

Douglass Township
Planning Commission
Minutes
April 14, 2021

1. Call to order
2. Roll call
 - a. Jack Jeppesen - Present
 - b. Rick Baldwin - Present
 - c. Cindy Shick - Present
 - d. Patrick Althoff - Present
 - e. Todd Wells - Present (via phone - COVID)
 - f. Kevin Rush - Present
 - g. Tim Snyder - Present
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Approval of Agenda
 - a. Motion to amend the agenda to limit public comment to 10 minutes total, with 30 seconds per person or one minute if representing a group.
 - i. Motion by Pat Althoff
 - ii. Second by Tim Snyder
 - iii. Discussion
 1. Rick - question not having zoom, use money from state for Covid
 2. Jack - approved by Ron Redick
 3. Cindy - concern for violation of Open Meeting Act
 - iv. Roll Call Vote
 1. Jack Jeppesen - Yes
 2. Rick Baldwin - No
 3. Cindy Shick - No
 4. Patrick Althoff - Yes
 5. Todd Wells - Yes
 6. Tim Snyder - No
 7. Kevin Rush - No
 - v. Motion Denied
 - b. Motion: To Approve agenda
 - i. Motion by Tim Snyder
 - ii. Second by Pat Althoff
 - iii. Voice vote: Unanimous
 - iv. Motion Carried
5. Public Comment
 - a. Public comment: Three minutes per person.
 - i. One letter turned in for the public record may be requested from township office.
 - ii. Community in attendance
 1. Spoken comments:
 - a. Eric Tester (Douglass Township)- Concerns: Biggest, most complex decision yet; Industrial size affects everyone; None of us have lived near tower so please spend a week living under a turbine; Most people uninformed; Size taller than all of Detroit, much of Chicago, some of New York City; Some make money, but all are subsidizing with our taxes; Loves beauty of country; Once in place no going back.

- b. Sarah Kelley (Douglass Township) - Does not like hearing comments like “bitching” and “pissing” from board, Not professional.
- c. Julie Wieper (Representative for Douglass Township Energy Coalition) - Need safe height, sound, and setbacks from property lines in ordinance; Decommissioning plans with final responsibility on landowner; Want safe and responsible wind, not anti-wind; Must protect nonparticipating landowners, Need to be fair, safe and responsible; Requested remote access for meetings due to Covid, etc.; Provided each member with a copy of concerns.
- d. Kelley Jeppsen (Douglass Township) - Defended guys on planning commission; Comments before meetings are not nice, Farmers do not have retirement, want to preserve farm, try to make a living buying retail while selling wholesale, this is retirement.
- e. Scott Carr (_____) - Who on the planning commission will sign for wind turbines? They should remove themselves.
- f. Bill _____ (Plum Rd.) - In past gravel pit allowed most near it did not like; Based on his discussions few, a very few, in favor or happy with wind turbines; Based on past experience, economist and factory worker, in the short run some money, but not profitable to anyone in the long run; Property value will drop; Gratiot County people want to move away from monsters but can't get value out of home.
- g. Harvey Shick (Douglass Township) - Consider the old pine stumps, all the work making the old farms; He named many long-time families in Douglass township; Would they want us to destroy the countryside for which they worked? Are we willing to give that all up?
- h. Joe Hansen (Sidney Township) - Most people do not want turbines, Need to have zoom, Sidney township does not want, Need to listen to majority and not personal interests, Consider the countryside, Just a handful in each township that want turbines.

6. Old Business

- a. Consideration of Wind Energy System Amendment
 - i. Draft 1 Douglass Township Wind Energy Ordinance
 - 1. For review by the planning commission
 - 2. Prepared by Tim Johnson, PCP, MainStreet Planning Company
 - ii. Discussion
 - 1. Page by page
 - 2. Changes noted
 - 3. Questions noted
 - 4. Changes and questions will be given to Ron Redick and Tim Johnson

7. New Business

8. Set next meeting: Wednesday, April 28, 2021, at 7:00 p.m.

9. Close planning commission meeting.

- a. Motion to adjourn by Kevin Rush
- b. Seconded by Rick Baldwin
- c. Voice Vote - unanimous yes
- d. Meeting adjourned

Respectfully submitted by Cindy Shick