



**CHATHAM COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
AGENDA ABSTRACT**

ITEM NUMBER:
MEETING DATE:
August 20, 2007

PART A

Subject: A request by Micah E. Retzlaff, Excell Communications, Inc., on behalf of **Verizon Wireless** for collocation on the existing SBA 300 ft. lattice tower located on north US Highway #421

Action Requested: See Recommendations

Attachments: *The following was provided at the June 18, 2007 public hearing and may be viewed on the Planning Department website at www.chathamnc.org under Planning, Rezoning & Subdivision cases, 2007:*

1. Letter and maps of request
2. Email correspondence from David LeGrys

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

Re: Verizon Wireless

Introduction / Background / Previous Board Actions:

Each year the county receives requests from cellular phone companies or other companies, who construct towers, about their plans for expansion of service within Chatham County. This year Excell Communications on behalf of Verizon Wireless has submitted a request to collocate on an existing tower. A public hearing was held on June 18, 2007. No one signed up to speak on this issue. The Planning Department staff recommended approval of the request. Due to time constraints, the Planning Board removed this item from the July 10, 2007 agenda and rescheduled for the July 31, 2007 special meeting. The Planning Board met on July 31, 2007 and voted 11-0 to approve the request.

The Planning Department and the Planning Board are required to make a recommendation on the requested submission based on the purposes set forth in the Communications Tower Ordinance. A yearly planning process is made to review all new tower requests and all new collocation requests as a group.

Issues for Further Discussion and Analysis:

Excell Communications is requesting a collocation approval for Verizon Wireless on an existing tower located in the northwestern portion of the County off US 421 N. Per Article I Section 1-3.10, the County places emphasis on collocation of new equipment on existing towers. Per Section 1-3.12, "tower owners shall make collocation available to other service providers (if space is available and the tower can support the new equipment) at reasonable, prevailing market rates".

Recommendation:

It is the Planning Department and Planning Board (unanimous vote) recommendation that the Verizon Wireless collocation be approved as submitted to be located on SBA tower located off US 421 N.