

**Town of Montreat  
Board of Commissioners  
Special Meeting  
December 18, 2008 – 9:00 a.m.  
Assembly Inn**

The Montreat Board of Commissioners held a Special Meeting on December 18, 2008 at 9:00 a.m. at Assembly Inn. Present among the Board were Mayor Letta Jean Taylor, Mayor Pro Tem Eric Nichols, Commissioner Bill Hollins and Commissioner O'Neil Tate. Commissioner Ruth Currie and Commissioner Jack McCaskill were absent. Representing Town Staff were Town Administrator Ron Nalley, Town Clerk Misty R. Gedlinske and Chief of Police William B. McClintock. Towers XX representative Andy Ward and one other member of the public were also present. Mayor Taylor called the meeting to order and gave the invocation.

**Agenda Approval**

Mayor Taylor stated that the purpose of this meeting was to view and discuss the results of the second cellular tower balloon testing procedure, which would be performed at a height of 180 feet. Commissioner Hollins moved to adopt the meeting agenda as presented. Mayor Pro Tem Nichols seconded and the motion carried 3/0.

**Cellular Tower Balloon Test**

The Board began their meeting by viewing the balloon testing results from the driveway area in front of Assembly Inn. Andy Ward explained that the balloon being used for the test was seven feet in diameter, approximately twice the diameter of the top portion of the proposed tower. Mayor Pro Tem Nichols asked about the number and duration of the lease terms for the tower. Mr. Ward said he believed the proposal included seven renewable lease terms of five years each. Mayor Pro Tem Nichols also said he had visited the Appalachian Way water tank site and had noted that while the proposed tower would be visible from the Vesper Dell it would actually be constructed about 200 feet away. Mayor Taylor said this reinforced the need for effective screening and landscaping around the perimeter of the site. Mayor Pro Tem Nichols agreed, and also suggested repainting the water tank so that it blended better into the surrounding landscape.

Mr. Nalley then asked the Board's opinion of constructing a tower at this site. Mayor Pro Tem Nichols said he supported constructing the tower at this location and asked the other Commissioners whether they preferred a monopole or a tree-style tower. Mayor Taylor said she believed that a monopole tower would be less obtrusive at this location, and said that the diameter of the top portion of the tower would be similar to several of the surrounding trees. Mayor Pro Tem Nichols, Commissioner Hollins and Commissioner Tate each agreed that a monopole tower would be more appropriate than a tree-style tower in this instance.

Mayor Pro Tem Nichols left the meeting at 9:35 a.m. No motion was made to excuse him.

The Board then viewed the balloon testing from several points along the bridge over Lake Susan Dam. Mr. Ward noted that the balloon was visible from the side of the bridge closest to Assembly Drive, but was not visible from the far end of the bridge. Mr. Nalley pointed out the

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point on the ridgeline whether the tower would be visible if constructed by the South Carolina Home's parking area, and said that a tree-style tower would not be as obtrusive in this location.

The Board then moved as a group to the top of Chapman Road. Mayor Taylor pointed out that the balloon was below the ridgeline in this area and may not be easily visible from this location during the summer months. Discussion was heard concerning what color the exterior surface of the tower should be. Commissioner Hollins felt that a galvanized steel surface may be too visible and suggested a darker, more earth-toned finish. Mr. Ward said the Board would be free to choose from a wide variety of colors and finishes, and offered to provide simulated images of several color options for their consideration.

The Board then viewed the balloon testing from two sites on West Virginia Terrace, one at the intersection of Greybeard Trail and another site at a higher elevation looking down on the roof of Assembly Inn. Mr. Nalley said the tower would be very visible at certain times of the year from these locations depending on the elevation of a particular home or viewing point and the amount of tree cover. Mayor Taylor agreed that residents in some houses on this road would be able to see the tower more clearly than others.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business to discuss, Commissioner Hollins moved to adjourn the Special Meeting. Commissioner Tate seconded. The motion carried 3/0 and the meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

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Letta Jean Taylor, Mayor

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Misty R. Gedlinske, Town Clerk