

Ringgold County Board of Supervisors Minutes

July 19, 2023

The Ringgold County Board of Supervisors met in special session Wednesday, July 19, 2023. The meeting was called to order at 9:00 A.M with the following members present: Colby Holmes, Randy Taylor and Steve Knapp.

A motion was made by Knapp, second by Taylor to approve the agenda.
AYES: Unanimous NAYS: None

At 9:00 a.m. Chairman Holmes asked for a motion to open the public hearing on proposed ordinance regulating the construction, operation, and deconstruction of wind turbines and/or related facilities for wind energy conversion systems (WECS) and an ordinance regulating the construction, operation, and deconstruction of utility scale energy systems (US-SES) on property located in the unincorporated areas of Ringgold County. Taylor moved to open the public hearing. Second by Knapp. Motion carried.

Holmes recapped the previous meetings held thus far and asked the attendees for any comments.

Landi McFarland stated there are two couples interested in moving to the county because of the rural lifestyle and landscape. She believes this integrity needs to be protected and not deface it with the construction of turbines. She went on to state she completely respects the rights of others and their ability to do what they want with their own land, but when activities affect your neighbors, that is why rules are in place. Cities have zoning regulations in place for these very reasons, she said. These new families looking to relocate here would contribute to the county, McFarland said, and this is what is needed to grow the community.

Melinda England stated the revenue to the county from the wind turbines would be nice, but the state legislature could make a decision to make turbines tax exempt and then in that situation the county would lose out on revenue and then the county could be responsible for upkeep of the roads, she added.

Holmes stated the Board received written comments as they could not attend the hearings. One was in support of turbines and the other is against.

Goins stated he understands the situation the Board is in as they could potentially bring financial relief to the county budget, but he would rather pay a little more in taxes than see the wind turbines constructed.

Kelly Main stated he believes the Board needs to give some serious thought to the potential of county property tax revenue. The Board stated they have discussed this in length and have not arrived at this ordinance lightly. Main added he also does not agree with the setbacks. Knapp rebutted that if a neighbor agrees to waive the setback, a turbine can be constructed under the setback parameter.

Knapp does not want to see the community go against each other on decisions made with regard to the ordinances.

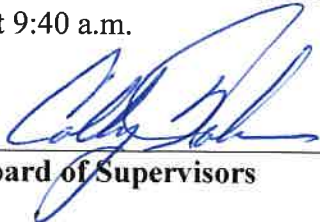
Taylor moved to close the public hearing at 9:39 a.m. Second by Knapp. Motion carried.

Knapp moved to approve the minutes from the Monday, July 17, 2023, public hearing.

The Board tabled approval of the minutes.

There was no further business. A motion was made by Knapp and seconded by Taylor to adjourn the meeting at 9:40 a.m.

ATTEST:


Board of Supervisors


Ringgold County Auditor