

DECEMBER 4, 2024

The Board of Supervisors of Clinton County, Iowa, met at the Clinton County Satellite Office, 226 11th St, DeWitt, IA. Present were Supervisors Irwin, Srp and George.

6:00 P.M. Review of Correspondence and Claims
Call to Order – Pledge of Allegiance

DISCUSSION WITH POSSIBLE ACTION

Discussion between the Clinton County Board of Supervisors and the Clinton County Planning and Zoning Commission concerning areas in the County Renewable Energy Wind Turbine Ordinance: Chairman Irwin asked Ryan Purser with NextEra to address questions about fire suppression that was mentioned during the last meeting. He said the system that was mentioned is a unit used in a cabinet not in the cell. He said he investigated the other systems and found they can injure workers. He said another system that was mentioned has proprietary chemicals and won't release what it uses to suppress fires, so he is not able to find out if it is safe for employees. Irwin asked about requirements from Europe for fire suppression. He said there are other counties in the United States and wonders what they require. He said a lot of up tower fire suppression systems do not have shutoffs. Dr. Chris Ollson with NextEra said there are very few turbine fires in all of the turbines operated in America. He added most of the fires caused in turbines were from massive lightning strikes and more research is being conducted every year to make the lightning arrest systems better to prevent fires.

The discussion moved to section H of the ordinance and Jen Kutsch, County resident, said a manual and automatic braking system should be required at a certain rotation speed to reduce the risk of an accident. Tim Arnold, NextEra representative, said most turbines have a system to shut down the turbines if the rotation of the blades is too fast. They explained the blades are first rotated out of the wind and then a brake is used to stop the blades. Ollson said there are international design standards manufacturers must follow for cut out speeds and doesn't see the need for it to be in a county ordinance.

Section I was discussed. Kutsch proposed all turbines have a lightning protection system that meets minimum standards, and the likelihood of lightning strikes should also be studied. Arnold said all turbines have lightning protection systems that meet the standards and include a lightning monitoring system. Arnold said putting this into the county ordinance is repetitive of what is already required for turbines. Irwin said technical standard operation procedures won't be included in the ordinance; he said this is a land use ordinance. However, he said proof of maintenance will be included because that wasn't happening in the Mechanicsville situation. He said if they were maintained properly that sort of fire wouldn't have happened. Arnold said all towers and blades are grounded and bonded and require maintenance.

Irwin moved the conversation to definitions. He added these meetings will come to an end for the time being as they have not yielded much in the last several hours. He said they will continue to meet to consider changes and will eventually have special public meetings again soon. Kutsch reviewed her proposed definitions to consider for the ordinance.

Kutsch presented her decommissioning language for the ordinance that includes a required decommissioning plan that is submitted to the county including deadlines for removal and restrictions that waste from decommissioning cannot be disposed of at any location in Clinton County. Arnold said they have provided information to the county for decommissioning that was submitted earlier today which he reviewed.

The Board of Supervisors adjourned to meet on Monday, December 9, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. at the Clinton County Law Center, 241 7th Ave N, Clinton, IA.

Eric Van Lancker, County Auditor

Jim Irwin, Jr., Chairperson

-APPROVED-

County Auditor

Chairperson