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Several people (Clifford E. Hauser, KD6XH, Mike Zonnefield, W0LTL, Keri Sylvyn, and Bill Jorden, K7KI) have met with four (4) of the five (5) Pima County supervisors, Ann Day, Ray Carroll, Richard Elias, and Ramon Valadez, on the proposed change to the Pima county amateur radio antenna/tower height limitation. Our position has been made very apparent to each supervisor, **"No change to the existing ordinance is necessary because there have been no safety issues or no other complaints over the last several years and thus any change will be in violation of PRB-1, reasonable antenna height and limited restrictions"**. We tried to answer their concerns regarding safety, community service, and our involvement in the county emergency service organizations to include the Red Cross, Salvation Army, and other volunteer organizations that are supported by amateur radio personnel. We will meet with the fifth county supervisor, Sharon Bronson, on Wednesday 07 April 2004. The County Supervisors meeting that will decide the proposed ordinance change will take place on:

**13th of April
County Supervisors Board Room
130 W. Congress
Tucson, AZ
Starting at 9:00 AM.**

We need all amateur radio operators who are interested in the outcome of this proposed ordinance change to be present. The more people we have the better it will look to the supervisors that we are really interested in our community.

Please attend.

Here is a recap on what the present and proposed changes to the amateur radio antenna ordinance to be reviewed and decided on by the county supervisors.

My position is "NO CHANGE IS NECESSARY".

Present Antenna Ordinance

The present ordinance states that amateur radio antennas's less than 100 feet are "**exempt**" from any permits. This means that you can install an antenna system of less than 100 feet without going to the planning and zoning board for approval. For all antenna's over 100 feet, a "TYPE III permit" is required. This **type III** permit means

that all antennas' 100 feet or higher are considered the same as a commercial structure. You must submit engineering plans for the building permit along with a fee of approximately \$300.00. Your permit will be processed by the Planning and Zoning Committee, and forwarded to both the Planning and Zoning Board and the Supervisors for approval. During each phase on construction, a civil engineer must inspect and approve the construction.

Proposes Ordinance Co8-03-10 (As presently written)

NOTE: This document as written by the county Planning and Zoning Board does not completely represent the final agreement of the three(3) members of the committee.

The proposed amendment before the county supervisors, Co8-03-10, Amateur Radio Towers, has two (2) different positions, the Homeowners Position and the Amateur Radio Operators Position. The basic difference between the positions is the Antenna height; number of towers authorized per lot and setback requirements. There are seven (7) areas that were agreed upon in principle by both sides that were of concern by both the homeowners and county officials. These seven (7) areas are just for safety, and to reduce visibility due to light reflection and should have been addressed when the last change was made several years ago.

Proposed changes that were agreed upon for safety concerns and are not controversial.

1. Show proof of amateur radio license when filing for permit.
2. Amateur radio towers shall be galvanized, or shall be painted a flat color of sky blue, light gray or olive drab, to reduce the visibility of the tower given the character of the surrounding setting.
3. If the tower is setback a distance which is less than the height of the tower, then prior to the issuance of a building permit, the owner shall provide certification that the building plan is in compliance with all manufacturing design and installation specifications.
4. Amateur radio antennas shall not protrude in any manner upon adjoining parcels.
5. No portion of an amateur radio tower or antenna shall conduct or display any advertising message or other graphic representation other than the manufacturer's name and identification number. Lettering shall not exceed three (3) inches in height.
6. Amateur radio towers which are not protected by walls or fences shall have an anti-climb plates installed.
7. Amateur radio towers shall be erected or installed in rear and side yards only. Exception: Towers may be allowed in front yards for safety and esthetic reasons upon approval of the Board of Adjustment following a public hearing.

The three (3) areas that either side could not agree on are as follows:

1. Antenna Height:

Homeowner's position: Amateur radio towers, except as otherwise provided herein, shall not exceed the maximum building height of the zone in which the tower is located.

NOTE: This means that, in most cases, the antenna cannot be above the roof of the highest building on your lot.

Amateur radio position: Amateur radio towers, except as otherwise provided herein, shall not exceed seventy-five feet. If a tower is to be constructed exceeding the standard height, an applicant must obtain a "Type I" conditional use permit showing that the structure will comply with the standards set forth in this ordinance.

