and that is getting our first responders what they need. She cares a lot if one is stranded in the lake and needs help, but not so much for those whose cell phones don't get reception while driving down the west shore. She'd like to see a list of alternative sites and why they don't work should accompany the next mailing. Steve said the wireless industry has been mandated by the FCC for E911 response. We need to build our system out as a federal mandate for emergency services in the wireless community. Judy clarified the health and safety concern is more important if there is a fire or flood that they be able to get service. Making dinner reservations while driving on the river is not as important. Steve's 911 mandate is equally as compelling as the coast guards situation. Ron said we are not judging that need more important than mental health. We need to see documentation on health concerns.

Cindy said there is a need. It will be done somewhere. If not here than where? She would like citing of those sorts of issue where either the coast guard or R.S.L. have selected locations, know of policies, or what other communities have done, so that our board follows along with those policies. It helps convince our community that we are using good judgment in where we place this and our expenditure. As a small local government we can't know all of this like San Francisco and Marin County. So, are we following the same principles and guidelines that they used in selecting those locations? That will help our second homeowners. Judy said people need some assurance that their children are not going to turn green.

They discussed the next meeting. Ron thinks it should just be a board item. No other committee meeting is necessary. A workshop will be held before the board meeting in July or August depending on the amount of items on the July meeting. Steve has TRPA and construction timelines to consider.

B. PUBLIC FORUM

No public comments.

C. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 a.m.

Carol Hackbarth, Administrative Secretary