

The Board of Huron County Commissioners met this date in Regular Session. Roll being called found the following members present: Terry Boose and Joe Hintz. Bruce Wilde absent, on vacation.

**Assistant Prosecutor report**

22 East Main St lease is done. He needs to proofread and then he will email it to them.

**Commissioner Hintz report**

LEPC and EMA are both today. Mr. Hintz will attend LEPC at 1:00 p.m. Mr. Boose will attend EMA at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Hintz went over and viewed the records storage area in the basement of 22 E. Main Street. He took humidity tests, they were fine. He did notice there was some seepage under the sidewalk. Prosecutor will buy a dehumidifier.

Board of Elections. Mr. Kline had some tape laid out in the basement meeting room. He explained to Mr. Hintz the room would not work for early voting because of ADA requirements. Mr. Boose said they had measured the new space and the old space - they were very, very close. Mr. Boose stated he wanted something from the Secretary of State saying what the actual required space is, not what the Board of Elections wants. He would like to see how the new space works for this election, which is expected to be a lower voter turnout. Mr. Kline admitted they were looking at it for the presidential election. The Board of Elections had presented a letter to Ms. Ziemba right before today's meeting. No one had an opportunity to review it.

**At 9:10 a.m. Public comment:**

*Natalie Kaltenbauch.* Sand Hill Road, Lyme Township.

Good morning. My name is Natalie Kaltenbach and I live at 3337 Sandhill Road in Lyme Township.

This morning, I want to discuss public opposition to the Emerson Creek Industrial Wind Project. On November 15, 2018, Apex held its first mandated public information meeting. Public comments were received and filed under Public Comments for this case by the Ohio Power Siting Board nearly five months later on April 9, 2019. Of the comments received, I could determine support or opposition to the project on 52. 22 or 42% were in support while 30 or 58% were opposed.

Because of the proximity of similar projects in Seneca County, namely Republic Wind and Seneca Wind and the fact that many Huron County residents live in the viewshed or footprint of these projects, I will share support and opposed figures obtained by the Ohio Power Siting Board at public hearings held by them on August 2, 2019 (Seneca) and September 5, 2019 (Republic). In the interest of time, I will combine their numbers. In total, 356 signatures were obtained. 26 or 7.3% were in favor while 330 or 92.7 % were opposed.

Apex was ordered by the Ohio Power Siting Board to hold a second public meeting for the Emerson Creek Wind Project which they did on April 3, 2019. Comments were received and posted under Public Comments two days later on April 5. Of the 123 comments that I could determine the writers' intent, 99 or 80% were opposed and 24 or 20% were in favor.

In addition, at least 213 signatures were obtained on a petition opposing the Emerson Creek Wind Project at this year's Huron County Fair.

Township trustees from Groton and Oxford Townships in Erie County which is part of the Emerson Creek project have passed resolutions opposing the project. The same is true of trustees in Norwich township in Huron County. The Seneca County Commissioners recently passed a resolution opposing Republic Wind, Seneca Wind and any future wind projects in Seneca County and are now intervening against said projects. The trustees from Adams, Scipio and Reed townships in Seneca County are following suit.

I have shared these numbers with you to show that these projects, which are all intertwined, do not have the "overwhelming support" that the wind developers state that they have. The groundswell of opposition continues to grow as more and

more citizens learn about the concerns and issues associated with these industrial wind projects.

On September 12, 2019, you were informed by counsel representing Apex, that if you wish to intervene in the process, you have 30 days to file a notice of intervention with the Ohio Power Siting Board. We are asking that you, our duly elected county commissioners, listen to your constituents and do just that. Thank you.

*Deborah Weisenhauer.* Sherman Norwich Road, Norwich Township, Bellevue, Ohio.

9/19/2019

DURING THE HURON COUNTY FAIR AND THE BELLEVUE FARMERS MARKET 262 ANTI WIND SIGNATURES WERE COLLECTED. ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-SIX WERE FROM HURON COUNTY.

AT THE REPUBLIC WIND PUBLIC HEARING 70% OF THE RESIDENTS GAVE TESTIMONIES AGAINST THE WIND PROJECT.

TWO OF THE MAIN CONCERNS BROUGHT UP AT THE HEARING WERE

1. THE IMPACT ON THE KARST

ALTHOUGH THE WIND DEVELOPERS HAVE THREE PROJECTS THEY CAN REALLY BE CONSIDERED ONE. WHATEVER HAPPENS IN ONE COUNTY WILL AFFECT HURON, ERIE, SENECA, AND SANDUSKY BECAUSE OF THE LOCATION AND NATURE OF THE KARST.

THE REPORT **GROUND WATER INDUCED FLOODING IN THE BELLEVUE OHIO AREA SPRING AND SUMMER 2008** PREPARED BY THE ODNR-DIVISION OF WATER DETAILS FORMATION OF THE KARST AND WHAT IMPACTS IT. GOOGLE GROUND WATER INDUCED FLOODING IN THE BELLEVUE AREA TO READ THE FULL REPORT.

