

Floyd County Board of Supervisors Meeting  
July 29, 2024, 6:30 p.m.

The Floyd County Board of Supervisors met in the Youth Enrichment Center at the Floyd County Fairgrounds with the following in attendance: Supv Mark Kuhn, Supv Dennis Keifer, and Supv Jim Jorgensen.

Supv Kuhn provided introductions, open remarks, and the provided rules for the public hearing.

Jorgensen/Keifer moved to approve the agenda. Motion carried 3-0.

Dean Tjaden, Zoning Commission Chair, provided an overview of the process to prepare the amendments to the Floyd County Zoning Ordinance and the hiring of John Robbins, North Iowa Area Council of Governments Senior Planner, to assist Commissioners. Following several public meetings and after holding their June 26 public hearing, the Commission voted unanimously on the proposed amendment and approved the commission's minutes on July 24. Tjaden wanted on record that at the June 28 Board of Supervisor's meeting, one of the Commissioners presented a letter of dissent to the amendment and most of what was written goes against what was approved at the Commission's hearing, but their minutes reflect what is accurate. Tjaden also wanted on record that the Board's agenda was to only set the time and date of today's hearing and is frustrated that the Board did not follow their agenda and allowed the Commissioner to speak on issues debated at the Commission's meeting. A task not addressed in the ordinance is the general liability insurance limit requirement.

Robbins provided information on his role to assist with amendments to Floyd County Ordinance, Ordinance #2011-2, with respect to establishing a more robust set of rules for setbacks on large scale wind energy conversion systems and battery energy storage systems. A summary of the amendments was reviewed including but not limited to definitions, repealing the current commercial wind turbine ordinance, establishing uses for permitted use in each type of district, establishing conditional use for districts, supplemental conditional use regulations for the application process, and various setbacks.

Jorgensen/Keifer moved to open the public hearing. Motion carried 3-0. The hearing opened at 6:57 p.m. Public comments include:

Boyd Campbell-We must be mindful of our agricultural community and have a duty to preserve and protect land for future generations. We produce food necessary for our country's food supply to not have reliance on other countries. It is imperative that we protect the rights and lifestyles of all residents of the county that may be affected by windmills, not just those who are receiving payments from wind energy companies. Since 1995, we have taken ag land out of production equivalent to the states of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont and Rhode Island. Reference was made to land taken out of production where 600-700 yards of concrete under turbines will never come out. Comments by Warren Buffet, Berkshire Hathaway, were paraphrased as he would not be in the business of owning wind turbines if it weren't for the tax credits provided and there is no profit to be made without the credits. Fifty years of easements is giving your farms away and not protecting your ownership.

Jayden Jorgensen-Expressed concerns of personal business ventures with wind turbines in close proximity to her farm land, including in short term, the possibility of livestock being hurt or killed with ice throws, fiberglass shards if blades were to break, turbine fires, and livestock ingestion of fiberglass over time, and in long term, potential business of breeding, breaking, training and boarding horses has concerns that most equine owners know dangers of turbines that negatively affect their livestock. Other concerns are naturally closed sink holes opening if wind turbines are built on unstable karst topography making areas unsafe for livestock or machinery, suggesting a 5-miles setback to protect eagle nests, and leaving the younger generation to deal with turbine issues in 50 years.

Rhonda Groshens-Provided and read from a handout on unseen harm on wind turbine noise including aerodynamic and mechanical noise, resulting side effect disturbances, health risks and needing to have more research. Other concerns of decreased property values.

Kathy Carter-Sees turbines coming in Floyd County from 20 miles away and does not wish to see turbines located closer. The wind companies want only our ground and tax subsidies. The power generated, compacted wire and soil will not be ours to use. Residents may have to put up with turbines with no choice in the matter. Renewable energy sounds wonderful but there are always reasons to question just how well renewable energy projects operate and work best.

