

December 18, 2019

The Page County Board of Supervisors met in session on this 18th day of December 2019, with Chuck Morris, Alan Armstrong, and Jon Herzberg present. On a motion by Herzberg, seconded by Morris, the board moved to approve the agenda. Present from the public were John VanNostrand, Ryan Matheny, Bradford Mueller, Mark Zaccone, Gabe Klooster, Duane Rexroth, Tim Johnson, Tom Nordhues, Darin Sunderman, Jess Erdman, Jacob Holmes, Kaitlynn Holmes & family, Andy Rine, Brian Holmes, Beth Steeve, John Conner, Linda Stoops, Eddie Engstrand, Rex Engstrand, Marlan Tiemann, Ralph Braymen, Judy Braymen, Robert Wright, Jethro E. Shaw, Blake Scroggs, Ryan Urkoski, Ashley Urkoski, Shirley Long, Gary Davison, Phyllis Davison, Charle Hall, Sharon Hall, Newt Heaton, Dean Weiss, Debbie Weiss, Jane Stimson, Jon Stimson, Richard Morgan-Fine, Terry Baldwin, Bryan Nelson, Rodney Stevens, Pat Behrhorst, Rodney Behrhorst, Dwight Nelson Sr., Darin Proffit, Colton Beery, Alan Nothwehr, Ellen Nothwehr and Heather Weiss.

Armstrong stated this is a town hall meeting for the wind turbines. He opened the meeting to the public. Newt Heaton stated he has worked with people with wind turbines, and they put a lot of tax money into your county. If we are looking for property tax relief, he believes we need to look into it. He feels there are a lot of benefits for the county. Shirley Long stated she has a lease with the company. Long commented on the sound, as she feels there is not a terrific amount of noise just more like a hum. Morris corrected a misstatement from Monday night's meeting regarding the setback. The set back is 1500 feet if you are a non-participant and 1250 feet if you are a participating landowner. Jacob Holmes stated there is a loop-hole in the ordinance. According to the numbers discussed in Clarinda, the ordinance allows for the company, in cooperation with your neighbor, to build a windmill as close as 220 feet from your property line. He feels a group of property owners are giving up their property rights without being compensated, and the Board needs to take a look at the loop-hole in the ordinance. Gary Davison lives in area where wind turbines are being built, and he also has a concern that the setback isn't far enough. Davison would like to see the setback be one half mile from any non-participant, and he feels the noise and flicker is unacceptable. Heaton stated if we are worried about the noise then we would need to look into ordinances for grain bin fans too. Jon Slater stated he is concerned with the setback and believes that once you sign a lease you are giving up your rights to your farm. Holmes stated the loop-hole needs fixed immediately, whether you are for or against wind turbines in the county. Morris stated the ordinance is in place to protect landowners, and it isn't perfect but that is why the board is having these meetings. Urkoski stated he feels the ordinance does not protect non-participants' rights. Armstrong stated not everyone is going to be happy with every decision made, but it is the Board of Supervisors responsibility to look in this. Blake Scroggs stated he feels Page County should set a precedence and not be like everyone else. Jon Stimson agrees with Scroggs and adds it wouldn't be good for those that want the windmills but feels there should be a way to compromise. Stimson feels the Board of Supervisors should consider reaching a good fair compromise. Armstrong explained that windmills would be beneficial for keeping taxes from rising. Herzberg stated tax levies have remained pretty much the same since he has been on the board and that school bonds and valuations cause taxes to increase. Herzberg stated windmills could cause levies to

decrease. Richard Morgan-Fine stated he has an issue with the setbacks being too large. Rex Engstrand asked how many of the 99 counties in Iowa have ordinances in place. Morris stated he isn't sure. Engstrand stated anytime an ordinance gets put in place you are creating an entry barrier. Rodney Behrhorst felt as if leases should be discussed. Armstrong stated the board has no say on the leases and he needs to talk to those individuals leasing the windmills. Stimson discussed roads accessing turbines. Baldwin asked how many turbines are going to be built in Page County and what the economic benefits would be. Morris stated they are uncertain about this information. Baldwin thanked the Board of Supervisors for having the meeting. Morris stated heated discussions show passion, and the Board is trying to be considerate. Morris discussed decommissioning. Jane Stimson thanked the board for passing the ordinance but she is concerned with visual pollution. Phyllis Davison discussed safety concerns if a windmill caught on fire. Pat Behrhorst stated landowners should make sure to get a lawyer if you are looking into putting a windmill on their property, and she believes there is a red flag if you must get a lawyer to look at a lease. Holmes asked about how quickly the Board will look into amending this ordinance. Morris stated they will look into at the mid-January meeting. Ashley Urkoski stated the Board of Supervisors have been sitting on this ordinance since October. Morris discussed that is not a true statement. The Board feels they have a good ordinance and that is why nothing has been amended, but that is why these meetings are being held for people to voice their opinions. Kaitlynn Holmes stated the Board really needs to look into changing the setback from the front door to property line. Gary Davison thanked the board once again for having these meetings. Herzberg motioned, Morris seconded, meeting adjourned at 6:20

With no further business, the board adjourned at 6:20pm and will meet again, Tuesday January 7, 2020.

Alan Armstrong, Chairman

Page County Board of Supervisors

Kristi Clark

Page County Deputy Auditor