2. PUBLIC SAFETY

HOW WILL LIFE FLIGHT BE IMPACTED? CURRENT SET BACKS ARE NOT ADEQUATE FOR BLADE THROW. HOW WILL THE KNOWN HEALTH EFFECTS OF NOISE, FLICKER, AND INFRASOUND AFFECT RESIDENTS.

AUGUST 15, 2019 Seneca County Commissioners passed a supplemental and amending resolution.

This new supplemental and amending resolution builds on their previously passed resolution (28th March 2019) which sunset the Alternative Energy Zone (AEZ) effective June 30th 2019.

It includes:

-- They are in support of public safety by requesting longer setbacks than current law allows

-- They are in support of the county's significant investment in the Seneca County Airport and recognize the importance of life flight services to all areas of the county

-- They are concerned about any turbines within one mile of any K-12 county schools causing risk or distractions to students

-- The Seneca County Commissioners withdraw all previous support of the Seneca Wind, Republic Wind or any proposed wind turbine projects to the maximum extent allowed by law

-- The Seneca County Commissioners release counsel previously retained to represent Seneca County in the Republic Wind Project

-- The Seneca County Commissioners intend to retain new counsel, if and when necessary, to advise and collaborate with the Seneca County Prosecutor in the formal intervention process for all wind projects, and to oppose the construction of the Seneca Wind, Republic Wind and any other similar proposed projects to the fullest extent possible.

-- The Seneca County Commissioners request that the Seneca County Prosecutor enter an appearance for Seneca County as counsel of record in the Republic Wind Project and represent Seneca County along with Adams, Scipio, and Reed Townships conditioned upon no conflict of interest."

I AM ASKING YOU TO JOIN THE SENECA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS IN OPPOSING THE CONSTRUCTION OF WIND TURBINE PROJECTS. HURON COUNTY IS NOT THE PLACE FOR INDUSTRIAL TURBINES.

RESPECTFULLY  
DEBORAH WEISENAUER  
NORWICH TOWNSHIP  
HURON OHIO

**At 9:18 a.m. Nate Pedder, Apex Clean Energy,** Mr. Pedder was in to give an update on the project and answer any questions regarding the notice that had gone out. He had also sent an email to inform the Commissioners the transmission line application was in. This is for the transmission line associated with the project. It is separate from the wind application, but goes through a similar process. The majority of the transmission line is in Erie County, but part of it is located in Huron County.

The notice that came out is for the wind project. This is the notice that the application has been deemed complete. The project will now move into the Staff Report phase. The staff has approximately 75 days to do their Staff Report through the Ohio Power Siting Board. They will come out with suggested modifications or rejections of sites. They ask about everything that is in the application, and Apex must continuously provide more information. The Staff Report is expected to come out some time around Thanksgiving. Shortly after that the public hearing will be scheduled, probably in mid-December. The adjudicatory hearing, which is where witnesses and legal teams give testimony, is expected to occur in January. They are expecting a March timeframe for the OPSB to make a decision on the project. Construction is estimated to start at the end of 2020, possibly the beginning of 2021.

There have been a few changes in the application – they added a few new turbine models, some with higher generator nameplate capacities. In the original application the highest nameplate capacity was 4.5 megawatts. This would require building about 71 turbines for a 300 megawatt project. Now the highest

nameplate capacity is 5.7 megawatts, so they would only have to build 52 turbines. The dimensions of those turbines have not changed, it is actually just a new generator inside the same type of turbine. Because of this there is a chance there will be fewer turbines built, but the project will still have the same nameplate capacity. There have been a few new turbines added. Mr. Hintz clarified they are not going to be any higher, but the output will be greater, therefore they will build fewer turbines. Mr. Pedder said that was correct. He said there was one turbine added last week that is one foot higher in height. It went from 149 meter rotor diameter to 150 meter. Not a significant change.

Mr. Pedder stated he would stay for the notice to intervene, so he could answer any questions there.

Mr. Pedder wanted to discuss karst as well. He thought he had mentioned previously that the geotechnical analysis will be done earlier than usual on this project due to the karst concerns. They did as much as possible in the spring, but it was slow going because of all the rain. 60 of the 87 proposed turbine locations had been completed. They didn't find anything major that caused concern, but there is one turbine they will be looking at a little closer at the south end of the project. Mr. Pedder explained it is still unknown exactly which of the proposed 87 turbines would be constructed.

