

**McDowell County Planning Board**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**03/24/2014**  
**Minutes**

The McDowell County Planning Board met in regular session on March 24, 2014 at 7pm. The meeting was held in the Commissioners Boardroom on the first floor of the County Administration Building.

**Members Present:**

C.B. Edwards, Vice Chairman  
Bob Brendle  
Benny Stamey  
Dennis Whitson  
Dan Thornton  
Tommy Stamey  
Tony Brown, Alternate

**Members Absent:**

Max Boyd, Chairman, Medical Leave  
Sam Dotson  
Arvin Hicks  
Rex Wood, Alternate

**Staff Present:**

Ronald Harmon, Board Secretary

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**Call to Order:**

Vice Chairman C.B. Edwards called the meeting to order and announced that a quorum was present.

Vice Chairman Edwards seated alternate member Tony Brown on the Board.

The next item on the agenda was approval of the meeting agenda. Motion to approve the agenda was made by Benny Stamey, second from Dan Thornton, vote taken motion carried.

The next item of business was approval of the January 27<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes. Motion to approve was made Dan Thornton, second from Benny Stamey, vote taken motion carried.

The next item on the agenda was discussion of the Sneed Tower Application. Vice Chairman Edwards asked Ronald to brief the Board on the tower.

Ronald stated that American Tower was making application for this tower that would be located off Cherry Drive in North Cove. Ronald stated this was the formal presentation of the request to the Board.

He stated that the tower met all the requirements of the McDowell County Cell Tower Ordinance. He explained that a variance request was not being sought for additional height on the tower and that the tower could house up to 3 co locations. Ronald passed around copies of the tower application and drawings and asked Board members if they had any questions. He also explained that Jonathan Yates would be present at the April meeting making the formal request for approval. There were no questions from the Board.

Ronald stated that it was staff's recommendation that the tower application be approved as presented.

#### **Smith MHP:**

The next item on the agenda was discussion of the Smith MHP request from March 2013. Ronald explained that Mr. Smith had finally submitted the paperwork the Planning Board had requested to approve the MHP. Ronald further explained that Mr. Smith would only be able to accommodate 3 mobile homes due to health department regulations.

#### **Updates and Communications:**

Ronald suggested to the Board that they invite Emergency Services, The Sheriff's Department and a County Commissioner to the next meeting. He explained that the county was in a unique position of having open dialogue with cell tower companies, and that right now would be a great time to openly express concerns about areas in the county with poor reception. He also stated that it would hold more weight if agencies that depend on the service i.e. Emergency Services and the Sheriff told how poor reception interferes with emergency response.

The Board was very receptive to the idea and asked Ronald to coordinate with each department to have representation at the next meeting.

With no further business, Vic Chairman Edwards asked for a motion to adjourn. Motion to adjourn was made by Benny Stamey, second from Bob Brendle, vote taken motion carried.