

Sidney Township
Minutes
November 9, 2020

Supervisor Peterman called the Sidney Township Board meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ATTENDANCE: Peterman, Wills, Welder, Leyrer ABSENT: Stover

AGENDA:

A motion was made by Welder and seconded by Wills to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

APPROVE MINUTES:

A motion was made by Leyrer and seconded by Welder to approve the minutes from the October 5, 2020 meeting as presented. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Clerk

Wills read three letters that were received prior to the meeting from property owners who are against the construction of wind turbines in Sidney Township.

Supervisor

Peterman expressed his concerns about the increase of cases of COVID-19 in the surrounding areas. He feels that the township hall should be closed until February 1, 2021. There will be no meetings or rentals in the building until then,

A motion was made by Leyrer and seconded by Wills to close the hall to any function until February 1, 2021. Motion carried with Welder voting nay.

A motion was made by Leyrer and seconded by Welder to approve paying bills as needed for the remainder of November and for December and January. Motion carried.

SHERIFF'S REPORT:

Officer Austin Edwards was present but the report for the last month was not available.

GUEST SPEAKERS:

Albert Jongewaard-Apex Wind Turbines

(Welder stepped away from the board table during the wind farm discussion)

Mr. Jongewaard addressed the large attendance of people who were present to voice their concerns about the construction of wind farms in Sidney Township. He explained that they would be in the areas for the next two years. Studies will be done to determine the location of wildlife, how it will affect individuals and animals health, and what it will do to the selling value of properties.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Q: Why this area?

A: There is enough wind flow to make it work and access to transmission lines

Q: How many turbines are expected?

A: 75 turbines in the whole county. Using stronger turbines means they won't need to construct as many. More efficient gear boxes are being used now.

Q: There is an eagle habitat on Derby Lake. How far are you staying back from lakes.

A: Turbines are not allowed within a 1.6 mile radius of the eagle nest.

Q: What is the life expectancy of a turbine?

A: Twenty to thirty years. A decommission agreement and a bond can be in place for removal of the turbine. Or they could be repowered to run longer.

Q: Where do the workers come from?

A: Local workers are used as much as possible.

Q: What is the projected profit for APEX?

A: Not sure how much that would be.

Scott Heimbecker remarked that the turbines don't really produce enough power to be worth it. He feels solar or hydro power would be a better choice; that won't destroy the landscape or obstruct property owners' natural views.

Others commented that meeting notices could be posted on facebook or on local store bulletin boards so more people are aware of the meetings.

Letters and statements were given by Eric Benko, Rebecca Murrey, Laura Thomsen, and Andy Welch.

REPORTS:

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The treasurer's report was received. Current checkbook balance is \$72,184.08.

A motion was made by Leyrer and seconded by Wills to approve the treasurer's report. Motion carried.

CLERK'S REPORT:

Wills presented a list of expenses for the month.

Election workers were paid for the November 3rd election and there was a charge for publication in the Daily News for the new fire ordinance. All other costs were normal monthly expenses. Total expenses reported was \$28,797.74.

A motion was made by Leyrer and seconded by Wills to approve the Clerk's report and pay the monthly expenses. Motion carried.

PLANNING COMMISSION:

Planning Commission is working on the ordinance for the wind farms.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT:

Adam reported that the board has applied for a park grant. Some of the county parks are in need of extensive repairs. The board is preparing for another pandemic shut down if necessary. Eric Smith thinks schools will be closed by the end of the week. Adam commented that he has been responding on the facebook site regarding the wind farms to provide for transparency as the county has no input on the issues. He appreciates the respectful comments he has seen.

ZONING REPORT:

Dale reported that he has issued 5 or 6 permits and done a couple of splits. No ordinance tickets have been issued.

OLD BUSINESS:

Wind Ordinance

Addressed under Guest Speaker and Citizens' Comments

NEW BUSINESS:

There was no new business

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Leyrer and seconded by Wills to adjourn the meeting at 7:16 p.m.

Motion carried.

Carrie Wills
Clerk