

CITY OF DECORAH  
BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT  
Minutes of December 11, 2014

Chair John Moeller called the meeting to order at 5:00p.m. and called roll. Present: John Moeller, Janelle Pavlovec, Sue Sander, Jon Christy and Steve Johnson.  
Also in attendance: Zoning Administrator Chad Bird.

Moeller asked for consideration of the minutes of the November 6, 2014 meeting.

**Johnson moved and Pavlovec seconded approval of the minutes with corrects for the names of Helen Barbeia and Darla Thorland as presented.**

**Roll call vote: Unanimously approved.**

The only item on the agenda was a request from Black Hills Energy Company requesting permission to construct commercial communications towers contrary to the R-2 and C-1 zoning requirements

1. Locations include:  
Approximately 900 Block of Park Street  
Approximately 1800 Block of Old Stage Road

Black Hills Energy is proposing to construct several communication towers in the community. They propose ten total sites around the community. Five sites are out of the city limits and three are proposed co-locations that would amend the existing permits for the use (allowed).

Bird explained the two remaining sites are proposed for one each R-2 residential and C-1 commercial zoning. He explained the telecommunications code section (17.136) does not allow towers in residential zoning, except via special permit and with exclusions. Bird noted he supports the special permit process to allow for the two poles as noted.

- Park Street, a stand-alone pole on city property, R-2 with special permit.
- Old Stage Road, a stand-alone pole, C-1 with special permit.

Moeller outlined the rules of meeting conduct and said that the Board had a chance to review new information and the geographic locations.

During the public comments, several residents spoke to the Board.

Carl Peterson, 914 Park Street, inquired about the height of the poles and learned they are proposed at 29 feet. He had no other comments.

Ingrid Neste, 1005 Linden Street also asked about the height with no further comments.

Marcia Fox 812 Linden Street also asked about the height with no further comments.

Moeller closed the public comment portion of the meeting. There was general discussion regarding the project.

Johnson said he does not see issue with these location and thanked Black Hills Energy personnel for trying to work within the system.

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Pavlovec and Christy also spoke in favor of the new application.

**Sander moved and Christy seconded a motion to approve the special permits as presented on the application.**

**Roll call vote: Unanimously approved. Application is approved.**

The next item on the published agenda was to be an application from Dean and Lois Humpal for 404 Vernon Street requesting permission to construct a garage contrary to R-3 Zoning requirements. Bird noted that no application and material had been received thus there was no action to take.

Other Business

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,

