

Business & Ag

Cell towers denied

BY SUNNY WERNER
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On Wednesday, October 14, Baker's City Planning Commission met for the second time to review Verizon's applications to receive Conditional Use Permits for two, 100-foot cell towers within Baker City limits.

Currently, the height limitations for structures adjacent to a residential zone are 38 feet and industrial zones are limited to 50 feet.

Verizon was requesting a 62-foot and a 50-foot variance, to place their 100-foot towers.

Since the original presentation by Christine Smith of ACOM Consulting, representing Verizon, was made on September 16, the Commission and the community participants expected answers to the questions raised at that time.

Smith spoke briefly about the need to provide future support for estimated needs and explained the actual reason for Verizon's planned 100-foot towers was "necessary, or the data transmission will drop dramatically."

When questioned about how accurate the time frame was, Smith acknowledged that, in fact, those data were based on estimated future needs, not present usage.

Smith went on to say, "If we can't have two, 100-foot towers, we will need four, 50-foot towers."

The questions that had been raised during the previous meeting were not addressed, such as what Verizon charged other cell services for co-locating on Verizon towers. Smith had emphasized the necessity to provide towers tall enough to co-locate four to six other companies' equipment in her first presentation.

Comments were opened to the public.

First spoke Mary Miller, who quoted the Baker City Development Code. "According to Code," said Miller, use of existing buildings is recommended."



Sunny Werner / The Baker County Press

City Planning Commission: Ned Ratterman, Tim Collins, Alan Blair (Chair) Rob Ellingson. Not shown: Aaron Still, Brandy Bruce. At podium: Christine Smith of ACOM, for Verizon.

Miller also stated, "Ms. Smith is unprepared, and has failed to show evidence to support her claims. Smith says 70 decibels will be maximum cell tower emission, but City Code allows 45 decibels."

Ann Mehaffy said that she resided one block from proposed site on East Street. "Property is a major investment, and having cell towers will definitely not increase values" she pointed out.

"I will quote the City Development Code," Mehaffy said. "In the preface it states that 'Intelligent regulation by community leads to continuing increased property values.'"

Terry Grever Dee said, "I am not convinced ACOM investigated all the possibilities."

Sean Peterson stated he "had contacted all the industrial property owners, none of whom were approached by Verizon or ACOM." Peterson went on to say, "Cell towers have major safety issues, as we have seen before. They are basically a 100-foot lightning rod."

Davey Peterson said he would like to see a survey of potential purchasers, asking them if they would be willing to buy near a cell tower.

Public hearing closed. Commissioners deliberated.

ated.

Rob Ellingson made the statement that the Code states 38 and 50 feet as the accepted limits for height. "The Code was something a lot of us worked on, and I don't think we should allow variances very often," he said.

Tim Collins asked, "Do we want several 50-foot towers or a few 100-foot towers? The Code encourages co-location, but that can't be done on 50-foot towers. Also, we can't offer good internet data to possible new businesses."

Alan Blair answered Collins. He said, "The Code was written with the existing towers in mind."

Blair went on to state that, according to page 3 of the Staff Report (available to the public at City Hall) the East Street site was not adequate. He also referred to the "huge majority of public testimony received last meeting and by mail was not in favour because of the esthetic impact the towers would have."

Ellingson stated, "We get the Codes from the State, and we modify them to fit Baker. We talked about this; I am not convinced we need to change the existing Code."

Aaron Still said, "Cell towers never improve property values."

Collins said, "A small in-

dustrial area on East Street will affect a good number of properties."

Ned Ratterman made the motion to deny the Conditional Use Permit based on testimony regarding East Street, saying it does not meet the Use Criteria 1 and 2. (Planning Department Staff Report.)

After being seconded, the motion passed with all in favor.

The findings were: Esthetics and Property Values would be negatively affected, and cannot be mitigated.

For the application regarding the proposed 11th Street site:

Collins stated, "The size of the site is not adequate, there will be negative impacts on adjacent properties."

Blair said, "We are willing to look at a tower higher than 50 feet, but not 100 feet."

Ratterman said, "We don't have scientific evidence available to arbitrarily reduce the height."

Ellingson said, "The facilities do not meet the criteria, and will visually be a problem for the people living near."

A motion was made to deny the C.U.P., based on 1 and 2, and passed four to three with the 11th Street application denied.

— WEEKLY HAY REPORT —

Friday, October 16, 2015 — Eastern Oregon

Prices trended generally steady compared to week ago prices. Export sales continue to be slow. Retail/Stable demand for all types of hay from Crook, Deschutes, Jefferson, Wasco counties continues to be good. Many producers have decided to hold on to their hay for now, in hopes for higher prices. Some producers are having their water rights cut off due to the drought.

