February 3, 2020

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

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

Jim Rowe and Trevor Wolf joined the meeting.

Wolf will be returning to work starting tomorrow.

10:00 a.m. the Board went to the Courtroom to hold the public hearing.

Members of the public present were Wendell Comer, Roger Dukes, Roger Gant, Loren Tornholm, Joyce Tornholm, Mark Zaccone, Marygrace Davenport, Barb Russell, Belinda Ogle, Julie Robinson, Stanley Mattes, Randy Eide, Scott Moulton, Sue Cox, Gregory Christensen, Sharon Dalton, Matthew Moore, Tracy Moore, Jeff Lange, Andy Thomas, Colleen Larimer.

Murphy made a motion second by Horton to open the public hearing on the Wind Turbine Ordinances. Motion carried 3-0.

Loren Tornholm opened the public comments stating he was very against the wind turbines. Marygrace Davenport is also opposed the turbines. She believes the setbacks are not far enough, there are health concerns from the flickering, and the wildlife that lives around them. Wendell Comer spoke in favor of the turbines. Stanley Mattes was in favor of pro responsible economic development, but has concerns that the setbacks are so far from towns and parks. Matthew Moore asked for a special setback around his property due to the special needs of his son. Andy Thomas stated that he also had a child that could be affected by the flicker effect. Marygrace stated that state law doesn’t protect rural Iowans and a quarter of a mile setback is not enough. She is also concerned that there will be an issue with the turbines that hasn’t been discovered yet. Jeff Lange spoke from the prospective of a person that currently lives among them. He wanted people to know that when the turbines are being constructed the roads are like highways, busy all the time. Where the Lange’s property is located they have 3 turbines around them and Mr. Lange said in the summer they can sit on the deck of their house and hear the turbines over the central air-conditioning unit of the house. He also stated that if you live close to the camp you should be compensated. Mr. Tornholm stated he did not like driving through them. Belinda Ogle asked what the county would receive for revenue. Charles Ambrose stated that the county and the school district would benefit. Assessor, Sharon Dalton spoke about how the turbines are assessed. Marygrace would like to see a one mile setback and approval from all the adjoining neighbors. Barb Russell asked who will pay the taxes on the wind turbines. The taxes will be paid by the wind company that owns the turbines. The supervisors are looking at the turbines as a way to produce revenue for the county and help possibly ease the burden on taxpayers.

Horton made a motion seconded by Murphy to close the public hearing on Wind Turbine Ordinance at 10:56 a.m. 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