John Merfeld-As a supporter of green energy, requests approval of the amendment as presented. The proposals were drafted timely and have reasonable components. Living in the development area of the Marble Ridge energy center, Merfeld has researched the science and economics of utility-scale wind systems and after consulting with an attorney, voluntarily signed an agreement, demonstrating a higher letter of commitment than

signing a petition. The current setback requirements served well for the MidAmerican Energy (MAE) turbine project in 2008. Turbine construction and operations are welcomed with setback distances of more than a quarter mile, specifically 1,500 feet or 2.5x height.

Bill Gerhard-Referenced a turbine project in Audubon, IA and expressed that the renewable energy jobs are good and have a positive impact to the county. For the men and women doing those jobs, they are not just temporary. Gerhard encourages supporting an ordinance that does not put undue restrictions on renewable energy.

Larry Onken-Provided a picture of an 80 ft diameter ground area with over 75 tons of steel and 1,000 yards of concrete. If we don't think four feet of removal is enough, change that. Watch out for environmental scams; Onken referenced a wind energy project from about 12 years ago that was sold to at least four different groups and had misuse of property. Allow the permit process to be progressive to prevent scams.

Scott Hinz-We need to find a revenue source and the estimated \$1.7 million the turbines could bring to the county annually seems to be an answer. The Commission did a wonderful job working out something feasible.

Isaac Lamppa, Invenergy project manager, represents 79 individual landowners who signed voluntary easements for the Marble Ridge project. There has been a lot of misinformation to clear up; their project has a study for 189 watts, roughly 40 turbines, located south/southeast area of the county, west of the current turbines and turbines will be 500-600 feet tall. Invenergy believes the 27 pages of amendments recommended achieves a critical compromise between the desires of everyone in the county; Invenergy can make this work for their landowners and hope the Commission's recommendations will be affirmed without unreasonable changes that would deny participating landowners who can diversify their income streams and boost the tax revenue in the county. The current MAE project was built basically on a couple sentences of an ordinance. Invenergy protects farmland and preserves landowners' freedom to choose how they see fit. The project brings with it approximately \$70 million over forty years of generated tax collections, \$100 million in lease payments, and 300 jobs.

Steve McGregor-Highlighted concerns of wind noise and requested a lower threshold from 50 decibels to 40. Inside a residence, there is talk that even 22 decibels can cause sleep disruptions. McGregor spoke of studies conducted by Flinders University, Australia, regarding the nighttime swoosh sound, amplitude modulation, heard up to five times more than in the daylight hours and the association between wind turbine noise and adverse effect on humans. The decreased value of an acreage is approximately 11% if you have a turbine within a mile.

Patrick Merfeld-Likes the look of turbines and the way they sound. As a mechanical engineer, they are a fascinating marvel of engineering. Six studies rebuke the Australian study; four excerpts from a University of Iowa study rebuke the noise from turbines and health effects were read.

Rachel Eaton, Power Up Iowa representative, commended the Commission's thorough work. Supporting ordinance changes will allow for tens of millions of dollars to support county infrastructure updates, funding emergency services and school improvement projects and guarantees contractual payments to landowners. Putting sound policy in place is the role of the county supervisors. You have sound policy with this ordinance amendment. Landowners have a right to diversify and preserve income opportunities today and in the future. To vote the amendment down or modify it significantly so it would make development impossibly impacts current and future property taxpayers and landowners who would never be able to enjoy the tax benefits or financial security of stable lease payments. The Coalition urges the Board to adopt the recommendations.

Doug Lindaman-Is against the proposal at the local level because it is an agricultural activity that should be addressed at the state level, not with county zoning. There were five times more windmills 100 years ago; farmers have a history of using air for mechanical purposes. We've been seeing a lot of CRP going in and we're still seeing too much corn and soybeans being produced. Currently there are 47% more farm bankruptcies today compared to a year ago. Farm income is down; farmers aren't going to be making money from just livestock or grain. They need a supplemental source; keep in mind as farmers are making this decision for their own livelihood.

Colleen Shank-Didn't notice turbine noise or reflection until her husband and son farmed directly across from three wind turbines, one that has not worked in over 4 years, and is asking for the Board to look at both sides and do the best for both sides.