NOTE: Type I permit does not require neighbor notification and Planning and Zoning Board and/or County Supervisor Board hearing

2. Number of towers per lot:

Homeowner's position: No more than one (1) tower per site.

Amateur Radio position: Minimum of two (2) towers per site.

3. Set back requirements

Homeowner's position: Amateur radio towers, **Including guy wires**, shall meet the setback requirements for accessory structures of the zone in which the tower is located. Towers shall be set back an additional one foot for every foot in height which the tower exceeds the maximum allowable height for main buildings in the zone in which the is located.

Amateur Radio position: Same as above but exclude wording; **"Including guy wires"**.

NOTE: This wording was not part of the discussion at any of the committee meetings. This wording was added by the Planning and Zoning board during the final preparation of the document.

The Planning and Zoning Board voted 4 to 3 to recommend to the county supervisors that the present ordinance be maintained and that this proposed ordinance change **"NOT be Adopted"**. But they did state that if the county supervisors are so inclined to change the regulation and pass this proposed ordinance change, that they should take the position of the amateur radio operators. The County supervisors can approve any portion of the proposed ordinance, modify it, or take the Planning and Zoning Board recommendation and reject.

I do not know which way they will go. This is an election year and they want to appease both sides. This is why we need to have as many people present at the meeting as possible. We have stressed to each supervisor that amateur radio is an active part of the community communications system and the present ordinance has been working effectively throughout the county with no adverse effects for several years and thus "**No Change is Necessary**". I have also left each supervisor with the ARRL 8-minute video that was produced by ARRL and narrated by Walter Cronkite, outlining our past and future contribution to emergency support. I plan to have several agencies that we support present at the hearing.

Now for the other news about Arizona:

The Cochise Amateur radio association will hold its Hamfest on 01 May 2004 in Sierra Vista.

Kachina ARC will have its Hamfest on 5-6 June 2004 in Show Low.

The Arizona State Hamfest, normally located at Fort Tuthill in Flagstaff, is now going to be at the **Williams, Arizona Rodeo Grounds, and the date will be the first weekend in July the 2nd through the 4th**. The city of Williams is located 33 miles west of Flagstaff on Highway 40. The city of Williams has offered ARCA the use of their Rodeo Grounds at a lower cost and is willing to give other incentives to the people who attend the Hamfest. This means that ARCA will be able to maintain the present cost of selling spaces (maybe lower the cost) and each selling space will be larger in size because there is more room available. ARCA is presently talking with the city officials about discount cost for motel rooms, RV parking spots, and Grand Canyon Railroad tickets. The RV part is located next door to the ground and has full hook-ups and there are several motels close by (Fairfield, Holiday Inn, etc).

The next order of business is the **2004 ARRL Southwestern Convention** that will take place at the Sheraton Wild Horse Pass Resort located near Chandler on 27-29 August 2004. The Central Arizona DX Club is putting on this event and they do everything first class. There will be many presentations on almost every subject of amateur radio plus many top companies showing you their new products. This event will have everything in-doors (except Saturday morning swap meet) so you need not go outside for anything except the boat ride to the casino for other entertainment or go swimming in the large pool. All presentations and vendor areas will be in air-conditioned comfort. The hotel has many rooms available for \$91.00 a night and this rate is good for the week prior to the event and the week after the event. Where else can you get resort treatment for standard motel prices. Make your plans ahead of time to be at this event. The convention web site is "www.hamradio2004.com/swdc2004".

My home telephone number is 520-744-9095, and I do have an answering machine to let me know who called when I am away. If I happen to miss your call, please leave me a name and telephone number and I will return the call as soon as possible. I do try and respond to all telephone calls and e-mails as required but I do miss a few so if that has happened please have patience and call/resent again. If you want a copy e-mail you, then just drop me a note and I can add you to my e-mail list. Several people who requested an e-mail copy of this article have had their e-mail address changed and I do not have the new address. Please provide new address so the article will arrive at the correct location. Just a quick note, I have made plans to take a non-amateur radio vacation (7 day cruise to Alaska) during the later part of June. My wife has informed me that she needs a rest. I am not sure if is a rest from amateur radio or work. 73's from Clifford Hauser, KD6XH; E-mail is kd6xh@arrl.org or kd6xh@comcast.net.