

**STILLWATER TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
TOWN HALL – JUNE 1, 2006 – 8:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Chairperson Lois Cutler, Planning Commissioners Lee Busse, Marilyn Cummings, Lynne Murphy, Robert Ranalla, Troy Schifsky, Kirsten Spreck and Carole Yoho. Also, Supervisors David Johnson and Jim Doriott, Town Board Liaisons Jim Hiniker and Sheila Marie Untiedt and Planner Dick Thompson.

PUBLIC HEARING – SPRINT/NEXTEL CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT – 7:00 P.M.

Pursuant to notice in the Stillwater Gazette and to surrounding property owners a public hearing was held to discuss a request from Sprint/Nextel to amend the Conditional Use Permit to add 3 antennas to its existing antenna mounting on the wireless communication tower located at 16277 110th Street North. Made a part of the record are the names and addresses of attendees (6) at the hearing.

Chairperson Lois Cutler opened the public hearing and introduced Planner Dick Thompson who briefly described the application and the issues involved. Mike Whittington, ProSource Technologies, who is representing Spring/Nextel, described what they are looking for in more detail.

There were the following questions and comments:

- Kirsten Spreck – Have some antennas been added since the original tower? Whittington – Yes. They are not the owner of the tower.
- Spreck – Are the stealth antennas theirs? Whittington – They belong to Nextel. Sprint has acquired Nextel. This will allow for additional technology such as text messaging, song downloads, etc. The Township requires an applicant to co-locate if possible.
- Spreck – Who owns the tower? Dick Thompson – T-Mobile.
- Lois Cutler – Are any other towers there obsolete? Whittington – they are all being used as far as he knows.
- Whittington – They have no problems with the conditions set out in Dick Thompson's memorandum.
- Lynne Murphy – It looks like some of the trees are dead. Whittington – They are willing to look at them and replace if necessary.
- Murphy – Are Nextel's antennas fully functional? Whittington – Yes. Murphy – Do you anticipate the older ones may need to be upgraded? Whittington – Possible. Murphy – How do we know when you would be removing them? Whittington – We would need to come back before the Township again.
- Cutler – Do you expect satellite technology to ultimately negate the need for this? Whittington – He couldn't say.
- Troy Schifsky – Is this digital? Whittington – Everything is going digital now. Schifsky – Will there be no more dropped calls? Whittington – He couldn't guarantee that.
- Spreck – Will this improve Nextel service? Whittington – That is the intention.
- Spreck – What are the specifications? Whittington – He showed them to the planning commission.

- Cutler – Do we have T-Mobile reporting back to us on a regular basis? Thompson – No, unless there is a special request. Cutler – If an antenna were out of use, but still on the tower would we know? Whittington – Removal is required in the ordinance and in the original Conditional Use Permit.

- Spreck – Are the plantings maintained? Thompson – The CUP does not talk about maintenance. When a new user comes in we have the opportunity to address the issues.

- Marilyn Cummings – Do you have another option besides this? Whittington – They would have to look for something. The Township ordinance prefers them to co-locate.

- Lee Busse – What is the maximum number of antennas? Thompson – The tower could handle more antennas.

- Jim Doriott – He remembers when there as an application a couple of years ago when T-Mobile did not want them on the top bank.

- Busse – Could the tower take more on the top bank? Whittington – Yes, but they would need to go through the CUP process.

- Doriott – What is the maximum amount of microwaves that can come off of the tower? Whittington – The FCC license tells them how much they can transmit.

- Cutler – She is pleased that the Township had the foresight to allow for co-location and that it also allows the Township to remain involved in the process.

The public hearing was closed at 7:25 p.m.

REGULAR MEETING - 7:25 P.M.

1. AGENDA - M/S/P Murphy/Busse moved to adopt the agenda as written. (8 ayes)

2. MINUTES – M/S/P Schifsky/Cummings moved to approve the 5/4/06 Stillwater Township Planning Commission Meeting minutes as written. (8 ayes)

3. SPRINT/NEXTEL CUP – Dick Thompson reviewed his memorandum dated June 1, 2006. Additional equipment will be housed in the shelter which will not need to be changed. He will get information on the maximum load. Kirsten Spreck suggested that amendments to the CUP be numbered.

M/S/P Murphy/Cummings moved to recommend approval of amendment #2 to the Conditional Use Permit with the conditions listed by planning staff. (8 ayes)

4. DEVELOPMENT TEMPLATE – Lee Busse’s ideas for a development template as outlined in his email dated April 19, 2006 were discussed. What do the items really mean in terms of development? We should not just look at developers bus also look at ourselves. How do these suggestions relate to our Comprehensive Plan? Items 1 through 5 on his list were discussed and there will be further discussion at future meetings. The planning commission can email their ideas and/or pictures to Dick Thompson.

5. DEVELOPERS’ QUESTIONS – Next month.

6. LANDSCAPING REQUIREMENTS/GUIDELINES – Dick Thompson distributed copies of Scandia's landscaping requirements. Planning commissions should look at this and have ideas for the next meeting.

7. NEW BUSINESS – Lee Busse mentioned a 10 day class on planning given at River Falls. He will try to attend.

8. TOWN BOARD LIAISON REPORT – Jim Hiniker and Sheila Marie Untiedt reported on recent town board activities.

9. ADJOURNMENT – M/S/P Busse/Schifsky moved to adjourn the meeting. (8 ayes)

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Submitted by: Kathy Schmoeckel
Planning Commission Clerk