

MARCH 22, 2022

The Board of Supervisors of Clinton County, Iowa, met. Present were Supervisors Determann, Irwin and Srp. Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

9:00 A.M. County Solar Project Discussion

The Board of Supervisors met with County Attorney Mike Wolf, consulting attorney Bob McGee, consulting engineer Geoff Blandin of Origin Design and with County Planning and Zoning Director Thomas Barnes to review the process to consider applications for two solar farm projects in the County.

Barnes explained the process starting with Thursday night's public hearing in Grand Mound. He said no decision needs to happen Thursday night. He said the Board has 150 days to make a decision from when the application is filed. He said that would be June 6. Wolf suggested that an outline of the process be provided at the Thursday meeting. Wolf said the Board would want to consider what conditions would be required based on the input gathered from the public hearing. He said this is also where Origin Design can be useful to guide some of these decisions. Blandin said the application was in general compliance, but there were some issues to address. He said some items were left for the Board of Supervisors to determine and he said there were a couple of design issues. He said the buffering for wind and solar is left to the Board to decide. He has provided the Board with sample buffering ordinances. Irwin said there was concern about road conditions created by the construction of the solar fields. Discussion included how the bonds will work to make sure they cover the actual decommissioning when the time comes. The Board asked Blandin to review what those estimates may be. Supervisor Srp said he heard from another County that was concerned that the property tax would be shifted to the state utility board. They were concerned that could be lowered at the state level and cause the County to ultimately lose revenue. Srp said that County made a deal that the company would provide gap funding to area fire departments and ambulances in the case the state reduced the revenue. Ryan Drew operating engineer union representative said he hopes this doesn't play out like it did in Wapello, Iowa, where a workforce was brought in from outside of the Midwest. He said Linn County made it work to use local workforce. He would like this question to be given to the applicants to consider.

The Board of Supervisors adjourned to meet on Thursday, March 24, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. at the Grand Mound Community Center, Grand Mound, IA.

Eric Van Lancker, County Auditor

Tom Determann, Chairperson

-APPROVED-

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County Auditor

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Chairperson