Mr. Boose verified the application was for a certain amount of energy. This is why the number of turbines can go up or down. Mr. Pedder explained they cannot exceed 297.66 megawatts. Mr. Boose said that was what was in the application, so that is what they will approve – the total number of kilowatts. Mr. Boose asked if the state was also looking at the area because of the karst. Mr. Pedder said all their geotechnical findings will be shared with the state during the pre-construction process. This is to ensure the foundations are being safely designed. First they have to get the application approved, then they will meet with the state prior to construction. The state will also verify they have all the necessary leases and good neighbor agreements, as well as ensure that Apex has met all the conditions included in the permit. Then they will review final site designs.

Mr. Hintz asked him to explain what it means to “intervene”. Mr. Pedder said intervening provides an opportunity to obtain information from OPSB. It keeps you informed of any dates that are set and new filings introduced by Apex or other parties. When it comes to the adjudicatory hearing in January, it would allow the Commissioners to serve as witnesses and provide testimony. Mr. Pedder explained the adjudicatory hearing is different than the public hearing. The adjudicatory hearing has legal representatives present and there is the opportunity for cross examination of witnesses. If you don't intervene, the only chance at testimony would be at the public hearing, and you would not be able to have legal representation. There also would not be the opportunity for cross examination or to introduce witnesses. Mr. Hintz wanted to make sure the notice to intervene in no way gave approval of the project. Mr. Strickler explained all we are doing is protecting our rights.

19-282

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF HURON COUNTY TO INTERVENE IN THE FIRELANDS WIND, LLC ALTERNATIVE ENERGY PROJECT APPLICATION BEFORE THE OHIO POWER SITING BOARD.**

Terry Boose moved the adoption of the following Resolution:

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Commissioners of Huron County has been informed that an application has been filed with the Ohio Power Siting Board relative to the Firelands Wind, LLC alternative energy project, a portion of said project being located in Huron County; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board has determined that it is necessary to intervene in the application to protect the interests of Huron County and keep informed of the status of the proceedings relative to this alternative energy project; now therefore

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Commissioners has determined that it is necessary to intervene in the application of Firelands Wind, LLC which is currently before the Ohio Power Siting Board based on all considerations as set forth in the Revised Code and Administrative Code. A portion of the proposed project is to be located within Huron County, Ohio, and the Board is desirous of protecting the interest of the County and staying informed of the status of the project by intervening in said application as it makes its way through the Ohio Power Siting Board; and further

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the foregoing Resolution was adopted and all actions and deliberations of the Board of Commissioners of the County of Huron, Ohio, relating thereto were conducted in meetings open to the public, in compliance with all applicable legal requirements, including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Joe Hintz seconded the motion.

**\*Discussion:** Mr. Boose said we have been aware of the process for a couple years now at least. We were asked to do a PILOT. We did hearings, we did studies and we did our research. We decided we were not going to approve a PILOT. We are aware that if we intervene that gives us the opportunity to be part of the process. The Power Siting Board will now go out and look at all the scientific information. They will pull together all their expertise, and they will listen to any other expertise that could come in as far as testimony of the public, or an intervention. It is his opinion to let the process work. Should we, at the end of the process, need to present some kind of testimony, then we can. That is what this resolution does, that is what we asked Mr. Strickler to prepare.

Mr. Hintz wanted to clarify this in front of everybody so they better understand. His concern was they had been told if there wasn't a PILOT, there wouldn't be a project. Mr. Hintz thought Mr. Boose had more trust in the wind projects than he does. Mr. Boose said that is not necessarily the case, he just wants the process to work the way it was designed to work. He also wanted to make it clear for the record that it was not the energy company that said they wouldn't move forward if we turned down the PILOT. It had been the other people coming to us with information that had said that.

The roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

Aye – Terry Boose

Aye – Joe Hintz

Absent – Bruce Wilde

**At 9:36 a.m. Linda Mitchell, Safe Harbour Domestic Violence Shelter**



**SAFE HARBOUR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SHELTER INC  
ANNUAL REPORT  
JULY 1, 2018 — JUNE 30, 2019  
HURON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

**GRANTS**

Safe Harbour receives monies from Family Violence Prevention, Victim of Crime Act (VOCA), State Victims Assistance (SVAA), Baseline, Marriage License and Divorce from Erie, Ottawa, and Huron counties, United Way of Erie County, Local Foundations, and Fundraising Events.

**SHELTER**

In this fiscal year, 2018-2019 Safe Harbour sheltered 6 families including 3 children from Huron County. This equates to 82 nights of service. We provide new clothes, personal items, new towels, food and anything the victim and their dependents may need at no cost to them. Upon leaving the Shelter, each family is given cleaning supplies, paper products, towels and hygiene items. Each client sets up their own case plan and the staff helps them reach each goal. The length of stay in shelter is 30 days, however, if safety is an issue or the client is following their own case plan an extension is granted. Safe Harbour employs a Licensed Social Worker (LSW) to counsel victims to help them implement their case plan.

