

POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

January 6, 2011

6:00 p.m.

County Complex, Building A

1. Roll Call

Present

Mr. Jack Fraley, Chair
Mr. Tim O' Connor
Mr. Mike Maddox
Mr. Al Woods

Staff Present

Mr. Allen Murphy
Ms. Tammy Rosario
Mr. Chris Johnson
Mr. Jason Purse
Ms. Leanne Reidenbach
Mr. Luke Vinciguerra
Ms. Terry Costello

Others Present

Mr. Aaron Small, Stormwater Advisory Committee
Mr. George Condyles, Atlantic Technologies

Mr. Jack Fraley called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. New Business

Mr. Luke Vinciguerra introduced Mr. George Condyles of Atlantic Technologies.

Mr. Condyles spoke on the benefits of developing a master plan for wireless communication facilities. He stated it was important to develop goals and objective on what the County would like to achieve. An example would be to have locations suitable for wireless facilities. He stated that it was important to know what was currently in the County and what is available for co-location. Mr. Condyles stated it was important to define what local government is responsible for. The industry will innovate and adapt to get the service that they need. The master plan should be strategic in stating what is available and what is needed from a facility standpoint. Mr. Condyles would recommend determining what is currently in the County, what is available, and then look from a propagation standpoint at different frequency bands where the gaps are. This would assist in developing standards.

Mr. Condyles felt that the industry was going more toward smaller towers with adequate coverage as opposed to much taller towers.

Mr. Fraley asked about the latitude that courts have given local jurisdictions and their ordinances as the courts interpret the Federal Telecommunications Act.

Mr. Condyles answered that his advice was to avoid litigation. He suggested having representatives from the industry involved in the master planning process.

Mr. Fraley asked what measure of performance can be used to replace the term "adequate service."

Mr. Condyles suggested design service. He also stated that a possibility may be stating what the network is designed to do, and what are the design standards that state what is good service.

Ms. Lisa Murphy of AT&T stated that the carriers are looking at where they are not meeting their design parameters and then determine what is needed. She also mentioned that there are a limited number of dollars as far as where to invest.

Mr. Steve Romine of Verizon stated that if the master plan has technical definitions, the carrier may not deem it sufficient enough to invest money. It is all about customers and usage. All carriers have their top priority sites. He said it was important not to be too restrictive because then the carriers may go elsewhere.

Mr. Condyles stated that it was important to have standards, but also be welcoming to the industry.

Mr. O'Connor asked about typical setbacks.

Mr. Condyles stated there are several setbacks to look at. One is a setback from a residential dwelling. He stated community input might be beneficial when discussing this. One impact on setbacks is the height of the tower.

Mr. John Miller of Verizon stated that he sees a need for both taller and shorter towers.

Mr. Dave Neiman, a citizen, asked Mr. Condyles if he has seen jurisdictions distinguish among areas zoned residential and those that are planned communities.

Mr. Condyles stated he has seen in most rural counties towers have encroached toward residential communities without physically being on residentially zoned properties. The plan was to set up perimeter coverage.

Mr. Fraley stated that the County has an aggressive co-location policy.

Mr. Condyles recommended not requiring co-location. One develops what is needed for their network, and then do reverse stacking. He suggested encouraging co-location on an existing site, but not on a new facility. The playing field needs to be level for all carriers, but also the smaller carriers and companies.

Mr. Woods asked if the carriers were seeking to lay off the investment responsibility, are they seeking co-investors in order to achieve coverage.

Mr. Romine stated that there are tower companies that strictly build towers. Carriers are more interested in providing service. If the carrier builds the tower, another company wishing to co-locate will help with a contribution to the capital cost. He stated that the carrier will build the tower regardless if they have letters of intent to co-locate.

Ms. Murphy reiterated what Mr. Romine said. The main thing that the carrier is looking at is what they need for their network. She asked that the Committee look at the 400 foot setback in residential planned communities. Sometimes this makes it difficult to find a location.

3. Old Business – Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Project Evaluation

Ms. Leanne Reidenbach noted that this was a continuation of the meeting held on December 13th to score and prioritize the FY12 Capital Improvement Program budget requests. She went over the average scores that Policy Committee members sent in and showed a listing of the top projects on the projector. She asked the Policy Committee to determine whether they concurred with this prioritization or whether they felt anything needed to be changed. She also asked the Committee to provide any additional notes and recommendations to pass along to the Board of Supervisors. She said that the Policy Committee should vote to forward these recommendations to the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission would then vote to forward the recommendations to the Board.

Mr. Fraley introduced Mr. Aaron Small, chair of the Stormwater Program Advisory Committee (SPAC). He asked Mr. Small to discuss the role of the SPAC and review their evaluation criteria for capital projects.

