February 10, 2020

The Taylor County Board of Supervisors met in regular session with Jerry Murphy, Charles Ambrose, Doug Horton, and Auditor Bethany Murphy present.

Murphy made a motion seconded by Horton to approve the minutes of last meeting and today's agenda. Motion carried 3-0.

The Board went to the Courtroom to hold the public hearing on the Wind Turbine Ordinance. In attendance to the meeting were Loren Tornholm, Joyce Tornholm, Mike Irvin, Matthew Moore, Herb Christie, Barb Russell, Sylvia Drobny, Roger Dukes, Patrick Welch, Miranda Welch, Mark Zaccone, Delmer Derry, Lois Derry, Kurtis Christensen, Ron Naven, Trish Johnson, Sue Cox, Jim Rowe, Mike Webster, Randy Eide, Colleen Larimer, Alan Jones, Jess Weller, Sarah French, Chris French, Karen Mattes, Julie Robinson, Gregory Christensen, Belinda Ogle, Murry Thornton, Tim King, Layne Thornton, Ryan Urkoski.

At 10:00 a.m. Horton made a motion seconded by Murphy to open the public hearing on the Wind Turbine Ordinance #37.

Loren Tornholm stated that the two supervisors live in a town and only one lives out in the county and believes it is unfair they are protected by the one mile setback and the members of the county are not entitled to the same. He also questioned what decommissioning would entail. The decommissioning would require the structure to be removed and remove the concrete 4 feet down, and replace with black dirt. Mike Irvin asked with this would do to the tax base. Delmer Derry asked about cutting the field tile and how deep the electric lines would be underground. Kurtis Christensen worked in a field with a turbine in it and it made him sick from the flickering. He also did not like the 10:00 a.m. meeting start time. Karen Mattes is opposed. She is a nature lover and has been working hard on her yard and doesn't want one of those giant turbines to look at. She also believes it is a lazy way to get economic development. Jess Weller encouraged the supervisors to rethink the setbacks, possibly setup a good neighbor policy. Sarah French inquired when a phone line or internet line get cut because it is not properly marked who will be responsible to fix. Chris French asked how this would affect property values. Loren Tornholm asked for a map of where the turbines are going. A map is not available as turbine placement is not final. Also no map will be available as that is a private contract between the turbine company and the land owner. Ryan Urkoski wanted to discuss if the setback were from a front door or the property line. He also questioned the decibels levels around the turbines. Sylvia Drobney stated this was very reminiscent of the hog confinement issue. Murry Thornton said he was upset no one has said anything to him about possibility coming around his residence. The land owners that own the land around his house doesn't live in that area and wouldn't be affected. Chris French asked where the power goes. It will go into the power grid to be used wherever it is needed. Kurtis Christensen suggested they check with residence of the county that are already affected by wind turbines. Colleen Larimer asked what the plans for the next step are. The Board decided to hold the third and final public hearing on the Wind Turbine Ordinance for February 24, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. at the United Christian Presbyterian Church.

Horton made a motion seconded by Murphy to close the public hearing on the Wind Turbine Ordinance #37. Motion carried 3-0.

No further business came before the Board at this time, and the meeting was adjourned subject to call.

Attest:
Charles Ambrose, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors
Bethany Murphy, Taylor County Auditor