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MINUTES

SANGAMON COUNTY BOARD

NOVEMBER 19, 2012

The Sangamon County Board met in Special Session on November 19, 2012 in the County Board Chambers. Chairman Van Meter called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Moore gave the Invocation and Mr. Ratts led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Chairman Van Meter asked the County Clerk to call the roll. There were 23 Present – 6 Absent. Ms. Dillman, Mr. Good, Mrs. Ruzic, Mr. Snell, Mr. Stephens and Mr. Tjelmeland were excused.

RESOLUTIONS

There were no new resolutions.

OLD BUSINESS

- A. Resolution 13 – Tabled 8/14/12
2012-34 – Text amendment to a Sangamon County Zoning Ordinance regarding Chapter 17.49-Wind Energy Conversion Systems.

A motion was made by Mr. Moore, seconded by Mr. Montalbano and Mr. Bunch, to take Resolution 13 from the table. A voice vote was unanimous.

A motion was made by Mr. Mendenhall, seconded by Mr. Fulgenzi, to amend Resolution 13. Mr. Mendenhall offered a proposed text amendment to the resolution.

The proposed amendment would amend Exhibit A, section D, paragraph 3(a) to change the perimeter setback distance to 1.5 times the system height. Also, paragraph 3(b) would be amended to change the principle structure on each parcel 1,800 feet or 3 times the system height, whichever is greater.

Mr. Goleman stated he lives in a rural area and he lives there because that is where he works and that is what he likes. He believes this text amendment would be intrusive to the neighbors in that area. His concern is "if it's good enough for western Sangamon County then it better be good enough for southeastern Sangamon County." He encouraged his fellow board members to vote against this amendment.

Mr. Moore concurred with Mr. Goleman on this. Over the last several years his committee and staff have worked diligently. They had hearing after hearing and have taken testimony from all sides of this issue. They came up with the Zoning Board of Appeals ordinance, and that is the one he thinks needs their attention. He commended Mr. Mendenhall for his efforts on this amendment, but does not think it is the right one for Sangamon County.

Mr. Hall stated he cannot express how nice the staff has been towards all of the unanswered questions they have kept asking over and over again. He thinks this is an issue beyond the area of western Sangamon County and definitely does not support the amendments here tonight.

Chairman Van Meter asked for a roll call vote on the proposed amendment. Upon the roll call vote, there were 7 Yeas – 15 Nays. The amendment failed. Those voting yes were: Mr. Boyster, Mrs. Briggity, Mr. Bunch, Mrs. Douglas Williams, Mr. Fulgenzi, Mr. Mendenhall and Mr. Smith.

Mr. Moore stated he originally put together an amendment as a compromise between the Goleman and Fraase proposed amendment, but is no longer offering his amendment tonight. He withdrew his proposed amendment.

Mr. Goleman stated he too offered a proposed amendment but now wishes to withdraw it. Mr. Fraase agreed with his colleagues. He also knows they do not have the votes to pass it. He stated he feels they will kill all future development in that area and he hates to see that.

Chairman Van Meter stated the vote now occurs on the resolution, which has not been amended. He asked for discussion on the resolution.

Mr. Moore commended the committee and staff who worked very hard on these text amendments. Their interest has been to preserve and protect the interests of the County, honor the property rights of the landowners and support business as it develops in Sangamon County. He knows it is not to everyone's liking and he does have some reservations himself. The Zoning Board of Appeals approved ordinance is the culmination of many hours of the professional staff and County Board member's time and effort. They had a lot of citizen and developer's input. He recommended they approve this at this time.

Chairman Van Meter asked if the professional staff voiced their opinion on this. Norm Sims, Regional Planning Administrator, stated they recommended approval of this ordinance and the Zoning Board of Appeals concurred with the professional staff's opinion.

Mr. Goleman commended the chairman of the committee, Mr. Moore, and the committee as a whole for being very understanding and patient. He also commended the developers for the information they have given. He thanked the staff for all the hard work they have done. They need to move on with this and move forward.

Chairman Van Meter stated his own personal preference would be to wait. He knows there are many people who are very excited about this proposal. Adopting this procedure for erecting these wind mills will change the character of the rural areas of our community. They could sit and watch how this plays out nationwide, but the advice of legal counsel is they have reached the point of which further delay is not legally advisable. It is probably time to vote.

Chairman Van Meter asked for a roll call vote on the adoption of Resolution 13. Upon the roll call vote, there were 20 Yeas – 1 Nay – 1 Present. Mr. Boyster voted no. Mrs. Briggity voted present. Mr. Hall stated that the strength in this area has been their schools. They also have very valuable homes. He worries they are going to do something here tonight that will affect the growth of the area. He thinks they have made some people unhappy here tonight, but thinks they do need to vote for this.

MOTIONS CARRIED
RESOLUTION ADOPTED

NEW BUSINESS

A. Resolutions

There were no new resolutions.

B. Ratification of the County Highway Collective Bargaining Agreement

A motion was made by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Bunch and Mr. Maslauski, for the ratification of the County Highway Collective Bargaining Agreement. Mr. Smith thanked AFSCME Council #31 and Local #3079. It was a very good negotiation and he is pleased to bring this before the County Board tonight. They have been able to bring the wage structure in line with what they have been trying to do with other bargaining units. It really was a rollover of the contract. Chairman Van Meter expressed the appreciation of the entire County Board for the hours put in on this. A voice vote was unanimous on the motion to ratify the contract.

MOTION CARRIED
CONTRACT RATIFIED

RECESS

A motion was made by Mr. Montalbano, seconded by Mr. Bunch, to recess the meeting to December 11, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. A voice vote was unanimous.

MOTION CARRIED
MEETING RECESSED