

**JO DAVIESS COUNTY
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 22, 2005**

CALL TO ORDER: Chairperson of the Jo Daviess County Board, Merri Berlage, called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. on Thursday, September 22, 2005 at the Jo Daviess County Board Room, Jo Daviess County Courthouse, Galena, Illinois.

ROLL CALL was answered as follows: Present-Beth Baranski, Merri Berlage, Joanne Bielenda, Jody Carroll, William Cooper, Vincent Hasken, Dane Jackson, Alan Kent, Ron Mapes, Margie Montelius, Tim Petitgout, Yerda Potter, Domer Schubert, Marvin Schultz, Sally Toepfer and Jack Zillig. Present: 16. Absent-Terry Stoffregen. Absent: 1.

THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was led by Chairperson Berlage.

THE INVOCATION and thought for the day were given by Tim Petitgout.

AGENDA ITEM I – CITIZENS’ COMMENTS

Steve Holsinger, 13211 E. Canyon Road opposes the application to issue a Special Use Permit for the construction of a wind farm in Nora Township. He said he would be directly affected by the wind towers, because he operates an ultra light plane and would not feel comfortable with operating it so near the towers.

Sue McGivney, 4594 N. Tiger Whip Road, asked that the board delay their vote of the Special Use Permit for the wind farm. She feels that some board members did not receive the information in a timely manner in order to make an informed decision. She said Nora Township has a special meeting set to discuss the wind farm and asks the County Board to delay their vote until after the Nora Township meeting.

Joe McGivney, 4594 N. Tiger Whip Road, said that there is only one wind farm with a two MW tower in the world, which is in India, and now you are considering allowing five of them in Jo Daviess County. He asked the board to think about this before they make their decision.

Linnea Dowden, 13-A-129 Powder Horne Lane said she feels the Special Use Permit for the wind farm is being pushed through too quickly. She asked if this is approved, will there be more wind farms or will this be the only one. She asked board members to take their time and study the materials before voting.

AGENDA ITEM II – UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business brought before the board.

AGENDA ITEM III – NEW BUSINESS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

PLANNING COMMISSION:

A motion to approve the Planning Commission's recommendation to issue a Special Use Permit to Oak Prairie Wind Farm, John Creighton and Cecil Creighton, owners, to allow for the construction of a wind farm consisting of five wind energy conversion units in Sections 8 and 17, Nora Township with road frontage on East Canyon Road, North Mammoser Road and North Tiger Whip Road was made by Jody Carroll, seconded by Beth Baranski.

Bill Cooper urged board members to be careful with this proposal. He thinks there will be a possibility of more wind farms in the county if this allowed to go through. He also said he feels the information was not available in sufficient time for board members to review and make an informed decision.

Margie Montelius asked Board Chair Merri Berlage to explain why the board was meeting this evening. Board Chair Merri Berlage said there were deadlines that needed to be met and this was the only evening available for a meeting.

Jack Zillig agreed with Bill Cooper and said he did not have enough time to review the information and feels he would like more time to consider the proposal.

Sally Toepfer said she attended all the meetings and was impressed with the amount of information that was presented. She said she feels that the Planning Commission carefully weighed every detail before making their recommendation to the board.

Marvin Schultz made a motion to amend the original motion to read that an administrative review by the Building and Zoning Department be done six months after construction and operations begin on the project, with cooperation of the applicant for access to the wind tower properties, for the evaluation of concerns brought forward at the public hearings. Some examples but not limited to these concerns are: sound, flicker, vibrations, traffic, etc. and the results of the review is to be shared with the Development and Planning Committee to ascertain if our Wind Energy Conversion System Ordinance is appropriately doing what the county wants. The amendment to the original motion was seconded by Jack Zillig.

Yerda Potter asked who will do the study and Marvin Schultz stated that the Building and Zoning Department would do the review.

Merri Berlage asked John Creighton if he would grant access to the property for the review and John stated that would be acceptable.

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The amendment to allow for an administrative review by the Building and Zoning Department to be done six months after construction and operations begin on the wind farm project was approved by voice vote.

The original motion to approve the Special Use Permit for the wind farm including the amendment to allow for the administrative review was approved by voice vote with nay votes recorded for Bill Cooper, Marvin Schultz and Jack Zillig.

AGENDA ITEM IV – BOARD MEMBER CONCERNS

Margie Montelius agreed that the Planning and Zoning Committee did a thorough and complete job on the wind farm application.

Ron Mapes invited board members to the next Development and Planning Committee meeting where there will be a LESA presentation.

Bill Cooper said he hopes that the board will be able to live with their decision on the wind farm.

Marvin Schultz explained that he voted no on the Special Use for the wind farm only because he felt rushed in making a decision and felt that some board members did not have enough time to review the provided information. He feels the Zoning Board did a very good job on this request.

AGENDA ITEM V – CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Sue McGivney stated that she felt there was no reason that a special board meeting was needed for this wind farm request. She stated that she feels this was a favor to a former board member. Chairperson Berlage stated that special meetings have previously been held to meet deadlines and this was not an unusual procedure.

Ray Holesinger stated that the County was violating their own ordinance under the standards of the County Zoning Ordinance, which reads that no special use will be recommended for approval unless the Commission shall find that the Special Use will not be injurious to the use and enjoyment of other property in the immediate vicinity for the purpose already permitted. Chairperson Berlage stated that the Planning Commission did address that issue.

John Smith from Apple Canyon Lake stated that the approval of the wind farm opens the doors for more of these projects. He is afraid that they will appear in more areas and damage the scenic beauty of the county.

Linnea Dowden asked if there could be a microphone system installed so that the audience could better hear the proceedings of meetings. Chairperson Berlage stated that the board is presently looking into acquiring a sound system.

AGENDA ITEM VI – EXECUTIVE SESSION

The board entered Executive Session at 7:40 p.m. to discuss personnel following approval of a motion made by Tim Petitgout and seconded by Margie Montelius.

The motion carried by voice vote.

The board exited Executive Session at 8:05 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM VII – ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned following a motion made by Vince Hasken, seconded by Yerda Potter.

The motion to adjourn carried by voice vote.

Chairperson Berlage adjourned the meeting at 8:06 p.m. until 7 p.m. Tuesday, October 11, 2005 at the Jo Daviess County Board Room, Jo Daviess County Courthouse, Galena, Illinois.

Jean Dimke, Jo Daviess County Clerk