

MARSHALL COUNTY BOARD MEETING

November 14, 2019

The Marshall County Board met in the Marshall County Court Room for the November Board meeting on November 14, 2019 at 8:34 a.m. and the meeting was moved to the court room due to extra guest speakers. Chairman Kroeschen called the meeting to order. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, roll call shows: Chairman Kroeschen, Vice-Chairman McGlasson, Stash, Donna, McLaughlin, Minnick, Johnson, Bakewell, Daykin and Lindstrom present. Balensiefen and Gauwitz were absent.

It was moved by Lindstrom and seconded by Stash to approve the minutes for 10/10/19 as presented. Vote shows all ayes, 0 nays, 2 absent, motion carried.

County Engineer Pat Sloan reported on Zoning. Sloan stated that he provided a list of building permits that were issued for 2019 and about \$11,000 was collected in revenue. The next ZBA hearing is scheduled for November 21st at 7 P.M. to consider a special use application for a small Cannabis Cultivation and Processing Facility, then the Zoning Committee will meet on December 9th at the Highway Department.

The ZBA held a public hearing on October 17th to consider the Special Use Permit Application from Minonk Stewardship Wind LLC, a joint venture between Stewardship Energy LLC and Akuo Energy for a 92 Mega Watt Wind Farm. He stated that he had emailed the County Board the presentation of the meeting, the letters that were received and the record of all the calls that they had received. The County Board also received the minutes. The Board is receiving the application with neither a recommendation for or against, since a motion in support of the applicant at the ZBA received two for, two against and one abstained. From the Zoning Ordinance, "The County Board may grant or deny the application for a special use permit in whole or in part, with or without modification, or may return the application to the Zoning Board for more information. Sloan stated that he prepared a resolution for approval because that is normally how resolutions are worded. It has several conditions on it and its based on the evidence that was heard at the meeting. Sloan stated that there were seven conditions that were talked about at the hearing. The first two are conditions concerning road use and a decommissioning plan that is in the current ordinance. The other conditions are Flicker complains meaning shadows coming through the blades, a Good Neighbor Agreement that all the residence have been identified in the application with a minimum annual payment of \$250 for all nonparticipating residents that are not leasing ground for a turbine, noise complaints, flicker and nighttime lighting. These are the seven conditions that he received from the hearing.

Chairman Kroeschen allowed one short brief comment from Minonk Stewardship Wind. Nick GeBauer was present, and he wanted to thank everyone, and all the facts were presented last month at the ZBA meeting. He stated that this is a great opportunity for the County both in terms for jobs and tax dollars in the amount of \$22 million dollars with 2/3 of the money going to Fieldcrest School with a great source of jobs, revenue and great source of tax dollars to help with issues that need to be taken care of. They understand that there is a hand full of people that are skeptical of the project and they understand but there are also people that are supportive of this project. Nick stated that everyone needs to think what is best for the County and the opportunity that it will bring like jobs, revenue and tax dollars to the County. Bakewell asked Nick what is the timeline what are we looking at? Nick stated that they will close financing on the project in June of 2020. Some of the groundbreaking will be done next year and the first delivery of the Turbines will be in May of 2021 and be in full operation by September of 2021. This will create 11 permanent jobs. There will be 148 temporary construction jobs that will be created during the construction phase. During the construction period the temporary employees utilize the local restaurants and local businesses.

Kari Rockwell who recently moved to the community and will be the new Superintendent of Fieldcrest CUSD #6 starting January of 2020. She expressed her concerns with the school building and that they have over \$20 million dollars of repairs that need to be done with the buildings. She stated we need to think of our kids, school and repairs that need to be made to these buildings to make them safe for the kids and the community. She stated that \$12 million dollars would really help relieve taxpayers from having to come up with this extra money. She stated this is an amazing opportunity for the school district. She also stated that there is a \$35,000 state funding loss.

