Town of Elba
Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting
Wednesday, March 23, 2022 7:00 P.M.

The Zoning Board of Appeals meeting was called to order on Wednesday, March 23, 2022, at 7:02 P.M. by Chairperson Becky Kirchberg. Members Mark Campbell, Brian Klubertanz, Peter Larson, Roger Parpart and Town Deputy Clerk Lori Koenig-Fry were present. Also present were Town residents Colleen Griffith Johnson, Rodney Hacht, Jerry Gaska, and Jane Parpart. SBA Communications representative Kevin Pollard, Harmoni Towers representatives Scott Littell and Paul Jonas.

Adopt Agenda: Motion by Larson to adopt the agenda as presented. Seconded by Parpart. All in favor. Motion carried.

Public Comment: SBA representative Kevin Pollard explained that he does not feel that the ZBA has the authority to grant the variance as the reason for the variance does not meet the necessary requirements.

Resident Colleen Griffith Johnson spoke in favor of the variance to get the tower farther off the road for public safety.

Paul Jonas with Harmoni Towers spoke to the board and advised that Harmoni Towers did work with the adjacent landowners and moved the tower back per their request, this movement related a reasonable accommodation and lead to the driveway variance issue. He then questioned if t the main reason for the variance is for fire protection and explained that once the tower is built the driveway will have minimal use and no need for fire protection.

Resident Rodney Hacht spoke that they would like the tower as far from his buildings and property line as possible, advising that he has concerns about his residence being within the fall zone.

Resident Jerry Gaska stated that he is in favor of the variance stating that if the board were to refuse the variance that Harmoni Towers could then place the tower back in the original location which would be a detriment to the adjacent landowners and road safety.

Chairperson Kirchberg requested a motion to close public comments. Campbell made a motion to close public comments, seconded by Larson.

Discussion of the Board: Larson stated that he is in favor of the variance because Harmoni Towers worked with the landowners.

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Chairperson Kirchberg questioned why the original application listed the Reeseville Fire Department and not Columbus Fire Group and why the Columbus Fire Group was not contacted. Scott Littell advised that it was his error.

Campbell spoke in favor of the variance as the original location would have had safety issues and commended Harmoni Towers for working with the landowners and moving the tower.

Parpart spoke to commend Harmoni Towers for working with the neighbors and making adjustments to work with everyone involved.

Klubertanz brought forth concerns with the potential of peppering cell towers throughout the area.

Motion was made by Parpart to close discussion. Parpart made a motion to approve the proposed 1500-foot driveway by Harmoni Towers. Larson second. Roll call vote: Campbell – yes, Klubertanz – yes, Larson – yes, Parpart – yes, Kirchberg – Yes. Motion carried (5-0).

Adjourn: Motion by Parpart, second by Larson to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:23 P.M.

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