Mr. Small went over the SPAC's project evaluation criteria, noting that the primary focus is protection of health, safety, and welfare and that each criteria is weighted based on its perceived importance.

Mr. Peck discussed the project ranking for the Stormwater Division. He stated that he felt that water quality should be the priority of the Division. He felt that the projects submitted were not tied to the primary purpose of the Stormwater Division.

Mr. Fraley clarified that during the Stormwater Bond Referendum that a letter was sent to the press stating that the Planning Commission had reviewed the Stormwater project list and unanimously endorsed it but in reality the Planning Commission had only prioritized the line item for CIP funding. He stated that in the letter from the Director of Stormwater, it states that with limited funding staff shifted the emphasis to repairs and maintenance of the County's stormwater infrastructure and limited progress will be made toward long term water quality.

Mr. O'Connor stated that he felt that the rankings ignored the areas where the Division should concentrate their projects: long term water quality.

Mr. Fraley suggested that the cover letter should mention that the Committee felt that a higher priority should be given to projects dealing with water quality. It should also be noted the differences between the ranking by the Stormwater Division and the ranking completed by SPAC and funding should be prioritized based on the Stormwater Division staff tiers.

Ms. Reidenbach asked if the Committee wanted to emphasis certain water quality projects.

Mr. Peck felt that this stormwater program has drifted off from its course. He felt that where an agency is placed within the organization is important. Mr. Peck also stated that he felt that the County would be better served if the Stormwater Division were not under the direction of General Services but rather under Development Management.

Mr. Small stated that SPAC was chartered by the Board of Supervisors and was given guidelines on their role. He stated that the Stormwater Division has only been in existence for a few years. Before

this time, the County's infrastructure was not being maintained. He stated that there are many repair projects that need to be done and in essence the County is working on "catching up."

Mr. Woods stated that there might be ways to improve the methods of ranking. He suggested that the Committee continue evaluating projects as it has been, but also send some suggestions to the Board of Supervisors for ways to improve the process. He also stated that the rankings were based on quality of life, health and safety, and other categories and that he understood why the Committee ranked the projects as they did.

Ms. Reidenbach stated that the suggestions will be drafted in a letter with the CIP rankings and will be reviewed by the full Planning Commission in February, and then forwarded to the Board of Supervisors with a recommendation. She will email a draft of the letter for the Committee's review before it is presented to the Planning Commission.

Mr. Woods stated that the Committee needs to take a neutral position on these projects and state observations and make suggestions on how to improve the process.

Ms. Reidenbach summarized that the Stormwater line item stays as a single item with a single score, with the four bullet points that were mentioned by the Committee at an earlier meeting, and an additional point that states that the Committee is in general agreement that first tier Stormwater projects are funded with a priority, then second tier projects, and third tier projects.

Mr. O'Connor expressed his concerns about the lower priority items being ranked higher due to the fact that these items can be completed.

Mr. Small stated that some projects were included in here because there were already scheduled to be done.

Mr. Peck wanted to emphasize that he felt that more projects should focus on water quality.

Mr. Small stated the SPAC would welcome any suggestions from the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors on developing their CIP requests/prioritization in future years.

Mr. Fraley suggested that staff forward the evaluation criteria that the Policy Committee uses in ranking these projects.

Mr. Peck suggested ranking in groups with similar types of projects.

Ms. Reidenbach went through the rankings of the projects. Mr. Woods moved for approval of the rankings. The Committee unanimously approved the motion.

Old Business – Planning Commission Annual Report

Mr. Jason Purse stated that the changes made were changes to the graph on page 4, added to page 7 the number of approved residential units, changed the orientation and information on the Planning Commission actions, added a glossary, added clarifying language to some tasks completed on the implementation guide, and added information as to why some of the GSA's were not reported on.

Mr. Fraley asked about the residential units approved but not yet built.

Mr. Purse stated that this information is being evaluated as part of the cumulative impacts.

Mr. Fraley asked for a footnote stating that.

The Policy Committee completed its review of the annual report.

4. Other Business

Mr. Fraley stated the next meeting will be January 24th.

Mr. Peck stated that he would like to discuss sometime about the urban development areas. He has some questions on whether our ordinances are in compliance with the urban development area.

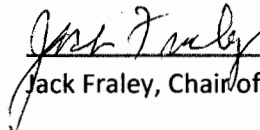
Mr. Fraley asked if the urban centers have to be contiguous.

Ms. Rosario answered she did not believe so.

Mr. Allen Murphy stated that this will be brought forward to the Policy Committee.

Mr. Woods moved for adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.



Jack Fraley, Chair of the Policy Committee