

Alpena Township Zoning Board of Appeals Minutes –Tuesday, April 19, 2007 (Regular Session)

**6:00 P.M. WORK SHOP WITH-- ATTORNEY(Tim Gulden)-- SUPERVISOR(Marie Twite)
—ZBA MEMBERS --Discussion on Final Decision Form regarding variances.**

MEETING COMMENCED: 7:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE-said by all

PRESENT: Ed Robin, Chair Lori Werda, Secretary Jim Milstein
Irma Schuelke Stan Mischley

Adoption of Agenda--Approved by unanimous vote-- with change to hear case Z-01-07 first and then discuss case Z-03-03 (reminder to check on Donovan business.)

Approval of minutes-- motion made by Jim Milstein to approve the minutes of the September 19, 2006, 2nd by Irma Schuelke, approved by unanimous vote.

Ed Robin explained the rules and how the meeting would be conducted.

NEW BUSINESS

Case # Z-01-07 Alltell Communications Inc. (Philip Zielaskowski land owner), requests a height variance for a communications tower. Property is located off US 23 S on the Cranberry Creek Trail, a private road, Parcel No. 011-034-000-251-0, in a Conservation zone district.

Public in Attendance for Case Z-01-07

Don Washkevich 664 W. Silver Lake Traverse City MI.

All members present visited the site with the exception of Lori Werda.

Chair **Ed Robin** read documents received regarding case **Z-01-07**

Exhibits

1. Public notice
2. Signed petition with permission to visit site
3. Letter dated 2/23/07 from Federal Aviation Administration
4. Project description from Alltell, job No. 717172000
5. 6 pictures showing proposed new tower from US 23 S
6. Letter dated March 22, 2007 to ZBA from Don Washkevich
7. Computer schematics showing area to be covered by new tower
8. List of notified property owners within 300 feet

ZBA meeting open to the public for discussion:

Don Washkevich representing Alltell spoke to the ZBA about the need for the tower to fill in holes in this area where there are problems with cell phone reception. He also explained that the tower will allow for *collocation*—meaning that other companies can place their equipment on this same tower and not have to put up one of their own. Jim Milstein asked about the design of the tower in case of a collapse. Mr. Washkevich explained that the tower is designed to twist and collapse upon itself and not to fall over. Stan Mischley questioned the need for the 250 ft height. Mr. Washkevich explained that the terrain in this area and radio frequency sighted on the rf map both attribute to the need for the 250 ft height.

Public portion on case Z-01-07 closed.

Ed Robin closed the meeting to public discussion.

ZBA discussed case **Z-01-07** **Irma Schuelke made a motion to approve Case Z-01-07---Jim Milstein 2nd the motion.**

Reasons 1. The need for the height is not self-created

a. Hilly, wooded terrain in area

b. Fed. Aviation Admin. letter states tower will not interfere with air travel

2. Tower will not affect the neighborhood

a. Is in a conservation zone district

b. No residential buildings close to this tower

3. Is an asset to the phone service in this area

Ed Robin asks for a vote. -- Ed Robin (NO) Stan Mischley (YES) Lori Werda (YES) Irma Schuelke (YES) Jim Milstein (YES)

Case Z-01-07—APPROVED 4-1 VOTE

Ed Robin feels that the Planning and Zoning Commission should have settled this and that it needs to review the ordinance on tower height.

OLD BUSINESS: Case Z-03-03 Donovan variance to employ 1 full time employee and 2 part time non-family members. ZBA request that Les Klimaszewski check this out. The Donovan business is in a residential area and if it is expanding too much may have to be moved to another location.

NEXT MEETING DATE: May 15, 2007 (tentatively)

Motion to adjourn by Jim Milstein, 2nd Irma Schuelke. Meeting adjourned 8:00 P.M.

Respectively submitted,

Lori Werda, secretary ZBA

cc: Zoning Board of Appeals, Alpena Twp. Board of Trustees, Les Klimaszewski, Lynn Talaska.