Lyle Clayton-Doesn't like the looks but is all for renewable energy. They take away from natural beauty. Hears they are going to make money but wants to know where the energy goes. Clayton has more questions than answers. He is all for people making money, but we need to look at the whole picture.

Mike Carberry-All farming is converting one form of energy into another. The National Farmers Union considers electricity as a value-added crop. Farming is a tough business right now. Floyd County has lost 6% of

population since 2010, yet the state of Iowa has grown 5%. Everybody left in the county is going to pay the taxes for roads, bridges, the courthouse, sheriff's dept. These projects pay about \$2 million per year that helps keep your taxes level. Renewable energy keeps our power rates down; Iowa has the 10<sup>th</sup> lowest power rates in the country. Every form of energy has tax credits. Renewable energy tax credits expire but tax credits for fossil fuel never do.

Cala McGregor-Presented over 432 signed petitions gathered in 12 days. While it is true that Invenergy is looking at building 40 turbines, the turbine size depends on how many watts produced. If 2.7 megawatts, it would be closer to 60-70 turbines. Chickasaw County is working on its second turbine project. The companies will continue to come here if an ordinance is not strong enough to encourage them to go elsewhere. Iowa is already energy neutral, meaning we have enough turbines in our state without any being built so it will not help us reduce our rates. McGregor encourages the Board to look at the petitions and to increase the setbacks. Our average landowner is over 65 years of age and these turbines do not help young farmers get going.

Scott Larson-All landowners have a right to enjoyment and use of their property. Some may choose to lease that land and use it for turbines. However, that privilege stops at the end of your property. I have the right to look at something and not have buzzing in my ears 1,500 ft away. Government regulations that cause those rights to be infringed upon me and my family's health, safety and enjoyment of life need to have commonsense. I don't want to see and hear turbines. Follow the DNR recommendations. In regard to battery storage, the US government accountability office has not set standards which is a safety issue where there needs to be a moratorium.

Jerry Vetter-Speaking of noise, lives by the Avenue of Saints which he didn't have a choice with the road. If he could have 10 to 20 turbines, he would. The turbines can't make as much noise as vehicles honking and going over rumble strips on the Avenue. People talk about losing land, but land is taken often for factories, progress, stores, schools or whatever else. Right now crop prices are low. A lot of land is in CRP. China doesn't buy much grain, and a lot comes Brazil and Argentina. Corn and soybeans trades are making more bushel/acre. Windmills are a great idea. Power plants by coal and nuclear are not good for the environment. We should think about global warning for our next generation. A landowner should be able to make a choice for land he owns.

Ryan Reinberg-Enjoys the much quieter life and nature after moving from Cedar Rapids. Turbines kill avian species. Turbine noise is not seasonal like harvesttime; it goes all year round. Reinberg's wife has a hearing impairment and ear drum ruptures and asks for lowering the threshold below 50 decibels.

Larry Bortz-Has solar on his farm that runs at no cost and you can't see the panels, which is the way he likes it. Bortz is not sure why there would be a 3x setback on conservation areas that are visited much less compared to a house where there is someone there 24/7/365. A DNR official reported that 40-80 pounds of fiberglass sheds off each blade and questions what would keep that from floating into a sink hole or the effect it may have on his wife who has a lung problem.

Dan Miller-God gave us free will to make a decision and thinks it should be up to the farmer. Statics show that Iowa produces 2.4 billion bushel of corn of which 40% goes to ethanol and 4% of Iowa's people lived on farms but today there is less than 2%. Mother nature can cause crop yields to drop more than what a turbine would have impact on. Seed and machinery costs have gone up in costs so any revenue that farm could generate is good.

