

LOCAL NEWS

# Pickens OKs cell tower

By John C. Stevenson

STAFF WRITER

jstevens@greenvillenews.com

Members of the Pickens County Planning Commission told residents of the Cedar Rock community that their hands were tied as they approved plans to construct a 190-foot cell tower in the area.

Commission Vice Chairman Sheree Chapman, who chaired Monday night's meeting in place of DeWitt Stone Jr., told several op-

ponents of the tower that the proposal meets the requirements of the county's Unified Development Standards Ordinance.

"If they meet the guidelines, then we have no choice but to approve it," Chapman said.

At the heart of the debate is the plan to construct a 190-foot-tall monopod-type tower on property owned by Don Hawkins that fronts on Robert P. Jeanes Road. Harold Timmons, zoning

coordinator for Virginia-based Pegasus Tower Co., told commissioners that plans call for the tower to be constructed deep on Hawkins' property, around 1,000 feet from the road.

The tower won't have a light on top because federal regulations don't require lights for towers less than 200 feet tall, Timmons said. He also said the tower will be located in a heavily wooded area and would be visible from only a few vantage points.

That did little to ease the concerns of several of Hawkins' neighbors.

"If it damages the value of my property, who do I go after?" Troy Rosier asked the commission. "Do I go after Pegasus? Do I go after Mr. Hawkins? Do we go after the county? ... You're as liable as they are, it seems to me, if you pass this thing."

Commissioners approved the plan by a 3-1 vote, with Barry W. Bowen voting against it.