Tons	Price Range	Wtd Avg
Alfalfa — Small Square, Good	200 150.00-150.00	150.00
Alfalfa / Orchard Mix — Large Square, Premium	32 170.00-170.00	170.00
Alfalfa / Orchard Mix — Large Square, Good	700 150.00-150.00	150.00
Wheat / Barley Straw — Small Square, Utility	400 45.00-45.00	45.00

USDA Market News Service—AMS.USDA.gov

— CATTLE MARKET REPORT —

Wednesday, October 14, 2015

Vale, Oregon

Cattle sold through the auction: 1,342

Steer Calves

300-400#	Bulk 254.00 - 298.00	Top 311.00
400-500#	Bulk 195.00 - 250.00	Top 252.00
500-600#	Bulk 183.00 - 220.00	Top 221.00

Heifer Calves

300-400#	Bulk 213.00 - 233.00	Top 245.00
400-500#	Bulk 163.00 - 197.75	Top 200.00
500-600#	Bulk 171.00 - 191.00	Top 191.60

Yearling Steers

600-700#	Bulk 175.00 - 194.00	Top 207.00
700-800#	Bulk 169.00 - 178.00	Top 179.50
800-900#	Bulk 167.00 - 176.00	Top 181.00
900-1,000#	Bulk N/A	Top N/A

Yearling Heifers

600-700#	Bulk 151.00 - 174.00	Top 183.00
700-800#	Bulk 149.00 - 168.00	Top 170.00
800-900#	Bulk 139.00 - 163.00	Top 165.50
900-1,000#	Bulk N/A	Top N/A

Thin Shelly Cows	51.00 - 69.00
Butcher Cows	74.00 - 82.00
Butcher Bulls	72.00 - 86.00
Stock Cows Yng.	N/A
Younger Hfrts.	103.00 - 126.00
Stock Cows -	N/A

ProducersLivestock.com
541-473-3136

— LOG PRICE REPORT —

Price per 1,000 board feet: Northeast Oregon

Doug Fir	is \$415.00/mbf
White fir	is \$365.00/mbf
Ponderosa Pine	is brought sold on diameter splits
6 to 11 inch dib	\$300 to \$310/MBF
12 to 17 inch dib	\$350 to \$375/MBF
18 to 23 inch dib	\$400 to \$430/MBF
24 inch plus dib	\$450 to \$500/MBF

DIB is diameter inside bark at small end of log.

MBF is thousand board feet lumber, net scale.

People interested in selling logs should call and get specific quotes from saw mills.

Courtesy of Arvid Andersen,
Andersen Forestry Consulting

— PRECIOUS METALS REPORT —

Price per ounce, USD

Gold: \$1165.90

Silver: \$15.71

Platinum: \$1005.68

Palladium: \$679.65

Bloomberg.com

— AG COMMODITIES —

Corn:	\$378.55/bu/USD
Wheat:	\$496.25/bu/USD
Soybeans:	\$902.25/bu/USD
Oats:	\$227.00/bu/USD
Rough Rice:	\$12.21/cwt/USD
Canola:	\$478.90 CAD/mwt
Live Cattle:	\$143.13/lb./USD
Feeder Cattle:	\$191.50/lb./USD
Lean Hogs:	\$68.23/lb./USD

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ODF terminates regulated use

As of 12:01 a.m., October 19, 2015, the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) has terminated the Regulated-Use Closure for private forestlands protected by the Northeast Oregon District.

This closure and the additional fire prevention restrictions it included are no longer necessary as a result of changing weather

and fuel conditions. Campfires and warming fires are now allowed with landowner permission. Joe Hessel, La Grande Unit Forester, cautions, "The moisture we received over the weekend has helped lower fire danger. However, the larger fuels are still relatively dry. Folks still need to be cautious and ensure that campfires are

dead out before leaving the camp site."

Although fire restrictions have eased, Fire Season remains in effect for private, state, county, municipal, and tribal lands protected by the Northeast Oregon District.

Burn permits are still required for all open fires (except campfires), debris burns and burn barrels.

"The need for a Burn Permit for open burning and barrels will continue until we enter a sustained trend of wetter weather," said Hessel.

The Northeast Oregon District includes lands in the following counties: Union, Baker, Wallowa, Umatilla, and small portions of Grant, Malheur, and Morrow.

Wolf shot in Grant County

On October 6, 2015, a Grant County man reported to the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife in Canyon City that he had shot and killed a wolf while hunting coyotes south of Prairie City in Grant County.

The man met with ODFW personnel and the Oregon State Police near

Prairie City and a deceased wolf was recovered from private property in that area. The Oregon State Police have completed an investigation of the incident and delivered a prepared report with all the facts surrounding the incident to the Grant County District Attorney's Office for review.

Wolves are protected by the state Endangered Species Act throughout Oregon and it is unlawful to shoot one, except in defense of human life. (Livestock producers in the eastern third of the state may also take wolves in certain situations; see the ODFW Wolf Plan for boundaries and details.

http://www.dfw.state.or.us/Wolves/management_plan.asp)

The wolf was a dispersing male originally from the Umatilla River pack in northeast Oregon. Any questions regarding the incident should be directed to the Grant County District Attorney's Office.

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