Tom Treharne, Nextera representative, expressed appreciation of the process the county has gone through including having opportunities for energy companies who are not developing here to provide knowledge on the topic. Treharne believes the ordinance establishes parameters that provide and protect both private and public interest, as well as participating and non-participating interests, and offers opportunities for Nextera to develop a project. Nextera wants to be here for the community, help the community grow and prosper, works with emergency services, and employs technicians from the area. The development of a windfarm fosters a strong economic partnership in the long term. Treharne asks the Board to strongly consider the recommendation and move forward with adoption.

Kuhn read an e-mail from Roxann Bjelica requesting the Board significantly increase setbacks of turbines so those living in rural areas are not affected by the decisions of those who don't. Bjelica provided attachments regarding noise and human health impacts from turbines.

Hanna Steiert-Expressed concerns about unknown health effects, water quality, and atmospheric temperatures. Setbacks in some areas are 6,500 ft. She does not like the look of all the turbines in Worth County and does not wish that for Floyd County. What neighbors do on their property should not affect her rural life and hopes the Board will consider the permanence of the turbines for the next generation.

Kuhn read an e-mail from Tim Fox, Charles City Area Development Corporation Executive Director regarding economic benefits inherent in the proposed Invenergy wind project including, voluntary participation, no eminent domain specter, estimated \$100 million lease payout to Floyd County landowners over 40 years, 300 construction jobs to build out the projects and purchase goods and services locally, 10 full-time permanent technicians and managers with wages greater than \$100,000 per annum, \$275 million estimated capital investment, \$70 million in new property tax collections generated, and the number of turbines is far less than O'Brien County with 318, Hancock with 239, Worth with 231, Pocohontas with 215 and Franklin with 181.

Derek Straube-Referenced Kuhn's February 14, 2017 board meeting comments about karst topography being unique and his pollution concerns. Straube agrees and expressed environmental concerns of turbines in the county on karst topography, which has over 1,000 sinkholes, underground cavities, caves and close to surface aquifers. Other concerns were turbine material shredding fiberglass shards and epoxy toxic resin with harmful chemicals, including BPA. Every resident of the county receives water from these aquifers.

Terry Dean-Provided statistics on BPA contamination and its negative health effects along with impact of fiberglass shards in drinking water that could cost up to millions of dollars in remediation. Water quality is a big concern. Our karst topography continues to weaken with age and there is no idea of the impact of jackhammering on the fragile limestone. If a turbine base settles just a few inches, it could be a catastrophic failure of the turbine, like a collapse in Colorado.

Amanda Ringgenberg-As a licensed counselor, can understand if something is forced, you are not going to like it and asks to be considerate of neighbors and people around you with setbacks for the people who do not want turbines. Having a hearing impairment, she is concerned of increased tinnitus. Working with people on the autism spectrum, over stimulation of sound and visual will affect them.

Dustin Straube-Spoke about the impact of wind turbines on children with autism who are often more sensitive to noise, light and motion. Constant noise pollution can exacerbate symptoms of anxiety, irritability and sleep disturbances. Shadow flicker can cause sensory overload causing stress, agitation and even seizures. The proximity of turbines can impact their quality of life and advocates for proper site selection, adequate distance from residential areas and mitigation measures to reduce noise and shadow flicker. To transition to renewable energy, we must do so responsibly and not at the cost of children's wellbeing.

Mark Brockley-After reading the ordinance, he commends doing a good but does have concerns of proliferation of wind farms in Iowa, particularly to term it as farm, as it is an intensive industrial use when looking at the number of structures. Brockley is very pleased to see the ordinance written as a conditional use process which allows for hearings and board review/approval on a case-by-case basis. The ordinance covers a lot of topics but would suggest renaming wind farms to something like industrial wind districts.

Kuhn read Bill Fluhrer's e-mail endorsing the construction of wind turbines based on firsthand experience and research from having a contract with MAE to check all 50 turbines monthly. Over eight years, there were very few bird fatalities. A study utilizing two turbines surrounded by five acres of grass on Fluhrer's farm are available for review at MAE. If setback restrictions are too great, companies will not be able to build turbines on our farms and it is his hope the Board will accept the ordinance as presented and a commitment to the responsible advancement of renewable energy in the county.

