

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM

SUBJECT: TWR-2020-01 Verizon Wireless, Old State Road 0258-003, E-A,
New ~165' Monopole

Work Session/Regular Session

DATE OF MEETING: August 11, 2020

BUDGET IMPACT:

FUNDING SOURCE:

- () Annual
- () Capital
- (X) N/A
- () SPLOST
- () TSPLOST

COUNTY ACTION REQUESTED ON: TWR-2020-01 Verizon Wireless, Old State Road
0258-003, E-A, New ~165' Monopole

HISTORY, FACTS AND ISSUES:

This case represents an attempt by the applicant to construct a new ~165' telecommunications monopole within a 455 acre wooded tract near Naylor, off Old State Road. The subject property is currently zoned Estate Agriculture (E-A) and is allowed to be used for the construction of a new telecommunications tower with GLPC review and LCBOC approval. For further reference, where towers are allowed per the various zoning districts, new towers require LCBOC approval while collocation on existing towers require only administrative approval. Additionally, if the proposed tower is determined to likely interfere with the use of aircraft traffic operations around the Valdosta Regional Airport (VLD) or Moody Air Force Base (MAFB) the application can be required to receive a letter of clearance from the aforementioned bodies. In this case, a letter of clearance is not required from either the Valdosta Regional Airport or MAFB.

The primary motivation for a new tower at the subject property is a gap in the existing coverage area. The subject property is in the Rural Service Area and depicted as Agricultural/Forestry on the Future Development Map. While the character areas comment generally on the preservation of rural areas, Goal 10 of the Comprehensive Plan cites the support of technological infrastructure.

The GLPC heard the request at their regular July meeting and recommended Approval of the request by a unanimous vote (11-0). The TRC considered this request and had no objectionable comments.

The applicant has requested relief from the landscaping requirements in favor of an undisturbed buffer given the site's remote location. Staff has found this request overall consistent with the Comprehensive Plan and the TRC had no objectionable comments regarding this request.

- OPTIONS: 1. Approve
2. Board's pleasure