
PLUMAS COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

Minutes of the Meeting of April 19, 2018

PLANNING COMMISSION MEMBERS:

Dr. Robert Abbott, Chair (District 1)
Jeff Greening, Commissioner (District 3)
Larry Williams, Commissioner (District 4)
John Olofson, Vice-Chair (District 5)

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Plumas County Planning Commission (the *Commission*) convenes in a meeting on April 19, 2018, at 10:03 a.m. in the Planning and Building Services Conference Room, Quincy, CA. Chair Dr. Robert Abbott presides.

II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

III. ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present: Dr. Robert Abbott, Jeff Greening, Larry Williams, John Olofson
Commissioners Absent: none

Also in attendance (Supervisors and staff)

Supervisor Michael Sanchez, District 1
Tim Evans, Assistant Planner
Rebecca Herrin, Assistant Planning Director
Randy Wilson, Planning Director
Gretchen Stuhr, Deputy County Counsel

IV. CONSENT ITEMS

A. Items to be continued or withdrawn from the agenda
None.

V. PLANNING COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS/COMMENTS

There are no Planning Commissioners' reports/comments

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT OPPORTUNITY

There is no public comment.

VII. PLANNING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Planning Director Randy Wilson reports that the proposed moratorium on growing hemp did not pass.

Wilson reports on the ERC meeting that was recently held. Wilson goes on to discuss various water issues and issues relating to the proposed thermal curtain at Lake Almanor.

Wilson states that on Monday, the Department of Water Resources will be holding a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) training. Supervisor Sanchez explains that the Groundwater Sustainability Agency is the County. The County is trying to update the map to remove areas outside of the basin in Sierra Valley. Wilson gives GIS Planner Becky Osborn credit for working with the available well logs to produce overlay maps. The overlay maps are aligned to topography and thus more accurate. Commissioner Greening asks about the status of Oroville. Wilson responds that Oroville was not discussed at the meeting.

VIII. ZONING CODE UPDATE: DRAFT TELECOMMUNICATIONS ORDINANCE:
Discussion/workshop

Wilson opens the workshop by discussing the letter received from AT&T. Deputy County Counsel Gretchen Stuhr is present. Stuhr adds that she has not had an opportunity to review all the issues in the letter, but she is not in agreement with all points raised in the letter based on her research thus far.

Josh Hart has circulated postcards to Plumas County citizens and there have been ads placed in the local newspapers regarding wireless communications and the draft Telecommunications Ordinance. Assistant Planning Director Rebecca Herrin reports that the Planning Department has received five comments on the proposal; 3 were pro cell tower and 2 were against. Hart has spoken in public comment at the Board of Supervisors meetings. Chair Abbott inquires if there are any statistics on sensitivity to wireless facilities. Wilson responds that he is not aware of any statistics.

When Wilson was involved in the Butte County ordinance, a group presented evidence on impacts. The County can't discount both concerns from the public and from industry representatives such as AT&T. Wilson adds that is why Deputy County Counsel Stuhr has been asked to attend the meeting.

Keith Chambers reports that there are four attachments to his email regarding compliance with radio frequency (RF) exposure. He has also forwarded FCC documents to Wilson. Wilson adds that Assistant Planner Tim Evans found a report from the California League of Cities. Stuhr adds that she looked at the local government circular when reviewing the ordinance. Wilson adds that the County must review all information and make sure that all issues are addressed.

Supervisor Sanchez explains that it is not true that the Board of Supervisors is not cognizant of the health and safety issues. He apologizes for his approach to Josh Hart. He states that it was not his intent to disrupt the meeting, but he was frustrated at the interruptions. Wilson responds that when people are passionate about an issue, it is expected that these things will happen, but that does not make it less difficult. Chair Abbott asks if they can be asked to leave and Wilson responds that they can if they are being disruptive.

Wilson displays the sectional maps of areas surrounding local airports from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). These maps show the Military Operation Areas (MOAs). Discussion ensues on military operations and airport operations. There are safety as well as land use compatibility issues.

Discussion under exemptions in the draft Telecommunications Ordinance-9-2.4105 on page 6, subsection (i). Is the existing pole "grandfathered"? Suggestion to take out the words "or existing".

Keith Chambers initiates a discussion of small cells. These are predominantly located in urban areas to increase bandwidth. As they are low power, they have a shorter coverage area. Rural areas mostly use mountaintop sites. Power provides a means of "backhaul". Cellular facilities are radio; both receivers and transmitters. The traffic is transported into landlines (hardwire). Fiber and broadband is now placed along the SR 70 corridor. Some carriers, such as AT&T don't want to have to buy backhaul for transmission to landlines.

Commissioner Olofson asks about punctuation and other comments on the draft. Wilson responds that the corrections should be done now so that there will be a clean copy. Wilson suggests that for the next meeting, the Commission receive some clarification on the issues raised by AT&T in the letter. Wilson has concerns with use of an exemption from CEQA for the Ordinance. Staff will be reviewing the environmental issues and preparing the necessary documents.

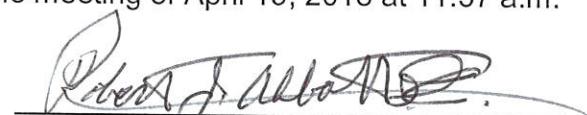
IX. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS/ON-GOING PROJECT UPDATES:

X. CORRESPONDENCE:

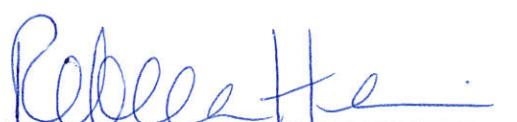
There is no correspondence. Commissioner Greening requests a copy of the postcard sent to County residents.

XI. ADJOURNMENT:

M/S/C: Greening/Williams/ 4-0 to adjourn the meeting of April 19, 2018 at 11:57 a.m.



Dr. Robert Abbott, Chair
Plumas County Planning Commission



Rebecca Herrin, Assistant Planning Director