Christy Laube-Mentioned the drop in descendants owning ag property and arguments that people wouldn't be doing this if it weren't for the money. Money is not bad. Property taxes and living are expensive and young families wanting to keep their children in the area is hard. If we have enough tax increases, it can help level property taxes, people can do good things with that money, and maybe they can make sure property does get passed down to future generations. Laube hopes there can be a compromise for wind companies to come in and property owners can voluntarily sign up for turbines on their property.

Roger Trettin-Loves this land but does not like looking at the windmills. Trettin spoke with people who live around the areas with turbines and said it's not all it's cracked up to be. The Board and department heads have to live within their means and not rely on turbines for tax revenue. Jorgensen and Kuhn are going off the board so maybe a decision should be held off for their replacements. Say no to windmills.

Doug Groshens-Windmills from years past on farms were up to 70 feet tall with up to 8-foot fan blades but these new turbines are 600 ft tall. Groshens spoke with an aerial applicator who said pilots can feel the turbines air when flying downwind and it will throw them around in a smaller plane or helicopter. Those challenges give them no choice but to charge more money to spray crops. A National Agriculture Aviation Association article references the wind company shall reimburse non-participating farmers and landowners for the difference in the

standard aviation fee and what they are being charged. Airplanes take a half mile or longer to go around turbines and you get what you get for spraying.

Dean Tjaden-Speaking as taxpayer, the Board is fiscally responsible for the total county budget. According to an Assessor's projection, each turbine will bring in about \$2 million per wind farm which is big money. In three months, one board member will be off the board, in five months another one may be done and in a couple of years the third may be done. The taxpayers will still be here and every year the cost of goods and services goes up. The question before the board is to make a fiscally responsible decision that protects the citizens and landowners who want to participate in a wind farm or fold to special interest groups that want to be very restrictive. The petition will stifle any future wind development and saddle the future board with the decision of either raising taxes or cutting services provided.

Kuhn read the petition which includes: 1) setback distance of 2500 feet from occupied dwellings and livestock facilities, 2) setback distance of 1640 feet from participating property lines, 3) setback of 1800 feet from non-participating property lines, 4) 1000 feet from an existing sinkhole, 5) turbines shall not be permitted on highly productive soils where 25% or more of the parcel of land has been rated at 79.5 CSR2 or above, 6) public conservation lands shall follow State Fish and Wildlife Agency and DNR Environmental Review recommendations of all public lands buffered at one mile, known bald eagle nest sites with activity unknown buffered three miles, known active bald eagle nest sites buffered five miles, 40+ acre tracts of grassland, forest or wetland buffered 0.5 miles, 7) 500 ft height limit, and 8) no more than 70 turbines shall be placed in the county.

Rhonda Westergard-Some people have loved the county so much that they have given land for the county's 33-park system that must be protected. We need to have a strong ordinance as the petition states. When going west and south of Charles City, you see the eyesore of overbearing wind towers that are short compared to what is proposed by the two companies. Turbines aren't scattered across Iowa because it makes sense, it's because it makes subsidies. According to a 2018 Des Moines Register report, MAE invested \$12.3 billion to build 2,200 turbines in the state but received back \$10 in federal wind production tax credits. We owe our children and grandchildren beautiful and safe landscapes, productive farmland, peaceful conservation and much more.

Merlin Bartz, Invenergy's County Outreach representative, answered questions from earlier: 1) Is the land is recoverable? Yes, the Barton farm was decommissioned and taken down below farm level and you can see the land is growing great crop. 2) Where does the energy go? Electrons flow like water flows through a hose with lots of holes in it and goes to the first hole. So, if the need is in Floyd County, the electrons will to the first place on the grid and it is true that some electrons may go all the way to Chicago. 3) Karst topography area begins on the east end of Worth and Cerro Gordo counties, so there is plenty of examples right now of turbines sitting on karst topography. Geotechnical data and scientific study are used to determine where turbines should or shouldn't be built, such as a sink hole area. Invenergy wants to be part of the county and wants an ordinance that works well and believes the unanimous vote of the Commission makes sense and should be adopted by the Board.

