

**SPECIAL COUNTY BOARD MEETING  
FORD COUNTY BOARD MINUTES  
JANUARY 24, 2019**

**\*\*AMENDED PER CB MEETING HELD ON FEBRUARY 11, 2019 – UNDER COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR – DEAN\*\***

**A. CALL TO ORDER:**

The County Board of Ford County met pursuant to adjournment in the Ford County Large Court Room of the Ford County Courthouse in Paxton on Thursday, January 24, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was called to order by County Board Chairman, Robert Lindgren.

**B. ROLL CALL:**

The roll call showed the following board members in attendance: Mrs. C. Ihrke, Mr. Ferguson, Mrs. Smith, Mr. May, Mr. McQuinn, Mr. Aubry, Mrs. A. Ihrke, Mr. Nuss, Vice Chairman Chase McCall and Chairman Lindgren.

**C. PLEDGE TO THE FLAG AND INVOCATION:**

Chairman Lindgren

**D. APPROVAL OF THE BOARD AGENDA:**

Mr. McQuinn made a motion to approve the Agenda as stated. Mrs. A. Ihrke seconded it.

Voice Vote – Carried

**E. OLD BUSINESS:**

The board reviewed Appendix A, page 10, section L. Setbacks, paragraph 1. There was a brief discussion. Mr. McQuinn made the motion to change the paragraph to read as follows: (recommendations in **bold**)

1. From all property lines: All WECS towers shall be setback a distance of not less than **2250** Feet or **4** times the height of the WECS including the blades at the highest point, whichever is greater. Adjacent property owner(s) may waive this setback requirement. The distance for the above setback will be measured in a straight line from the point of the primary structure foundation for a participating land owner and for non-participating land owners from the property line closest to the WECS tower to the center of the WECS tower foundation. The participating owner of the primary structure or the non-participating owner of the property in question may waive this setback requirement; but in no case shall a WECS tower be located closer to a primary structure than **1000** feet. Mrs. C. Ihrke seconded it. There was a discussion on the recommendations. After discussion a roll call was taken. Roll Call – 8 – Yeas – 2 Nays

(2 - Nays – Ferguson & Aubry)

**Motion Failed – needed 9 Yeas**

Mrs. Smith made the motion to reconsider Mr. McQuinn's motion: to change page 10, section L. Setbacks, paragraph 1. to read as follows:

(recommendations in **bold**)

1. From all property lines: All WECS towers shall be setback a distance of not less than **2250** Feet or **4** times the height of the WECS including the blades at the highest point, whichever is greater. Adjacent property owner(s) may waive this setback requirement. The distance for the above setback will be measured in a straight line from the point of the primary structure foundation for a participating land owner and for non-participating land owners from the property line closest to the WECS tower to the center of the WECS tower foundation. The participating owner of the primary structure or the non-participating owner of the property in question may waive this setback requirement; but in no case shall a WECS tower be located closer to a primary structure than **1000** feet. Mr. McQuinn seconded it. There was a discussion on the recommendations. After discussion a roll call was taken. Roll Call – 9 – Yeas – 1 Nay

(Nay – Aubry)

**Motion Carried**

Then the board briefly discussed J. Height. After discussion Mrs. Smith made the motion to change Page 10, paragraph J. Height to read: (changes in **bold**) WECS tower tip height shall not exceed **five hundred (500)** feet. Mr. Nuss seconded it. Roll Call – 10 – Yeas – 0 Nays

**Motion Carried**

Then there was a discussion to remove paragraph 3. On page 11 in blue.

#### F. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

#### G. NEW BUSINESS:

#### H. COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR:

Clerk Frederick announced that all letters and emails that were sent to her have been copied and each board member has a copy in front of them tonight. Several citizens spoke to the board about issues and concerns with the windfarm ordinance. Each was given 5 minutes to speak:

- Rich - Spoke about revenue for Ford County and he hopes the board did the right thing by setting the setbacks tonight.
- Howard - Lives in Mona twp. and his family farm has been in his family for over 100 years. He stated he's never been restricted on his property and he is not happy about the setbacks tonight and now he feels he will be restricted. Now he needs 10 waivers and it takes only 1 to stop it.
- Kaylin - Stated 2250 from property line will probably kill the wind farms from going up. She stated she hopes the board won't raise taxes.
- Kim - Lives in Brenton twp. biggest concerns are who determines quality of their life and she urged the board to look for other options.
- Jim - Thanked everyone for all their hard work and stated he was in favor of the 2250 setback.
- Jody - With Pattern Energy, stated that they don't want to cause any safety and health issues because it doesn't help they're company for the future. He also stated that the 2250 setback does put them in a difficult spot now and this will not work for them and the project is in serious jeopardy.
- Pam - Their youngest son recently heard the turbine noises. She is afraid the turbines will take away everything her family has worked for and that land values will go down. She then stated they're taking away good farm ground and agriculture.
- Joanne - Thanked the county board for their work on the ordinance and stated still need to look into noise and shadow flicker and would like to see a safe distance from her home.
- Karen - Read a letter stating citizens have told the county board their concerns. She feels there needs to be a compromise.
- Eric - Lives in rural Thawville, spoke about opportunity with renewable energy.
- Michael - With Wind Energy Group believes the new setbacks may pin neighbor against neighbor. He realizes the county board is doing their best however they will now be unable to develop in Ford County.
- Mark - Read a message from Erin Baker with Apex, with the new setbacks they will not be able to set up a wind farm and she appreciates the boards time and consideration.
- Denny - Feels the board has eliminated a lot of acres of farm land.
- Dean - Feels if the board leaves the 2250 setbacks that we're taking away owners' rights.  
\*\*He also added if these companies pull out, other companies will move in because the wind and soil in Ford County is ideal for wind farms.\*\*

**\*\*AMENDMENT\*\* from Feb. 11, 2019 County Board Minutes** - A. Ihrke made the motion to revise Jan. 24, 2019 minutes. C. Ihrke seconded it - Voice Vote - Carried

**I. ADJOURNMENT:**

Mr. Ferguson stated he would like to set a Zone Meeting to be held on Thursday, January 31, 2019 at 9A.M. in the Small Courtroom in the Courthouse.

Mrs. Smith moved to adjourn at 8:51 P.M. Mr. Nuss seconded it.

**J. PROCLAMATION:**

**The next monthly meeting will be Monday, February 11, 2019 at 7:00 P.M.**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Amy Frederick, County Clerk

Approved \_\_\_\_\_

DRAFT