

**SPECIAL COUNTY BOARD MEETING
FORD COUNTY BOARD MINUTES
DECEMBER 4, 2018**

***** Amended on January 14, 2019***
(G. Under New Business)**

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 Tuesday, December 4, 2018 at 6:00 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: Cindy Ihrke, Tom McQuinn, Tim Nuss, Chuck Aubry, Dr. Ray, Randy Ferguson, Gene May, Jason Johnson, Ann Ihrke, Vice Chairman Chase McCall and Chairman Lindgren.

C. PLEDGE TO THE FLAG AND INVOCATION:

Sheriff Doran/Chairman Lindgren

D. APPROVAL OF THE BOARD AGENDA:

Chairman Lindgren revised the order of the Agenda by moving Comments from the floor to after Review/Discussion/Possible Action of Ford Co. Zoning Ordinance Appendix A Windfarm Ordinance. Mr. Nuss made a motion to approve the revised Agenda as stated. Dr. Ray seconded it. Voice Vote – Carried

E. OLD BUSINESS:

F. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

G. NEW BUSINESS:

The board reviewed the Index of the Appendix A, after discussion A. Ihrke made the motion to change 1X. to read Birds & Bats. C. Ihrke seconded it. On page 6. J. Height, after discussion Dr. Ray made the motion to change the height not to exceed five hundred (500) feet. Mr. Ferguson seconded it.

***** AMENDMENT** per County Board meeting January 14, 2019, adding a statement of, Discussion regarding setbacks from property lines. Mr. McQuinn moved to approve the revised December 4, 2018 and the December 10 & 13, 2018 Board Minutes. Mr. Ferguson seconded it. Voice Vote – Carried***

H. COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR:

Several citizens spoke to the board about issues and concerns with the windfarm ordinance. Each was given 5 minutes to speak:

- Mike M. with Labor Union supports windfarm growth. Spoke about the solid employment opportunities when the windfarm goes up. Thanked the board for their deliberation and time.
- Tim R. was also with the Labor Union, passed out handouts. Spoke about knowing who the limits will effect and that the job opportunities are every day, when a project ends, they find another one.
- Lesley K. encouraged the board to speak to families living near a wind farm and those that are not near one. She urges the board to seek the truth about wind farms.
- Jerry C. has worked on the Planning Commission and applauds everyone for their work on the ordinance. Asks that the board get all the facts and findings this is an important source of revenue.
- Jim K. is interested in everyone's property rights. He suggested 2 setbacks be put in the ordinance 1 – with non participating residents and 1 – with participating residents.

- Ralph D. is a volunteer fireman discussed that there are no set backs on the highway, and An emergency helicopter cannot come within 350' of a wind turbine to rescue someone.
- Gene H. spoke to the board that Button Twp. has improved greatly with the windfarms.
- Joe P. had 3 letters from land owners unable to attend; he only had time to read one from concerned owners asking what has happened since the original ordinance was formed.
- Jeremy D. Superintendent of GCMS School spoke about how well GCMS is doing with the windfarm revenue and how he has been able to cut taxes 3 years in a row for tax payers.
- Robert F. spoke that he has attended all the other meetings and that Lyman Twp. has no other Source of income other than the windfarms and is afraid the way things are going that the county will get split up.
- Deny J. has lived within 3 miles of Gibson City his whole life and that the public feels taxes are too high and looking back on the Nov. 6, 2018 GE reminding the board the Safety Tax question did not pass. He spoke that he felt the last meeting went well but now the anti-wind farm people and starting up again.
- Steve E. feels the government should not force a windfarm up if land owner does not want one up. However the setbacks presented will kill the windfarms. He also pointed out that no matter where you go outside, you hear noise and gave several examples.
- Kaylyn D. discussed her issues with the setbacks. Spoke about normal life noises and setbacks in other counties also about the price of coal and food increasing.
- Joanne F. spoke of concerns again with safe setbacks.
- Darrell F. spoke that he feels the issues are pinning neighbor against neighbor. He also spoke about how even WCIA reporting the tornado information stated that the wind farms were showing on radar.
- Patty M. spoke that the wind turbines get taller but nothing else is changing.
- Greg B. suggested the new Chairman of the board needs to take control of the meeting.
- Erin B. with Apex who is developing in the Gibson City and Sibley areas suggested not to consider one by one but as a whole when going through the ordinance. Property line set backs – balance is important.
- Jaclyn F. would like to clear up one point, GPS windfarms need to show coordinance that's why they are showing on radar.
- Jonathan R. stated he is a professor of arrow space dynamics and one focus he looks at is ice fragments. He went on to explain how he simulates this study.
- Ella R. is a mechanical engineer and Pattern Energy asked her to speak. She discussed the entire decommissioning process.
- Ian B. is a Senior Specialist asked to speak by Pattern Energy. He discussed the noise issues and that the Illinois Pollution Control Board has set different times of the day noise pollution levels including a 24 hour level and a 1 year average.
- Jeff B. Tri-Point Superintendent discussed agriculture. He stated different scenarios that would eliminate windfarms from building and cutting revenue for the county.
- Karen W. doesn't like what she's hearing, in Wisconsin there were findings of noise found in homes. She also stated she agrees with a 2250' setback and agrees that this is pinning neighbor against neighbor.
- Mary Ann H. owns 5 acres and is concerned about her small animals. She stated the noise bothers her dogs, she understands about noises outside everyday but the noises shouldn't be in our homes.
- Steve P. is the Labor's local manager spoke about the jobs and families and how 85% of the workers are from the local area.
- James M. with Pattern Energy went through things we agrees and disagrees with in the ordinance.
- Michael C. with Kelly Creek spoke about giving the board the facts so they can come to a reasonable agreement.
- Jay K. is a licensed professional engineer and has lived near Melvin since 1997. He gave a few recommendations to the board. He also spoke about noise and the effects to the home.

- Adam R. with Pattern Energy apologized to Ann & Cindy Ihrke for the flyers that went out even though he had nothing to do with them. He reminded the board to find a middle ground. He believes the ordinance had been done thoughtfully and encourages to keep politics out of the decision.
- Jerry W. hopes the board works through the ordinance with respect, less than 2% has with windfarms.
- Jody L. with Pattern Energy reviewed setbacks.
- Emily L. lives between Sibley and Gibson City stated that sometimes there's no good fit, there's a lot of benefits and a lot of bad effects too. She ended with that the setbacks should be from the property line not the structure.
- Mark G. stated the county board is doing a legislative action and he spoke on testimony of Paul S.

I. ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Nuss moved to adjourn at 10:01 P.M. Cindy Ihrke seconded it.

J. PROCLAMATION:

The next monthly meeting will be Monday, December 10, 2018 at 7:00 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,
Amy Frederick, County Clerk

Approved _____

DRAFT