

SIoux COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

ACTING AS THE SIOUX COUNTY BOARD OF EQUALIZATION

HARRISON, NEBRASKA

October 1, 2020

The Sioux County Board of Commissioners met at the Sioux County Courthouse meeting room at 1:00 P.M. October 1, 2020, with the following present: Commissioners J.W. Geiser, Hal Downer and Josh Skavdahl, and County Clerk Michelle Zimmerman. Also attending the public hearing was Michael Kurnik, Project Development Manager for Orion Renewable Energy Group, Lonnie and Daniel Starke, Marty and Lois Hanley, Rick Olson, and Rex and Karen Morse. Reference was made to the Open Meeting Laws posted in the meeting room. The Agenda was approved.

Sioux County Clerk, Michelle Zimmerman presented the Certification of Levies for the following taxing districts to the board: Sioux County, .2196220, Harrison Rural Fire District, .0213800, Sheep Creek Rural Fire District, .040000, Sioux County Agricultural Society, .005407 Sioux County High School, .583770, and Village of Harrison, .438500 A motion was made by Downer seconded by Geiser to approve the levies as presented. On roll call vote: Skavdahl, yes; Geiser, yes; Downer, yes. Motion carried.

An Application for Recorded Exemption, submitted by Monte Hamaker to split 32.5 acres from an existing parcel in Section 16 Township 31, Range 54, Sioux County was reviewed. Upon a motion made by Geiser, seconded by Downer, the exemption was approved. On roll call vote, Downer, yes; Geiser, yes; Skavdahl, yes. Motion carried.

A public hearing was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Chairman Skavdahl. The hearing was held to consider Conditional Use Permits 2020-1 and 2020-2. The purpose of the permits is for the temporary installation of wind monitoring towers for wind energy development, one in Section 1 Township 26, Range 54, and one in Section 1 Township 26, Range 55. Michael Kurnik explained that the permits are to place two wind monitoring towers around Highway 71. They are temporary towers and are below 200 feet tall. The towers are removable, with two days installation and two days decommission time. No roads are built during the process. Maintenance is done every two years on the towers. Kurnik advised those in attendance that the planning commission did not recommend approval of the towers.

Rex Morse encouraged the project, as wind towers pay money to the county which reduces land-holders burdens. He would like to see the board consider this a strategic investment in the county's future.

Lonnie Starke advised that these applications are only for test towers. They will only be up for two years. Starke also stated that Tri-State provides 30% renewable energy, with 50% expected in the next few years. The county needs to look at different revenue streams.

County Attorney Edmund stated that all the boxes had been ticked, and there is no reason to not approve the permits. If this project is denied, there has to be a reason.

Decommissioning was discussed. Kurnik stated that Orion has bonding and regulations in place for decommissioning.

Rick Olson advised that one of the towers is on his property, and he sees no problem with it, as long as there is some discussion in the future, before wind towers are installed.

Lois Hanley spoke adding that there is a tax advantage to the towers and the county should get into it since we have had financial issues in the past. Renewable energy sources wouldn't be against us.

The public hearing was closed and regular session reopened at 1:24.

Motion made by Downer seconded by Geiser to approve Conditional Use Permit 2020-1. On roll call vote, Downer, yes; Geiser, yes; Skavdahl, yes. Motion carried.

Motion made by Geiser seconded by Downer to approve Conditional Use Permit 2020-2. On roll call vote, Downer, yes; Geiser, yes; Skavdahl, yes. Motion carried.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 1:27 P.M.

/s/Joshua Skavdahl

Chairman of the Board

/s/Michelle Zimmerman

Sioux County Clerk