

DOUGLASS TOWNSHIP
DEC 1, 2021
BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Present: Terry Anderson, Tom Jeppesen, Pat Althoff, Amy Laper, Ronda Snyder, Ron Redick

Guests: Thomas Koepke, Linda Reynolds, Kathy Craly, Kim Bell, Caryl Hackett, Brandy Bunting, Wendi Switala, Robert Scott, Dave Kelsey, Laura Engel, Larry Engel & Keith Phelps, Cindy Shick, Harvey Shick, Becky Sowles

7:00 p.m.: The meeting was called to order and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited

1. Tom made a motion to approve the Agenda. Amy seconded the motion. Motion passed
2. Amy made a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes from Nov 3, 2021. Tom seconded the motion. Motion passed
3. Tom made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. Pat seconded the motion. Motion passed
4. Tom made a motion to approve paying the bills in the amount of \$35,515.61 plus the Frontier bill once it comes in. Amy seconded the motion. Motion passed

Old Business:

1. Amy let everyone know that the tax bills have been mailed.
2. Terry spent a few minutes talking to everyone about some of the things being said.
 - A. The Township Board passed a Wind Energy Ordinance back in 2017 but this ordinance does nothing to protect the residents from a wind energy company from coming in and doing whatever they want.
 - B. In 2020 the Township Board passed an Amending Ordinance to the 2017 one. That ordinance was rescinded in 2021. Terry wishes we would have just started working on making changes to that ordinance.
 - C. In 2021 Cindy Shick was challenged by Terry to come up with something because we obviously didn't know how to proceed. Cindy came up with the Citizen's Ordinance but there were a lot of things that were wrong with this ordinance per our Attorney and Spicer Group. With the permission of Terry, Ron Redick got with Spicer Group to go over this ordinance. Spicer Group sent their changes back which puffed it up a bit. The Planning Commission has been working on this Ordinance and either approving those changes or adding their own suggestions. Now people are starting to complain about the money being spent on Planners and Attorneys. "We have 2 choices: 1. Stop working on the Citizen's Ordinance and rely on the Ordinance passed in 2017 or 2. Pass an Ordinance that is somewhere in between the Citizen's Ordinance and one that is completely exclusionary.
3. Terry asked Ron to talk about the Citizen's Ordinance and explain to everyone what needs to be changed and why. Ron then spent several minutes doing that.

New Business: None

Public Comments:

1. Laura Engel: Read a letter she had written in support of Wind Energy
2. Robert Scott: Spent his time talking about what he figures is the percentage of people in the Township who are against or for Wind Energy Turbines
3. Becky Sowles: Talked about what is wrong with Robert Scott's math
4. Brandi Bunting: Read a letter from Shelia Crooks since she couldn't be here. The letter will be in an attachment to the minutes.
5. Eric Tester: Wants to know about compensation of losses if the turbines do come here
6. Wendi Switala: She claims that we have only 2% of the population with leases for a total of 10% of the total acreage of land.
7. Kathy Grace: Planning Commission is working hard and feels like the public has voiced opinions and disagree with Ron said.
8. Thomas Koekpe: Disagrees with Ron says
9. Holly Huff: Spoke to what Becky said about leasing the land. You only need 1 or more acres to sign a lease agreement
10. Linda Reynolds: She feels that it is wrong that we dis-regard what our neighbors in Gratiot County have to say about having the wind turbines there. She feels like we are calling them liars
11. Harvey Shick: Wanted to know why it is that we can "Opt Out" of allowing marijuana dispensaries but we can't do that for wind turbines? Terry is going to look into that.
12. Kim Bell: Asked if there has been an instance where a township lost a lawsuit filed against it? Terry will find out.
13. Cindy Shick: wants to know what our insurance policy for lawsuits? Amy is going to look into that. Cindy also spoke to Terry about how she had asked him to sit down with her back when they were trying to put an ordinance together (he never did). Terry said he would sit down with her to discuss it.

7:50 p.m.: With nothing more to discuss Tom made a motion to adjourn. Pat seconded the motion.
Motion passed