

Stutsman County Zoning Board Minutes

November 20, 2008

At 8:00 a.m., the zoning meeting was called to order by Chairman Harold Bensch. Board members present were Brian Amundson, Noel Johnson, Harold Bensch, Doug Kaiser, Dale Marks, Ken Schulz, Charlie Kourajian, and Ryan Odenbach. Also present was Fritz Fremgen, State's Attorney. Absent was Duane Andersen.

Kaiser made a motion to approve the minutes from the May 22, 2008 zoning board meeting. Amundson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The zoning board meeting was called to begin work on drafting a wind tower ordinance for Stutsman County.

Johnson stated that Fritz had begun reviewing existing ordinances and that the board should consider holding public input meetings. Amundson also stated that the Kulm wind farm has been up and running for awhile and that it would be good to visit with the commissioners, landowners and neighbors of the wind farm.

Fremgen said that he has reviewed the Logan and Dickey County ordinances and was working with the Attorney General's office regarding getting old turbans into code. He had also spoken with various people regarding concerns that are surfacing regarding wind towers.

Amundson stated many concerns deal with the negotiation process. Johnson mentioned that David Deutscher had stopped in and had mentioned that the company dealing with the wind towers in western Stutsman County had created a pool of funds so that wealth would be shared by all in the foot print area.

Road conditions need to be addressed. Independent professionals would need to be hired to determine the condition of roads prior, during and after tower construction.

The timeframe to have an ordinance in place would be by next spring. It takes approximately two months from the time a draft copy is available until the finished product can be finalized. Once the ordinance is enacted, the County would ask townships to relinquish their zoning authority over wind towers to the County.

Bensch requested a foot print of the potential area where wind towers may be located. Johnson said that the ordinance would stay away from items that are controlled by authorities that have more muscle than the County, the same as they did with the livestock zoning.

Johnson touched on the tax impact of wind farms.

A committee made up of Kourajian, Fremgen, Bensch, Kaiser and Johnson would begin meeting with representatives of the wind industries and other government officials weekly or biweekly to start the drafting process.

Fremgen would create a meeting calendar and line up representative to attend the meetings.

Marks made a motion to adjourn and Amundson seconded the motion. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 a.m.

Noel A. Johnson
Secretary