Wayne LaCoste-Referenced the view from Staceyville to Rochester where you see hundreds of flashing lights. Turbines of the past were used to supply water and electricity as part of a means to live. His energy rates in South Dakota were \$106 compared to his new home in Iowa at \$160. LaCoste moved back to Iowa and built his house where he could see the sunrise and sunset, not windmills. In South Dakota, they had similar meetings regarding lithium mines for batteries.

Kuhn read an e-mail from Claire Simmons, Power Up Iowa Coalition, regarding support of the amendments to the ordinance. The residents of the county expect to receive millions of dollars in tax revenue, not to mention the draught and flood-roof lease payments to farmers and landowners. The Coalition thanks the efforts in seeking the best practices for wind energy and encourages the adoption of the recommendations.

Kuhn read an e-mail from Ben Johnson who believes to keep the county a beautiful place to live with excellent quality of life for the next five generation and beyond, we need to have a strong wind power ordinance that uses commonsense to keep turbines a minimum of 2500 feet from neighboring residents. If a landowner wants a turbine closer to their own house, that's their right, but Johnson does not want a turbine that close, and therefore anyone else shouldn't be able to place one next to a neighbor's house. Blinking lights at night, noise pollution, shadow flicker and other issues negatively impact property values and make it harder to attract new housing and investment in the county.

Kuhn read an e-mail from Adam Sears, Conservation Director, with a recommendation for a half mile setback from Floyd County's conservation areas as voted on by the Conservation Board.

Kuhn read an e-mail from Janis Skuster regarding what some people see as a blight in the landscape, but she sees a potential toward energy independence. Others see an infringement of their property, but she sees the potential for a farmer to keep their land with the revenue from the turbines. Skuster's interactions with Invenergy have been positive and encourages people sit down with them to listen to the potential benefits for alternative farming incomes and tax revenues for the county. No one is being asked to sign a contract who doesn't want one. Controlled change can bring promise of alternative energy resources for future generations. Listen to your neighbors who want to proceed with the zoning guidelines without further changes and not make it so prohibitive that the future of wind energy will not happen in Floyd County.

Kuhn read an e-mail from Darlene Eaton who writes to encourage the Board to stop wind farms in the county or at least increase setback distances from homes and property. Our land needs to be preserved, not destroyed. Turbines are blight to our landscape and do nothing for wildlife preservation or protect ground water.

Dennis Westergard-Questioned contaminants of shedding of blades. Lamppa responded he has not seen evidence of fiberglass shedding with 6,000 turbines spinning in Iowa and would like confirmation from the DNR person who provided the information.

Kuhn read an e-mail from Roger & Edna Merfeld who write in support of wind energy which works very well together with farming. The clean electrical power generated and the \$171 million in new revenue over the life of Invenergy's Marble Ridge project will benefit everyone in our county. Owning land in the Charles City Wind Park has been a positive experience with MAE. The Board is urged to approve the amendments with no changes.

Kuhn read an e-mail from Linda Nauman requesting the Board adopt the new ordinance without unreasonable changes that will be beneficial to everyone.

Kuhn read an e-mail from Cathy McGregor who is a non-participating property owner and supports the setbacks as described in the petition.

Kuhn read an e-mail from Bryan Ott who would like the Board to affirm the Commissoin's recommendations and adopt the new wind ordinance. The county could use the revenue generated and lessen the burden on taxpayers.

Kuhn read a text message from Scott Johnson, Rockford Mayor, that Rockford is in support of a 2-mile setback for the windmills.

Kuhn read a document from Candace Brandau-Larson with comments regarding while the entire Commission was able to agree on most of the current wind ordinance draft, there were a few things she dissented on or proposed but didn't get approved, including 1) advocating for setbacks from occupied buildings of 1,500 feet or 3.75x distance which ended up being 2.25x. 2) Add barns, CFOAs, machine sheds to occupied buildings. 3) Total turbine height of 400 feet. 4) Require DNR recommendations. 5) CSR2 limit of 79.5.

