

final

Douglass Township Planning Commission  
3521 West McBrides Rd  
Stanton, MI 48888  
989-762-8014  
Public Hearing Minutes  
April 26, 2023  
7:00 pm

**Call to order**

Meeting called to order by Rick Baldwin at 7 pm.

**Pledge Of Allegiance**

**Roll Call**

- Eric Tester present
- Melissa Bannen present
- Rick Baldwin present
- Kathy Craig present
- Matt Moorman present
- Mike Swan absent
- Jon Bailey absent

**Purpose of Public Hearing**

- Gather public input on the proposed Wind Energy Conversion Systems ordinance.

**Public Comments:**

- Rick Baldwin read the following, per the Douglass Township Bylaws section 8 b.(5): “All persons commenting shall state their names and addresses for the record. Persons commenting shall address the chairperson only. The chairperson may refer questions to the applicant or other persons present. Members of the public shall limit their comments to the subject of the hearing. All comments shall be given in a courteous manner and all persons shall refrain from offensive or disrespectful remarks. The chairperson may set a reasonable time limit for each speaker, to ensure an equal and fair opportunity for comment by all speakers within the allotted meeting time”.

**Public Comments**

Opened at 7:02 pm

Resident and Address	Comment
Steve and Sheila Crooks 3948 N. Holland Rd Stanton, MI 4888 *via email	We, Steve and Sheila Crooks, as residents and voters in Douglass Township, fully support the latest draft WECS ordinance published on the Douglass Township website. We believe the ordinance setbacks, height restrictions and maximum noise requirements are adequate and necessary to protect the health, safety and property values of our residents.

Kim Croy 4701 N. Grow Rd Stanton, MI 48888 *via email	A big thank you to the planning committee for creating a great wind ordinance for Douglass township.
Dave and Janet Cross 3250 W Kendaville Rd Stanton, MI 48888 *via email	This proposed WES Ordinance is a safe, protective and fair ordinance in which we fully support. Thank you for all your hard work creating it.
Gary and Lorrie Bell 633 N Grow Rd Stanton, MI 48888 *via email	We do support and thank you for all you are doing. We won't be able to make the meeting.
Mark and Kelli Richards 1197 N Nevins Rd Stanton, MI 48888 *via email	My husband and I are out of town so we will not make it to the meetings tonight. We have read the draft however and wanted to say we fully support the drafted ordinance. We thank you all for protecting the rights of the citizens who live in this township and making sure safety is of the utmost priority.
Tom Koepke 1151 Clifford Lake Dr Stanton, MI 48888	Thank you for the WECS. It offers better protections for citizens. Supports the setbacks, height, accountability and oversight of wind energy systems.
Lori Hecksel 251 Woodlawn Dr Stanton, MI 48888	Thank you to the Planning Commission. Did not see language in WECS addressing eagles, migratory birds and wildlife. Other than that it looks good.

### Public Comments

- Rick Baldwin closed public comment at 7:07 pm.

### Further commission Discussion/Action

- Kathy Craig reported that the phrase “rights of way” needs to be added to the first sentence of section 2.5(a) Commercial WECS: Site & Use Standards and Requirements. The addition would read: “The minimum setback from any property line of a Non-Participating Parcel or any road **right of way** is 1640 ft or 5 times the tip height of each turbine.”. Also, the phrase “right of way” needs to be stricken from the first sentence of section 2.5(d) Shadow Flicker. The deletion would result in the first sentence reading: “A commercial WECS must not produce any shadow flicker on i) public roads”. This was per the attorney, but was overlooked in editing.
- Melissa Bannen made a motion to put “right of way” back into the setbacks from property and to take it out after public roads under “Shadow Flicker”. Motion seconded by Eric Tester.  
Voice vote: Ayes: 5  
Nays: 0  
Motion carries.

- The PC addressed the concern about the eagles and wildlife, finding that it is addressed in section 2.3 Commercial WECS Application Requirements, in the environmental assessment portion.
- Eric Tester pointed out that the 7 public comments were for the ordinance and none were against it.
- Motion made by Eric Tester to send the proposed WECS ordinance to the township board, with the said changes regarding “right of way”, seconded by Matt Moorman.

Roll Call Vote:

Melissa Bannen	yes
Kathy Craig	yes
Eric Tester	yes
Matt Moorman	yes
Rick Baldwin	yes

Motion carries.

### **Adjourn**

- Eric Tester made motion to adjourn, seconded by Melissa Bannen. .  
Voice vote: Ayes: 5  
Nays: 0  
Motion carries.
- Meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kathy Craig  
Douglass Township Planning Commission Secretary