Rhonda Weppler Gordon was there to speak in favor of the Bennington Township Wind Turbine Initiative. She stated that she was raised in Groveland Township which is near Rutland. Her father owned and operated a farm that is being considered for a Turbine. This location is at the north end area, across from Ruff Rail in Rural Toluca. She currently lives in Champaign County one mile from four wind turbines. She stated that their current farm was not considered for the project in her County because they are in the flight path for Chanute Field Air Force Base. If they would have been able to, they would have considered it most definitely. She stated that she is a retired schoolteacher and her local school district received over \$600,000 per year. This particular school district is smaller than Fieldcrest and the benefits the school received was amazing. The roads were improved. She feels that this will positively benefit the local economy. She also stated she pays taxes in Marshall County but does not live here.

Chris Renken who lives on County Rd 300N has lived there for 46 years. In 2001 he received a traumatic head trauma and he stated that these Turbines gives him severe headaches. Farming is his only income. He expressed to the Board he's not sure what he will do if the Windmills come in.

Rich Roeing who is on the Zoning Board and the one who voted no. He presented the County Board with a petition that was signed by 30 people who are not in favor of this project. He stated that Pat Sloan presented some conditions and he hopes they are met. One being the Airplane Detection System. He understands that there would a financial burden, and everyone has their own opinion. He also stated he understands the need for funding for our schools, but this burden is being placed on the citizens in this area.

Myrna Haas was present. She stated that she didn't receive the Good Neighbor Policy. They have called her, came to her house, they emailed her and even called her child who is a minor. She stated that she does not live on the farm, but it is a centennial farm that has been in her family. She lives in Bloomington and visits the family farm in Rutland. She is a nurse and understands the concerns with people with traumatic head injuries her husband being one along with Chris Renken. She feels that Wind Turbines are not the answer to everything.

Chairman Kroeschen noted that they have had opposition for solar as well.

Rebecca Donna stated that she was at the ZBA hearing and there were 23 people who spoke at the hearing that were against the Wind Turbines and the 4 that were for it were all absentee land owners who have a financial interest in having the Turbines built. She stated that she received text messages, emails and phone calls from 33 different people who have made the time and effort by asking her to vote no on this project since she is a County Board Member. She represents Bennington Township and she feels that it is her duty to honor the people she serves on the Board and if we don't there is a problem.

Debbie Daykin who is a County Board Member that lives in La Prairie Township stated she is surrounded by the Windmills. Her home is about a 1 ½ miles from the closes Windmill her home was not considered because she lives in a hilly area. Daykin stated that she is on the Board in La Prairie Township and have received a nice portion for roads, and they did not damage the roads when they were being built. None of the money went towards the roads as they were not damaged. She stated that because of the Wind Towers they have better roads because of the money received. She has heard no negative comments about them.

Brad Lindstrom who is a County Board Member stated that when putting up these Wind Farms you can farm underneath them but if you put Solar Farms in you are taking farm ground out.

Finance Chairman Bob Bakewell stated that our assessed valuation has went up 1% this has been stable for the last year and that this depends on the economy of the Agriculture.

#19-87 A motion was made from Johnson and seconded by Stash to **approve Special Use Permit #18-224 Minonk Stewardship Wind, LLC**

Roll Call Vote shows: 9 yes, 1 no and 2 absent.

Pat Sloan reported on Highway. He stated that the next ZBA hearing will be Thursday, November 21st in the County Boardroom for a Cannabis Cultivation and Processing Facility. The Zoning Committee will have a meeting on December 9th at 10:00 A.M. at the Highway Department.

Break was held 9:45 A.M.-9:56 A.M.

Sloan reported they have a few bids out for a new snowplow truck and a spray patch machine. They received a grant in the amount of \$80,000 for the spray patch machine. Tiger grant which is a federal grant and we were not selected for this grant. In January he may try again for the grant and this would be for the Western Road alignment project. The Yankee Lane project will be seeded next year, and they may be able to paint stripe the road this next week. Weather has not cooperated. The temperature must be at 50 degrees for them to paint.