Kuhn read a letter from the Nora Springs City Council who is deeply concerned with the proposed setback of one mile from Floyd County towns and requests that setback be increased to two miles.

Kuhn read a letter from Iowas for Wind and Solar who write in strong support of a balanced wind ordinance and believe the proposed ordinance achieves a critical compromise allowing responsible wind development while addressing the concerns of residents. Wind energy creates a new stable and weatherproof income stream to diversify farm revenues, protect farmland, allow landowners to choose how to develop their land, and ensure Iowans can keep the family farm in the family for generations. Wind farm construction generates hundreds of jobs during peak construction and ongoing operations and maintenance with full-time positions throughout the project's lifespan. Voluntary easements ensure cooperation with landowners and support to the Midwest's manufacturing industry by using American-made wind turbine components. Wind energy reinforces domestic energy independence and positions the county as a leader in clean energy solutions.

Kuhn read an e-mail from Travis McCloskey regarding concerned citizens banning together to bring awareness of the impact on the future addition of wind turbines in the county. Countless millions of dollars put in wind turbines will generate tax revenue but how it benefits the county and its constituents is yet to be understood as promises don't always turn out. Wind energy is supposed to be a renewable source of energy that does not contaminate or put our lives in jeopardy like coal, nuclear or gas utilities do today. However, studies show that wind energy produces more toxins for the environment with its battery supplies and inability to recycle materials that make up all aspects of a wind turbine. There is a great impact on the wildlife community and questions if there is an impact to human life as well. Iowa has some of the riches soil in the US. The generations growing up today and to come will have to deal with the impact of turbines being installed and the effects on topsoil. The wind

companies tell us that the government will subsidize clean energy but questioned at what point do tax dollars stop subsidizing the benefits. There needs to be more research and data on humans and the environment in the long term. McCloskey asks the Board to not vote in favor of immediate gratification promised by the wind companies.

Kuhn read an e-mail from Julie Kuntz who writes about turbine fires within a 10-mile radius of her home. Information on cited safety distances to be maintained in wind company's safety manuals was provided. Kuntz provided pictures and estimated debris from fire beyond a burned turbine to be up to 2,400 feet. An article, Analysis of Throw Distances of Detached Objects from Horizontal-axis Wind Turbines, was also attached and reads that pieces of a blade would be thrown out less than 2,300 feet.

Kuhn read an e-mail from Jenn Kutsch who referenced a settled suit involving Madison County and their residents which led to an established and progressively updated ordinance which was provided as well as links to other documents. Kutsch suggests taking a pause to rewrite the county's ordinance to ensure the health and wealth of the state for generations to come.

Kuhn read a letter from Alex Delworth, Center for Rural Affairs Policy Associate, regarding tax revenue generated with significant benefits for rural communities, including Marshall County doubling the amount of turbines and collecting \$2.4 million in 2023, making up for 10% of its budget which allowed them to support essential services like schools, emergency services, and infrastructure. The county's proposed ordinance includes several prudent requirements with respect to decommissioning, road-use and repair agreements, lighting for the airport, signage, shadow flicker and noise. One consideration to take into account is the county's 1,500 setback from dwellings is greater than the average which the Center found to be 1,000 and 1,250 or 2x the turbine height being most common. Two additional resources were provided along with the Center's clean energy siting library.

Mason Kolbet-Wife and two daughters are hard of hearing. The daughters get nauseous when visiting a friend's house where a windmill is 352 feet from the house. Kolbet agrees with the setbacks outlined in the petition and is not against turbines, just doesn't want them next to his house. They are putting solar panels on their shop; they are not against green energy. Kolbet and his wife, a veterinarian, have concerns of reproductive soundness in livestock. Raising livestock, they are concerned about the effect of turbines on livestock and request the setback be wider than 1,500 feet.

