

The Allen County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at 8:30 a.m. with Chairperson Jim Talkington, Commissioner Jerry Daniels, Commissioner Thomas R. Williams and Sherrie L. Riebel, County Clerk.

Commissioners approved the minutes of the regular meeting on February 7, 2017.

Bob Johnson, Iola Register, Heather Bosler, Humboldt Union representative, George Rose, and Zach Rose, businessmen, was present to observe the meeting.

Commissioner Williams moved to go into executive session for 10 minutes to discuss Confidential Data. Commissioner Daniels seconded, motion passed 3-0-0. Those in the room will be Chairman Talkington, Commissioner Daniels, Commissioner Williams, David Toland, Thrive Executive Director, Bill Maness, Thrive Economic Development Director, Alan Weber, Allen County Counselor and Sherrie L. Riebel, Allen County Clerk. The time is now 8:31 a.m. Commissioners reconvened at 8:41 a.m. No action was taken.

Commissioner Williams moved to go into executive session for 5 minutes to discuss Confidential Data. Commissioner Daniels seconded, motion passed 3-0-0. Those in the room will be Chairman Talkington, Commissioner Daniels, Commissioner Williams, David Toland, Thrive Executive Director, Bill Maness, Thrive Economic Development Director, Alan Weber, Allen County Counselor and Sherrie L. Riebel, Allen County Clerk. The time is now 8:41 a.m. Commissioners reconvened at 8:46 a.m. No action was taken.

Mitchell Garner, Allen County Public Works Director, asked if the commission needed anything, neither side did.

Ron Holman, Allen County House and Grounds Director, presented bids for the handicap bar for the restrooms. The bid was for \$200.00 for a 42" stainless steel grab bar. Discussion followed. Chairman Talkington moved to accept the bid from Superior Builders. Commissioner Daniels seconded, motion passed 3-0-0.

Commissioners adjourned to the Assembly Room for the Zoning discussion.

Commissioners convened to the assembly room to discuss the zoning.

Those present are Gary Covey, Beverly Covey, citizens, Sam Massey, Nexter Energy Resources, Bob Johnson, Iola Register, Zack Rose, George Rose, businessmen, Heather Bosler, Humboldt Union, Patti Boyd, citizen, Mitch Garner, Public Works Director, Sandra Drake, Allen County Appraiser, and Bryan Murphy, Allen County Sheriff.

Chairman Talkington introduced the board. He welcomed questions regarding the conditional use zoning permit. Patti asked where we are in the process. He answered the zoning board has come up with policies and procedures. Alan stated this is putting in place the terms and conditions for putting in a wind farm. That in itself hasn't happened yet; this is just establishing the rules of the game. Patti asked about any kind of plan for getting wind farms in the county. Alan said the zoning board thinks a plan should be in place. Commissioner Williams said wind farms are definitely in his thoughts for the future. Commissioner Williams thanked the zoning board for all their work toward these efforts. Patti asked commissioners if they received her letter. They stated they received her email. Mr. Covey lives south of US Hwy 54, he discussed wind farms. He has signed up his land for use for such. Commissioner Daniels asked if that will help with his farming, he stated it probably will. He doesn't see a problem as far as wildlife goes. He stopped and listened to the windmills near Waverly and didn't notice noise. Patti said she had stopped and did hear noise. Alan stated it would be required to be at a 50 decibel limit.

This is on page 2 of the criteria that was sent out. Mr. Covey said there is a meeting Feb 21 in Moran concerning wind farms. Sam Massey reported on two possible projects for the county. The average project is 100 turbines. Mr. George Rose is concerned about economic development in Allen County. He feels someone will have it around us; he thinks Allen County should have it. Commissioner Williams stated people in Waverly report being happy with the windmills. Heather asked if wind farms would negatively impact future residents coming to Allen County. Patti stated she has been involved in trying to recruit physicians to the hospital. She feels the turbines would be ugly and change the identity of the county and make it difficult to get new people here. She does appreciate the zoning board looking into this and having criteria for wind farms. She said maybe it would nice to be the county without the wind farm to attract professionals to a nice country setting. Commissioner Williams said it could attract professionals due to an increased income here. Patti asked if the \$6,000 annual payment for those that sign up to have wind turbines on their land is enough to really make a difference for the landowners. Mr. George Rose said the increased income will benefit all of Allen County. Tom Young, Anderson County Zoning Administrator and Grant Corley, Anderson County Zoning Chairman joined the meeting.

Sam explained if you sign a lease, you'll get a guaranteed amount, but may not get a turbine on your land. The amount is not really substantial, but it is something. He said there is another company looking at Crawford County. Sam stated his company has land in Bourbon County already signed up. Some lease members are receiving a payment now. Heather asked about how many landowners will this benefit. Alan said each application is unique. We won't know until an application gets filed. However, first the rules have to be established. Patti said this is not like building a factory or a barn, once wind turbines are up, there will be no getting away from them. She says to find a place where there are fewer people. She feels it would be an intrusion. She said she will not sign a lease.

Commissioner Talkington thanked everyone for coming. The discussion is most helpful. Commissioners reconvened to the commission room at 9:45 a.m.

Commissioner Williams moved to approve the zoning board's rules and regulations for windmills, which establish the permit-obtaining process, Commissioner Daniels seconded, Chairman Talkington stated he wants more time to review such. Motion passed 2-1-0.

Payment in lieu of taxes for ten years.

Alan explained what Anderson County Zoning Board had done to contend with the wind farms.

Alan reported an alley than needs vacated in Bayard. He is going through the process and will publish.

Commissioners approved the following documents:

- a) Clerks Vouchers – \$20,392.06
- b) Payroll Changes
- c) Journal Entry #7
- d) Abatements - RE, Value 5162, \$721.86, Yr 2016
RE, Value 2723, \$572.40, Yr 2015
PP, Value 9430, \$2150.40, Yr 2016
Oil, Value 294, \$45.06, Yr 2016

With no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned until February 21, 2017 at 8:30 a.m. in the Commission room of the courthouse.

Jim Talkington, Chairperson

Thomas R. Williams, Commissioner

Sherrie L. Riebel, Allen County Clerk

Jerry Daniels, Commissioner