



# HARDIN COUNTY

## Zoning Department

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**Hardin County Zoning Commission**  
**Thursday, February 6, 2020**  
**5:30 PM, Hardin County Courthouse Large Conference Room**

### *Meeting Minutes*

**5:30 PM – Meeting called to order.**

Roll call: Stan, Heidi, Katie, and Curt were present. Trent Stalzer was absent.

Also in attendance were: Jacob Bolson, Curt Groen, Marc Broer, Roger Sutton, Ben Speck, Isaac Knutson, Darrell Meyer, Leland Mosch, BJ Hoffman, James Sweeney, Mark Buschkamp, Jessica Sheridan

**Nominations of 2020 officers:** Stan asked for nominations for the 2020 Chair - Heidi nominated Katie, Curt seconded – Stan asked for nominations for 2020 Vice-Chair - Katie nominated Heidi, Curt seconded - Stan called for a vote, motion passed.

**Agenda approval:** Katie asked for a motion to approve the agenda, Stan made a motion, Heidi seconded, motion passed.

**Minutes approval:** Katie asked for a motion to approve the minutes from December 4, 2018, Heidi made a motion, Stan seconded, motion passed.

**Discussion of proposed changes to Hardin County Zoning Ordinance:**

Jessica explained why we are having the meeting. There is a company who is interested in developing a wind project and we want to make sure our regulations are in place.

Darrel Meyer explained that we are trying to protect our drainage districts and 911 communications.

Discussion about parts of amended ordinance that remained the same in regard to existing ordinance.

Jacob Bolson asked for clarification about the wording in regard to communications towers.

Jessica showed the map that was put together by RC Systems showing the areas where wind turbines can't be placed to preserve our communications.

Roger Sutton asked if the company would be allowed to move communications towers to satiate the 911 Board. Mark Buschkamp said the company does a communications study. The company would put up a repeater tower if communication interference was an issue.

Darrell explained why we are requiring approvals from different boards and commissions in order for applications to be approved. Also described potential relief for applicants if a board doesn't approve.

Received a request to add the Ackley Airport to list of airports because it is a municipal airport.

Curt Groen asked a question about the 911 communications map and whether it covers everything it needs to.



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Roger Sutton explained flight allowances in regard to height requirements. Questioned whether we need to do a maximum height requirement. Discussion about whether that is viable. Discussion about how wind turbines are a hazard for pilots. Jacob Bolson commented on how he appreciates the multiplier setback requirement. Also commented on how it could be very difficult to get aerial applicators to come in if turbines keep getting taller.

Curt Groen commented that wind turbines can create pressure changes up to 12 miles downstream.

Jacob Bolson asked about setback requirements from meteorological towers, radio towers, and radar towers.

Discussion of possible expansion of airport and how regulations could affect that.

Discussion about list of federal and state gatekeepers (Army Corps of Engineers, US Fish and Wildlife, etc.)

Curt Groen requested that we add pipeline groups to 120-day notification group.

Jacob Bolson expressed concerns about private utilities (aka fiber optic, "long range wireless", etc.)

Roger Sutton commented on waste disposal part of ordinance. Jacob Bolson expressed concerns that taxpayer should not be responsible for processing the waste that is taken to landfills in relation to wind turbines. BJ Hoffman expressed fears that we won't be able to turn away people who want to bring in turbine blades to landfill.

Mark Buschkamp said they are opening a plant in Newton to address processing of decommissioned turbines.

Discussion about decommissioning plans.

Discussion about required financial securities.

Discussion about removal depth of turbine foundations. Discussed that landowners should know what they're getting into and understand the loss of the land value. Some also discussed that foundation should be removed to allow for future crop growth potential.

Isaac Knutson brought up the subject of drainage infrastructure. Darrell Meyer explained that there has been a lot of discussion about drainage and that trustees are looking at their drainage district utility permit application to tighten it up and make sure protections are in there. Jacob Bolson asked how we can address the issue of a timeline for getting drainage tiles fixed, AKA communications. Suggested that wind company have a legal representation on file with the county who can make decisions and speak with county engineer or drainage engineer when fixes need to be made.

Jacob Bolson mentioned that there was a Senate File that could take away local control as it pertains to wind energy.

Curt Groen expressed concerns as wind turbines pertain to wildlife, insects, etc. Expressed concerns about soil health and that there are a lot of unknowns.

Jim Sweeney suggested identifying construction paths of equipment and just replacing the tile immediately.

Discussion about how we came up with setback requirements. Isaac Knutson expressed concerns about safety distances that the company sets for their own turbines and that our setback distances should reflect those (at least).



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Curt Groen mentioned ice throw distances from blades.

Discussion about the regulations we are proposing in regard to secondary roads and repair.

Leland Mosch had a question about the RC Systems map and whether it factors in state communications.

Discussion about other wireless communications and how they could be affected by wind turbines.

Jacob Bolson asked when the company is going to be having community meetings. No answers were provided.

Roger Sutton asked what the timeline is for approving the ordinance, etc. Zoning Commission has to approve first, then Board of Supervisors. April would be a good estimate for when this could potentially be approved by.

**Set date and time for next meeting:** Katie asked for a motion to set the date and time for the public hearing for February 25, 2020 at 5:30 PM in the Hardin County Large Conference Room, Stan made a motion, Curt seconded, motion passed.

**Other Business:** None

**Adjournment:** Katie asked for a motion to adjourn, Stan made a motion, Curt seconded, motion passed.