

Ringgold County Board of Supervisors Minutes

July 24, 2023

The Ringgold County Board of Supervisors met in regular session Monday, July 24, 2023. The meeting was called to order at 9:00 A.M with the following members present: Colby Holmes and Steve Knapp. Absent: Randy Taylor

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

Engineer Jared Johnson met with the Board to provide secondary roads updates. The tractors and mowers have been out working to mow vegetation along roadsides. Last week they were working along P64 and P68 in the eastern part of the County.

FM rock was hauled to the North Central and Southwest maintainer districts.

Work order update:

W.O. 1088: Re-sealcoat P32 from HWY 169 to Delphos. This roadway is prepared and ready for seal coating. The department swept free rock off the roadway last week in preparation for oiling activities this week. (In Progress)

W.O. 1089: Re-sealcoat 160th Ave from HWY 2 to Benton. The department is working to shape and tie down the base rock. (In Progress)

W.O. 1093: Replace deteriorated 36" CMP culvert with new 36" ADS culvert. Located on 155th Ave between 240th and 248th Street. (Complete)

W.O. 1097: Clean ditches and shape roadway for approximately ½ mile. Located along 170th Ave between P33 and 190th Street. (Complete)

Manatts is planning to start installing subdrain along the J55 project this week. The shouldering crew is currently planned to move in once the subdrain is installed. We want to remind the public that this road is closed to thru traffic. Unless there is a particular reason to be using the road, please use the detour. This is for both the safety of the motorist and construction workers. The drop off from the pavement edge is severe and there still are locations where pavement is removed, and construction activities are happening.

Last week the Contractor removed additional pavement along the southern limits of the Benton 11 project and worked on ditch cut south of the culvert excavation. Excavated material was used as culvert backfill material. This week the contractor plans to continue culvert backfill and ditch cut operations.

Last week at the Tingley 1 project the crew tied the reinforcing steel cage for the east abutment and started tying the reinforcing cage for the west abutment, the east abutment was formed up and poured, east pier piling were extended and driven to full penetration and bearing, the west abutment footing was excavated to grade and abutment piling laid out, west abutment piling were drove, extended, and driven to full penetration and bearing, the west abutment slope was shaped.

This week it is planned to strip the formwork at the east abutment, layout the west pier piling and, drive the initial 50' and prep the pile for extensions.

Treasurer Debra Cannon met with the Board to review the FY23 semi-annual report. The Board moved forward with approval.

At 10:00 a.m. Chairman Holmes asked for a motion to open the third and final 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. Knapp moved to open the public hearing. Second by Holmes. Motion carried.

Gary Petersohn questioned whether the Board has heard from the industry on construction of lines to the towers. MISO has prepared plans for lines but those are not released until much later in the process, it was stated.

A representative from Stealhead stated their general process is to visit with the landowners to first determine interest in a wind turbine farm then visit with the governing body.

Knapp questioned the research the company did when they started looking at wind farms in the county. They said they did research and found no ordinances in place and therefore looked into whether there was interest in the county to begin construction. Knapp stated he would have liked to visit with them prior to the ordinance process starting, simply to be better informed. Holmes went on to explain there are no zoning requirements in the county, therefore it is not required that construction companies, of any kind, reach out to the Supervisors.

Stealhead is a company that works with Vestas to prepare projects. Ann Werner questioned how landowners would know they are solvent and went on to ask if their financials are available for review to those wishing to construct a turbine. It was explained, yes, that information is public. Stealhead went on to explain that Vestas is the largest producer of wind turbines in the world and also has to provide a bond prior to construction. It was stated they need at least a 40-acre plot to construct one turbine. Stealhead does follow their own set of rules/guidelines for setbacks in constructing turbines. Generally, their baseline is 1500 feet for a setback. Dunton explained typically setbacks provide for equal distance to the height of a turbine. She went on to state turbines are being constructed at a larger height and therefore, the number of turbines will not be as great. The larger turbines produce more electricity.

John Foley stated 1,000 to 1,500 feet is more reasonable as to the setback in the proposed ordinance. He went on to ask if a waiver is an option. The Board said yes, the ordinance provides for a waiver should a neighbor agree to the construction of a turbine.

Knapp explained he understands the financial benefit wind farms bring to the county, to both residents and the county budget, however, the opinion of the residents is they do not want turbines, and this is what the Supervisors are basing their decision on.

Teena Petersohn questioned the process of decommissioning. Dunton explained they have an agreement to remove turbines. Vestas has produced blades now that can be recycled, along with

the rest of the turbine. Legally the decommissioning will never be on the landowner, Dunton said, even if the company goes belly up, it will be the bank's responsibility for removal.

Petersohn asked about the responsibility of ensuring legal bridge limits for construction. Dunton explained there are road use agreements in place providing that the company covers the cost to upgrade bridges to ensure legal weight to handle the equipment. She went on to explain following construction, they repair any road damages that may have been incurred. Knapp questioned whether they outsource that work or expect the county workforce to do it. Dunton said they generally outsource as they know the workload may not be realistic for the county employees based on schedules. She went on to state, if it is feasible, they will use as many local resources as possible.

Knapp questioned what happens to the rest of the 40 acres following construction since they only utilize roughly one acre. Dunton explained the landowner can farm up to the base of the turbine if they wish. The landowner is paid for all acres leased.

Knapp moved to close the public hearing at 11:10 a.m., second by Holmes. Motion carried.

The Board moved forward with approval of both ordinances as printed.

The Board reviewed claims to be paid Wednesday, July 26, 2023.

RESOLUTION RC23-116

WHEREAS the Ringgold County Board of Supervisors do hereby approve the Treasurer's FY23 semi-annual report as presented by Treasurer Debra Cannon.

THEREFORE, a motion was made by Knapp and seconded by Holmes stating such.

The vote on the resolution: AYES: Unanimous. NAYS: None.

ATTEST: Amanda Waske, Auditor. Passed and approved July 24, 2023.

RESOLUTION RC23-117

WHEREAS the Ringgold County Board of Supervisors do hereby approve the 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.

THEREFORE, a motion was made by Knapp and seconded by Holmes stating such.

The vote on the resolution: AYES: Unanimous. NAYS: None.

ATTEST: Amanda Waske, Auditor. Passed and approved July 24, 2023.

RESOLUTION RC23-118

WHEREAS the Ringgold County Board of Supervisors do hereby approve claims to be paid Wednesday, July 26, 2023.

THEREFORE, a motion was made by Knapp and seconded by Holmes stating such.

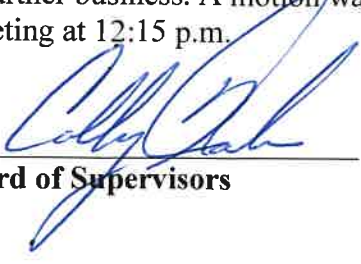
The vote on the resolution: AYES: Unanimous. NAYS: None.

ATTEST: Amanda Waske, Auditor. Passed and approved July 24, 2023.

A motion was made by Knapp and seconded by Holmes to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

There was no further business. A motion was made by Knapp and seconded by Holmes to adjourn the meeting at 12:15 p.m.

ATTEST:


Board of Supervisors


Ringgold County Auditor