

**Williams Township Planning Commission
Regular Meeting
December 4, 2006**

The Planning Commission of the Charter Township of Williams held a regular meeting on Monday, December 4, 2006 at the Township Hall.

The agenda is attached Exhibit A.

I. Call to Order & Roll Call

Chairperson Steward called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Present: C. Adams, D. Behmlander, J. Hurt, S. Reed, W. Steward, and P. Wasek. Absent: D. Putt

Also Present: B. Klemish, Williams Township Zoning Administrator, L. Miller, Township Planner and J. Hammond, Township Attorney. Others present are indicated on the sign in sheet, attached Exhibit B.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was said in unison.

III. Open to the Public

There was no public comment.

IV. New Business

**A. KMA Group Communications Tower, Special Use Permit
Case No. 06-02-SpU**

Chairperson Steward asked representatives from KMA Group and Planning Commissioners if they received the memorandum dated November 13, 2006 from J. Hammond and L. Miller.

All indicated they had received the memorandum. The memorandum was received and made part of the record as Exhibit C by unanimous consent.

Chairperson Steward asked representatives of KMA Group to explain why they are seeking a special use permit.

Ron Balzer, representative of KMA Group explained that they are seeking a special use permit to construct a 400' high speed internet tower on land that they own east of Nine Mile Road in Section 24 of the township. He stated the tower would provide internet service to area residents and that they would use the service for their intra-communications between all of their grain elevators. He also stated they have been granted approval for the tower from the Federal Aviation Administration.

Chairperson Steward asked who the internet provider would be.

Don Demosthenous, representative of Skyweb Networks stated they would be the provider.

R Balzer went on to explain the following concerns of the Planning Commission as stated in the November 13, 2006 memo:

- There is not currently any tower available at the height that is needed to provide this service in the area.
- There could be co-location of a minimum of five other communication providers on this tower.
- The wattage used for their service is 200 mill watt, which would not cause interference with home appliances.
- They decided to use a 400' tall tower which meets the township setback requirements.
- An open weave fence will be installed around the perimeter of the base of the tower.

Chairperson Steward asked if the tower was new or used.

Brad Melburg, representative of Skyweb Networks, stated it would be new.

Chairperson Steward asked if guy wires were going to be used.

B. Melburg answered yes.

R. Balzer, asked Chairperson Steward to explain the need for a cash deposit, bank letter of credit, or performance bond for the removal of the tower when not in use.

Chairperson Steward explained that the township zoning ordinance requires some type of monetary assurance for the removal of the proposed tower when it would no longer be used.

C. Vennix, a KMA representative, said they could probably get a bond.

J. Hammond stated the Planning Commission needs to know exactly what kind of tower is going to be erected, and how it will be anchored.

Chairperson Steward asked the Planning Commissioners for their comments.

S. Reed stated she has concerns about the health risks associated with wattage used by communication towers for residents that live near the tower.

B. Melburg stated the wattage used by Skyweb Networks is very minimal, one quarter of a watt, compared to the use of many household appliances including cell phones.

D. Behmlander commented that the proposed wattage used is very small.

C. Adams asked who the tower would be purchased from.

B. Melburg answered Northern Tower in Traverse City, Michigan.

P. Wasek asked what the maximum number of co-location users could be.

B. Melburg stated the minimum was five.

P. Wasek asked B. Melburg how long he has been in business and what their plans for future growth would be.

B. Melburg stated they have been in business for 2 ½ years and their ultimate goal for the future would be to offer this service nationwide.

Chairperson Steward asked what maintenance would be required for the proposed tower.

B. Melburg answered that the tower will be solid steel, galvanized on the outside, then painted red and white as required by the FAA. The FCC inspects the towers approximately every three years to make sure they are in compliance with their regulations.

J. Hammond asked how close the tower would be to any overhead electrical service belonging to the silos on the same property, or to any overhead telephone wires.

R. Balzer stated that all utilities are buried to the silos. There are no overhead wires.

Motion by P. Wasek, supported by B. Steward to postpone the consideration of the approval of the special use permit request for KMA Group until the January 8, 2007 Planning Commission meeting after the following documents have been submitted:

- A drawing showing the exact tower that is to be erected.
- A revised site plan showing proposed fencing.
- Engineering plans for the tower showing its collapsibility.
- Certification from engineer that the design of the tower is safe and that the types of signals to be received or transmitted will not cause interference with common household appliances.

6 Ayes 0 Nays Absent: D. Putt
Motion carried. IT IS SO RESOLVED.

V. Consideration of Minutes

A. November 13, 2006 Regular Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by J. Hurt and seconded by D. Behmlander to approve the November 13, 2006 regular meeting minutes as presented.

6 Ayes 0 Nays Absent: D. Putt
Motion carried. It is so RESOLVED.

B. Election of Officers

By unanimous consent, all Planning Commissioners agreed to re-elect all officers to their current positions for 2007. They are: B. Steward, Chairperson, S. Reed, Vice-Chairperson and J. Hurt, Secretary.

VI. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business.

VII. Adjournment

A motion was made by C. Adams and seconded by P. Wasek to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

6 Ayes 0 Nays Absent: D. Putt
Motion carried. IT IS SO RESOLVED.

LeAnne Johansson
Williams Township Clerk