

HARDIN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
MINUTES – OCTOBER 21, 2019  
MONDAY - 2:00 P.M.  
COURTHOUSE LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM

At 2:00 p.m. the Board met for a wind turbine ordinance work session. Present were Supervisors Reneé McClellan, Lance Granzow, and BJ Hoffman; and Jessica Sheridan, Mark Buschkamp, Taylor Roll, Angela De La Riva, Bette Dossman, Jeff Roberts, Mike McCartney, and Angela Silvey.

The purpose of the meeting was gather input on the contents of a new wind turbine ordinance, with the goal of passing the ordinance prior to the construction of a wind farm in western Hardin County, slated for 2022.

Discussion was held on setback distances from residential dwellings and from blade to ground. Jessica Sheridan, County Environmental Health Specialist and Zoning Administrator, provided figures from the Iowa Environmental Council's best practices worksheet and other counties' ordinances for comparison.

Hoffman brought up the perceived health impacts of wind turbines, acknowledging the concern, but questioning the objectivity of studies that allege harm.

Granzow and Sheridan addressed farmers' concerns, with Granzow wondering whether or not farmers could halt turbine operation in order to spray via airplane and what depth topsoil should be restored to following decommission of a turbine. Sheridan contemplated limiting construction to non-harvest months.

Attendees discussed regulations which could avoid damage to the county drainage districts and road system.

McClellan, acknowledging she felt protective of the Greenbelt area, suggested creating no-build zones and maps of locations from which companies would need separation distances.

Bette Dossman, on behalf of E.ON, advised Humboldt County had consulted with several wind companies in the creation of its ordinance to achieve a balance between county and business interests.

Regarding landowner leases, Dossman stated that language in the leases prevents one landowner from getting a better deal than another and that the existence of a lease does not necessarily indicate a parcel will receive a turbine, as work on some land may be below-ground. Further, according to Dossman, E.ON pays landowners regardless of whether or not a turbine is sited on their property.

McClellan requested the Board meet again once a rough draft of the new ordinance is ready.

The meeting concluded at 3:08 p.m.

At 6:00 p.m. the meeting reconvened for a Hardin County Economic Development Advisory Council Meeting. Present were Supervisors Renee McClellan, Lance Granzow, and BJ Hoffman; and John Enslin, Ben Speck, Angela De La Riva, Darrell Meyer, Dave Rubow, Martin Reimer, Robin Sampson, and Angela Silvey.

Martin Reimer, Ellsworth Community College Provost, reviewed the IVCCD bond referendum up for vote November 5, 2019, and the planned safety and structural improvements to the ECC's facilities, if passed.

Discussion was held about the Advisory Council's responsibilities and County Economic Development Director Angela De La Riva's role as liaison between the council and the Board of Supervisors. Granzow, Hoffman, and County Attorney Darrell Meyer concurred that keeping the Advisory Council and Board of Supervisors separate is the best way forward.

De La Riva advised that bylaws, an economic development policy, and Articles of Incorporation were planned, along with a confidentiality agreement and Strategic Plan/5 Year Plan.

Meyer raised the option of purchasing errors and omissions insurance coverage to protect against confidentiality breaches. No action was taken.

Dave Rubow requested to see a draft of the bylaws at the next meeting so they can be discussed and the council can set up its officer structure. Rubow also requested an estimate of monies available annually and parameters the Board will consider when acting on funding recommendations forwarded by the council. Granzow said he expected those parameters to be set forth in an economic development policy, to be approved at a future Board of Supervisors meeting.

De La Riva scheduled the Advisory Council's next meeting for Monday, November 18, 2019, at 6:00 p.m. at the courthouse, with the day and time subject to change as membership grows.

The meeting adjourned at 7:16 p.m.

/s/ Reneé McClellan  
Reneé McClellan, Chair  
Board of Supervisors

/s/ Jessica Lara  
Jessica Lara  
Hardin County Auditor