Sloan reported on Recycling. They had the event and they collected 27,000 pounds. Three County Board Members helped with the event. There were 2 semi loads with 28% from Putnam County and 72% from Marshall County.

#19-88 It was moved by Stash and seconded by Donna to **approve the EMA contract with Lenz Brother for rent.**

Vote shows: 9 ayes, 0 nays, 1 abstained and 2 absent.

#19-89 It was moved by Donna and seconded by Lindstrom to **approve and Ordinance Prohibiting Cannabis Business Establishments.**

Roll Call Vote shows: 0 yes, 10 no and 2 absent.

#19-90 It was moved by Bakewell and seconded by Daykin to **approve 2019 Levy.**

Vote shows: all ayes, 0 nays, and 2 absent.

#19-91 It was moved by Bakewell and seconded by Minnick to **approve 2020 Budget.**

Vote shows: all ayes, 0 nays, and 2 absent.

The Board thanked Finance Chairman Bob Bakewell for all the work he put into preparing the Levy & Budget.

#19-92 It was moved by Bakewell and seconded by Daykin to **approve Trustee Tax Resolution 06-07-328-009 (Roberts Township).**

Vote shows: all ayes, 0 nays, and 2 absent.

It was moved by Minnick and seconded by Stash for the **Payment of Bills.**

Vote shows: all ayes, 0 nays and 2 absent.

Committee Reports:

Animal Control: Minnick reported that there are currently 2 dogs. One is a boxer that the owner can't afford to pay the fine.

Building & Grounds: Johnson reported that the Master Gardner's came and downsized the flower beds. The heat is currently not working at the Courthouse and ESCO was on their way to fix it.

EMA: McLaughlin reported they had a meeting and approved the schedule for next year. The Courthouse Emergency operation for the Courthouse was approved. The \$3,000 that was received from Mexichem is being used to purchase a laptop and tough book. Rich also attended a conference, and School Districts have completed their drills.

Finance/Budget: Nothing to report.

County Highway & Recycling: Lindstrom reported that the salt has increased by 60%. Ozinga is building a very large storage facility.

Human Resources & IT: Lindstrom reported they are still working on the language for the education reimbursement.

Judicial Offices: Nothing to report.

Lower Level Offices: Nothing to report.

Public Transportation: Nothing to report.

County Sheriff & Coroner: Minnick reported that the Jail passed their inspection.

Airport: Nothing to report.

Economic Development & Enterprise Zone: McGlasson reported they had their seminar on Saturday and not many in attendance, but there was some good discussion.

ETSB (911): McLaughlin reported that the next generation 911 equipment is installed and working. He is currently is working on WTH Technology for the mapping changes. Mike hopes to have the project completed by the summer of 2020. The Dispatch Center has been certified through the State of Illinois and Dept of Public Health as emergency medical dispatch provider, we are in the process of being certified with the Peoria area EMS through OSF as the medical provider, this is a requirement of the current state 911 law, Peoria Police Dispatch and our center are the only two centers certified. The next meeting will be Wednesday, November 20th at 6:00 P.M. in the County Board room.

Health Dept.: Lindstrom stated they had a meeting in October. They are also working on hiring a nurse. They are still struggling on enforcing the No Smoking. Also working on private Health Insurance billing and Medicare reimbursement.

Human Services Transportation Comm.: Daykin reported the next meeting is December 3rd.

Marshall-Putnam Extension: Nothing to report.

Regional Office of Education: Nothing to report.

Tri-County Opportunities: Johnson reported they had a meeting

Upper IL River Valley Development Authority: Bakewell reported that there would not be a meeting in November.

Zoning & Land Use: Stash reported the next meeting is November 21st.

Various Correspondence: Chairman Kroeschen noted that UCCI is having a seminar and meeting.

At 10:26 A.M. it was moved by Bakewell and seconded by Minnick to **adjourn** the meeting.

12/12/19 It was moved by Stash and seconded by Lindstrom to approve the **minutes**

11/14/19 as presented. Vote shows: all ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent. Motion carried.