



CHATHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AGENDA ABSTRACT

ITEM NUMBER:
MEETING DATE:
4-18-05

PART A

Subject:

Request by Chatham County to locate one (1) communication tower in the Harpers Crossroads area for the 2005 tower plan.

Action Requested: See Recommendations.

Attachments: No attachments

Submitted By:

Keith Megginson, Planning Director

Date

County Manager Review:

Charlie Horne, County Manager

Date

This abstract requires review by:

☒ **County Attorney**

Date Reviewed

☒ **Finance Officer**

Date Reviewed

☐ **Budget Officer**

Date Reviewed

PART B

Introduction & Background: Chatham County Emergency Operations Director Tony Tucker has requested the location of a 300 foot tall guy wire tower in the Harpers Crossroads area for improvement of emergency communications in the southwest portion of the county. The tower would have space available for lease to cell phone companies.

Discussion & Analysis: The existing county ordinance regulating communication towers does not allow guy wire towers according to Section 4-1 4. Although guy wire towers may be less expensive than lattice or monopole towers, it is the Planning Department's understanding that they are not as structurally sound in the event of adverse weather and are not easily modified to accommodate additional antennas. Towers of greater than 199 feet are also not allowed. If the County wants to consider this request then the ordinance may be amended to accommodate governmental facilities to improve emergency communications. Such a change would require a public hearing to amend the ordinance. Section 6-6 of the ordinance addresses variances but the request may not justify the approval of a variance. This cannot be determined without substantiating data.

Budgetary Impact:

Recommendation: The Planning Department recommends that this request be tabled until additional information can be provided and/or the ordinance is amended to allow the request. The Planning Board recommends that the request be sent to the Commissioners with a favorable recommendation due to the lack of service, specifically emergency communications, in the southwest portion of the county. The Planning Board recommends that the ordinance be amended to allow towers up to 300 feet when needed to provide service. The Planning Board recommends that the county investigate partnering with private service providers to arrange for a lattice or monopole type tower.

[illegible]