

To the Editor,

Recently the friends and Neighbors of Pine Mountain came together to file an appeal to the Board of Supervisors in regards to the Planning Commission's decision to let At&t place a 143' ft mega cell tower on Pine Mountain. We paid a good sum of money for the opportunity to present our case to the BOS and we were given 20 minutes to do this.

We provided the BOS with documented evidence that At&t had lied to our County Commissioners in multiple instances. At&t had provided inaccurate information that was directly used by the Planning Commission to base their decision of approval.

This evidence included a very confusing spread sheet in which At&t had manipulated the numbers of public comments to make it seem as though the majority of people opposed to this project lived out of the area. This was not the case! Over 200 comments were submitted on this issue. Of these comments more than 75% were opposed to placing this tower on Pine Mountain.

The Commissioners had never seen so many public comments on a particular issue. The Commissioners decided to deny the approval of this tower due to overwhelming opposition. In the next meeting they were fully expected to vote unanimously to approve the denial that was drafted by County Council. This did not happen. Two out of three of the Commissioners that had read all of the public comments were not present. One of which recused herself because she had previously stated that due to such a massive outpouring of public comments we should find a way to have an open meeting on this issue. Because this was not possible she said she would just vote no. County Council instructed the commissioner to recuse herself due to bias. As stated by our lawyer in our presentation to the BOS this was not bias. I should note at this time that this commissioner has approved many cell towers. During the second meeting the commissioners made reference to, including directly quoting numbers from the false misleading spreadsheet that had been submitted by At&t. For an accurate version of the Public comments including every issue and concern brought before the Commission by the public see the appeal presentation part 3.

At&t also lied to the Commissioners about the numbers of parcels this tower would serve. According to them the tower would supply 450 parcels with coverage, there are only around 260 parcels on Pine Mountain and a large number of them were opposed to this project.(see parcel map provided by appellants in presentation and supporting documents).

On the application for this tower At&t states that there is insignificant seismic activity. We provided evidence of very significant activity in the tune of hundreds of earthquakes in the last year alone. (I'm sure all of Willits felt the quakes that rocked the valley on 10-19-20). These quakes originated under Pine Mountain less than a mile from the tower site. This is a fire hazard.

These are just some of the issues that were brought before the BOS. The biggest point that was completely disregarded by the Supervisors was that 75% of the people who had submitted comments for this appeal were against the placement of this tower. I have never heard of a vote that took 75% to pass. Is this a democracy? Do our Supervisors work for the people?

The supervisors did not address our concerns. The Friends and Neighbors of Pine Mountain spent the entire summer preparing to present our case. Hours and hours of volunteer time went into trying to bring out the truths of this matter. We had so much information there was simply no way to present it all

in 20 minutes. We could only hope the Supervisors would look into our supporting documents and review this matter carefully.

Looking back after the fact, I believe the BOS had already made up their minds before we had even presented our case. One Supervisor cited his support for the tower due to letters from the Sheriff and Little Lake Fire. These letters had been solicited and submitted by At&t. When we talked to the Sheriff and Little Lake Fire they informed us that they had their own communication network and had no plans to utilize this tower. At&t stated over and over that this tower would provide 1<sup>st</sup> net services. Our county has already decided not to acquire 1<sup>st</sup> net services due to expense. The BOS refused to engage in any dialog when the Chairman tried to bring our concerns to the forefront. With a simple call to vote each supervisor completely dismissed every single concern we had brought before them. Not even deeming it worthy of a response. One supervisor did not comment for the entire 2<sup>nd</sup> Hours of our agenda item except to say "Absolutely" to the approval of the tower.

After all of our hard work and many, many people coming together, after we paid for the right to be heard the tower was passed unanimously with "absolutely" no comments about our many concerns and overwhelming opposition to placing a mega cell tower right smack in the middle of our densely populated neighborhood. For more information anyone may review these meetings and our presentation on youtube. For all of our work and the facts of this matter visit the County's website.(BOS meeting of 10/20/20 Agenda #5i)

I believe a great injustice has been done to the citizens of this county. This is my first interaction with the BOS. I had truly believed that if our supervisors had taken the time to analyze the data we provided for them, they would have little reason to approve this cell tower. These five people sit at the head of our County and make decisions for all of us. Upon observing the whole process it became clear to me that the BOS are overloaded and simply do not have the time to give each agenda item the time and attention it deserves. It appeared to me that the Supervisors were tired and wanted to get through our agenda item as quickly as possible.

This is a call to the people. We must find the time in our busy lives to monitor and have input in our local government. If we do not then they can simply do whatever they want. Why can a mega corporation like At&t submit inaccurate information to our decision makers and not be held accountable? At&t does not care about this county and the welfare of its people. They refuse to fix our land-lines. In 2017 when the fires threatened Pine Mountain it was our land line that saved us when the cell towers failed the Willits valley. Wireless technology is unreliable with too many variables. We need a backup system.

After all was said and done our efforts only served to INCREASE the height of the tower by 10 more feet. In order to do this the BOS (in a spur of the moment decision) moved to amend the county's already existing ordinance to allow an even smaller setback from the tower than previously required. After all of our efforts we were left with an instant tower that was trucked into place two days later.

My only recourse is to share this experience with the people of this county. In order to bring this case before the courts we would need thousands of dollars. I appeal to the people of this county. If you take the time to review the facts and feel a great injustice has been served, please tell the Supervisors. Anyone who wants to can comment at a Supervisor's meeting. I plan on speaking to them at the next meeting. What have I got to lose? This is my home.

This letter and these observations are my own. I do not represent the Friends and Neighbors of Pine Mountain. These are my opinions. The people of Pine Mountain are not anti-technology. A lot of us run entire businesses from our home quite successfully. We simply do not want a huge cell tower in the middle of our neighborhood. Why not put it on a remote ridge top somewhere?

If you have read this far, thank you for your time. May the people of this county come together to create a true and just future in these unprecedented times. As stated by the Dali Lama, "only through discourse and dialog will we come together".

Maya Youngstrom

Willits