

SPECIAL TOWN OF DEWHURST BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
MONDAY, JUNE 26, 2023 - 6:30 P.M.

Call to Order Chairman Bill Kolve called the meeting to order at 6:30.

Board members present were: Bill Kolve, Troy Wyss and Bruce Delaney. Also present: Steve Kunes, Clerk.

Citizens present were: Charles Harwick, Pat Waldo, Barb Ehlen, Duane Gjerseth, Mike Robicki (via phone) and Heather and Paul Sullivan.

Approval of June 26, 2023 Agenda Bill Kolve moved to approve the agenda as distributed, Troy Wyss seconded. Motion approve, 3/0

Public Participation Bill Kolve opened the floor to any citizens present.

Charles Harwick was opposed to the siting of the cell tower and his concerns included a culvert for a driveway 300 feet from his existing driveway along Highway 95.

Pat Waldo expressed her opposition to the cell tower as it relates to affecting other neighboring residents property values, human and wildlife and the ecosystem. Asked the Board to see if there was another location positioned away from residents.

Barb Ehlen, member of the Zoning Commission had voted to deny the variance at the Commission meeting based on the location and asked the Board to explore moving the site.

Duane Gjerseth, another member of the Zoning Commission, agreed with the “bad location.”

Heather Sullivan, Chair of the Zoning Commission also added her vote to deny was based on the location and wanted the Board to consider the siting away from homeowners.

Bill Kolve asked Steve Kunes his opinion. Steve agreed with all the earlier comments saying denial was the right thing to do. He said if the Dewhurst Town Board would have acted ten years ago, when the, then, new cell tower statute was approved and adopted a Dewhurst cell tower ordinance, this issue would not have arisen. Instead we are being held captive by the cell tower companies. Early on his predication was based on the thirty-five foot building height limitation in an agriculturally zoned area and would have been the township's justification and grounds to either approve or deny a 195 foot cell tower.

Mike Ropicki was concerned about the devaluation of the land and the “condo” for cell companies to add their operations to this tower. He concluded by saying this was a poor location and the Board must vote no.

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Request for Zoning Variance and Siting of Cell Tower on Parcel # 008.0082.000 Troy Wyss began the deliberation by saying he agreed with the public and Commission comments that this was a bad location and moved to deny the variance request. He further added that he would be amenable to requesting the siting of the cell tower in the back northeast corner of the aforementioned parcel. Bill Kolve agreed and seconded the motion with that caveat. Bruce Delaney also agreed. Motion carried, 3/0.

Maple Lane Culver Issue Bill Kolve presented two proposals on the culvert solution for Maple Lane. The Board agreed to buy three culverts at a cost of \$844. 14 culverts are needed along Maple Lane and homeowners would be responsible. Bill has two quotes but one was incomplete. Steve Kunes added that it was not prudent to not pursue other quotes, in all fairness to the landowners, who would ultimately pay for the project. Bill will continue to pursue other quotes.

There being no further business or discussion, Bill Kolve moved to adjourn the meeting, Bruce Delaney seconded. Motion carried 3/0. The June 26, 2023, Special Town of Dewhurst Supervisors Meeting was adjourned at 7:30p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Steve Kunes, Town Clerk