Alan McGregor-As a former Commissioner, recalls the ethanol plant going up with a few people opposed but it was for the greater good. When MAE's turbines came in, he was blessed by the landowners to not put turbines on property he farms. Seventy-nine property owners are saying yes to turbines but over 432 people have said no; do the numbers. We have the benefit of zoning but Chickasaw doesn't and wind companies take advantage of counties that don't. McGregor encourages setbacks from non-participating landowners be honored.

Kuhn read an e-mail from Elizabeth Hageman who requests the Board to listen to what residents who have to live with their quality of life getting worse if wind farms come in. There is much research against them and everyone Hageman has talked to despises them near their homes. Please don't listen to the wind companies.

Kuhn read an e-mail from Margaret Hoel who does not understand why wind turbines are allowed in Iowa where we have 25% of the world's most productive soil. Soil compaction negatively affects water runoff, erosion, and crop yield. Only 4% of US electrical needs are met by wind turbines and questions if it is worth the investment as it destroys farmer's fields and lessens the productivity of agriculture. Temperatures under turbines are a few degrees higher and have less CO2 to give back which affects crop yields. The look of turbines clustered together with red blinking lights, shadow flicker, whooshing sound and air pressure changes are disturbing to citizens and can cause health concerns. Please consider the recommendations presented by Floyd County Land Concerned Citizens when finalizing the ordinance.

Kuhn read an e-mail from Ron Hoel regarding concerns of a weak wind turbine ordinance and its affect on residents. Hoel referenced support of five of the seven items on the petition.

Dustin Hofler-Addressed comments including 60 feet tall windmills used on family farms versus 600 feet for corporate gain, obtained over 40 signatures in two hours, and the response to shedding was embarrassing. As far as county officials, any county official would want to raise tax base. Everything has been about money but what about doing what is right? Companies giving back to the community is breadcrumbs with the tax credits to the companies. Hofler questioned what it takes to mine, refine, erect, transport and maintain the turbines and if we would get the energy back in a lifespan without tax subsidies.

Kuhn read an e-mail from Jerry Engelhardt, Marble Rock Mayor, that he and the council are opposed to turbines being built one mile from city limits and feel the ordinance should read two miles.

Kuhn said the hearing is for public comments on the proposed ordinance and after the hearing is closed, the next step will be holding a minimum of three readings which the Board previously agreed to and any amendments by the Board are to be in written form. Auditor Carr mentioned the Board could continue the hearing to another day, could have the first reading today if the hearing were closed today and the first reading could be tabled to allow time for Board members to prepare written amendments or the Board could send the ordinance back to the Commission which would require new publications and hearings. The fairgrounds is available August 6 or August 12 if it is needed to hold future meetings.

John Hayes-MAE has the third lowest costs of electricity and is getting 60% of their energy from wind. Iowa is number one in hogs, corn, ethanol and he would like to see us number one in energy and thinks wind energy is a way to achieve that goal. Hayes does not want to see the ordinance restricted too much. In the 70s, a high-power line was going through parts of the country, dairy cows were acting goofy, people were cutting down the big power lines and questioned what science said on that in comparison to what's happening with turbines now.

Kuhn commented that he is hearing that there may be additional public comments and suggested continuing the public hearing to another day. Keifer/Jorgensen moved to continue the public hearing to August 6 at 6:30 p.m. at the Fairgrounds Youth Enrichment Center. Motion carried 3-0.

Discussion included rules for continuing the hearing with respect to speakers and acceptance of e-mails at the next meeting. Jorgensen/Keifer moved to allow public and/or e-mailed comments at the August 6 meeting from people as long as the person has not provided public and/or e-mailed comment for today's meeting and all comments are limited to three minutes. Motion carried 3-0.

No action will be taken regarding the first reading of the amendment to the Ordinance.

Jorgensen/Keifer moved to adjourn. Motion carried 3-0.

ATTEST:

Gloria A. Carr  
Floyd County Auditor

Mark A. Kuhn, Chair  
Floyd County Board of Supervisors