**CRISIS CALLS**

Safe Harbour's trained paid staff answered 60 crisis calls from Huron County. We have a toll free number that is available from anywhere in the 419 area code. The Shelter, as well as the hotline, is manned 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. Since January 2013, Safe Harbour and several other agencies have collaborated to have Safe Harbour answer all crisis calls involving sexual assault and domestic violence. The First Response Program has been very successful. We continue to offer this program to the Huron County Victim's Assistance Program at no cost. In addition, we work closely with the SANE unit to ensure that victims are taken care of on a timely basis. Safe Harbour was able to refer 15 victims of rape in Huron County to the SANE nurse. These referrals are done on a very timely manner, within about 1 hour from the time of the report.

**TEEN DATING VIOLENCE PROGRAM**

The Teen Dating Violence Program is now mandatory in the schools because of House Bill 19. This bill was passed in April 2010. Safe Harbour has stepped up to the plate and hired a teacher to present this program to students from 7<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grades. In the last year our teacher presented this program to 145 students in Huron County.

**VOLUNTEER PROGRAM**

The Volunteers of Safe Harbour provide several events for battered women. We have a very large Christmas Celebration; a full meal is served, each child and mother receives beautiful gifts as well as a picture on Santa's lap. We also have a Back to School rally every year, each child receives a back pack filled with age appropriate school supplies. Our Volunteers also hosts many fund raisers, i.e. Walk a Mile in Her Shoes and our Night at the Races. The Volunteers participate in many awareness programs, health fairs, senior programs, community education programs and help with the distribution of many different materials.

**NETWORKING**

Safe Harbour is available at all times to work with Huron County Victims Assistance and victims of domestic violence. Contact with Safe Harbour can be made 24/7 on the crisis hot line. We hope to continue to be helpful to the domestic violence victims in your county in the next year. We did have an opportunity to meet with Huron County Victim Assistance to explain our services and we provided a tour of our shelter.

**SHELTER UPGRADES**

We are so proud to report that we are continuing upgrades to our Shelter. In the last year we have had new flooring installed in the shelter office area and we have had the upper outside portion of the building painted. In addition, we have replaced all the beds and box springs and added new lighting and furniture to all of the bedrooms. We have also applied for a grant to replace the carpeting throughout. If awarded, we will have all new carpets before Christmas. We are very proud to provide the only emergency shelter in the tri-county area.

**At 9:48 a.m. Terry Boose moved to enter into Executive Session ORC 121.22 (G)(3) a conference with an attorney for the public body concerning disputes involving the public body that are the subject of pending or imminent court action and ORC 121.22 (G) (4) preparation for, conducting, or reviewing negotiations or bargaining sessions for public employees, concerning employee compensation or other terms and conditions of employment. Joe Hintz seconded the motion. The roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:**

**Aye – Terry Boose**

**Aye – Joe Hintz**

**Absent – Bruce Wilde**

**At 10:27 a.m. Terry Boose moved to end executive session ORC 121.22 (G) (3) and (4). Joe Hintz seconded the motion. The roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:**

*Aye – Terry Boose  
Aye – Joe Hintz  
Absent – Bruce Wilde*

*\*No action taken.*

**Commissioner Boose report**

Elevator in the Administration building. Board of Elections is claiming some of their issue is ADA accessibility. Ms. Ziembra thought the critical infrastructure grant may be able to provide considerable bond money for us to use to make the elevator ADA compliant. After measuring the elevator it appears that it could be altered to fit ADA requirements. Mr. Boose would like to have an architect come in to look at it. He believes it is in our best interest to check into it, since it would make the whole building more handicap accessible. He would like GLCAP to start looking to see if there is money we would be eligible for.

Mr. Boose again expressed his frustration with the Board of Elections. He had suggested using the basement conference room for this election. They were telling him it wouldn't work for the presidential election. He felt every time we make a suggestion to resolve a problem, they immediately come up with a new problem. Now they are having an issue with the locks on the doors. Mr. Boose would like to know what the state is requiring for early voting – not what the Board of Elections would like. He noticed in their minutes they stated that Homeland Security had mandated certain things. However, everything we heard from Homeland Security had only been suggestions. He felt they are confusing things. If they cannot use the space they are being offered, or the space they currently have, he would like to know who says they can't and why. He would like to look at a bigger plan for the building and not make a rash decision.

**At 10:39 a.m.** Terry Boose moved to adjourn. Joe Hintz seconded the motion. The meeting stood adjourned.

**IN THE MATTER OF CERTIFICATION**

The Clerk to the Board does hereby attest that the foregoing is a true and correct record of all actions taken by the Board of Huron County Commissioners on September 19, 2019.

**IN THE MATTER OF ADJOURNING**

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:39 a.m.

	Terry Boose
	Joe Hintz
	<b>Absent</b> Bruce Wilde

**ATTEST**

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Clerk to the Board