

**SPECIAL SESSION****THURSDAY****NOVEMBER 30, 2017**

The Board of Huron County Commissioners met this date in Special Session at the Huron County Administration Building, Meeting Room A. Roll being called found the following members present: Terry Boose, Joe Hintz, and Bruce Wilde.

Commissioner Hintz explained everyone needs to sign-in at the back of the room. If you wish to speak, sign the sheet at the podium. Three minute time limit. Can submit written or verbal testimony.

Marcia Ledet from Greenwich Ohio, Ms. Ledet stated she is against the AEZ. Ms. Ledet stated that she has lived in Huron County all her life, this is her home. Ms. Ledet strongly believes that the AEZ is wrong for Huron County. Ms. Ledet stated the residents will be the ones affected by lower property values, bright flashing lights, in fro sound just to name a few of the side effects. Ms. Ledet stated that once again APEX wants a no muss, no fuss deal. The decisions should be kept here in Huron County, an AEZ takes all that away. Ms. Ledet strongly recommends that they keep the responsibility here in Huron County.

Gene Lamoreaux from Greenwich Ohio, discussed the differences between the pipeline and wind farm. Mr. Lamoreaux is against the AEZ. Mr. Lamoreaux stated that they installed geothermal heat in their home around 7 years ago. Mr. Lamoreaux stated that they had negotiated about a year ago with the Utopia Pipeline. Mr. Lamoreaux stated they have a pipeline that comes through his property, he didn't want that, he fought it and he finally realized he didn't want to spend the lawyer fees to fight it any longer. He knew there was always that threat of emit domain so they came to an agreement. Mr. Lamoreaux urges the Board to vote against the AEZ.

Fred Ramsey from Greenwich / Norwalk Ohio, Mr. Ramsey is against the AEZ.

Heidi Johnson from Greenwich, Ohio. Ms. Johnson is against the AEZ, encouraged the Commissioners to use their wisdom. Some landowner have the dollar signs in their eyes in regards to selling the land. Ms. Johnson stated we all know that property values will go down, along with agricultural. Ms. Johnson stated they are not against alternative energy, but when it causes property values to go down, then that is an issue.

Mr. Boose asked Ms. Johnson to forward her information to them. Mr. Boose stated that if anyone has any information they would like the Commissioners to see please forward it on.

Gerald Oney from Greenwich, Ohio. Mr. Oney is against the AEZ. Mr. Oney stated that this does not bring permanent jobs into Huron County. Mr. Oney is a farmer and he doesn't like the rebar and things being buried because they erode and can affect the water sources. Mr. Oney stated that this industry isn't here to benefit the residents of Huron County.

Kevin Ledet from Greenwich, Ohio. Mr. Ledet is against AEZ. Mr. Ledet stated an AEZ in essence removes the last vestige of any local control a county has. The State of Ohio, through the Ohio Power Siting Board has taken control of all siting issues related to industrial wind facilities of 5 megawatt and greater nameplate capacity. The only leverage a county has is tax abatement and with an AEZ declaration, leverage is lost because an AEZ establishes a Payment In Lieu of Taxes (PILOT). The maximum is \$9,000.00 per megawatt of nameplate capacity, for wind. A county can grant a PILOT even though it is not an AEZ. There is a questions of whether a county can negotiate a PILOT that is different than the one already established. Whether are not a county can negotiate anything different then the PILOT already established is immaterial. The county forfeits all input if it is an AEZ. No negotiation. No debate. Mr. Ledet tried to find out how many counties in Ohio have declared themselves an AEZ and the best he could find was 8. Of those 8 counties, 2 counties have since rescinded their AEZ designations. Van Wert which has an operational wind facility and Hardin which has one wind facility constructed but not operational, with 2 more in process. It would be a good idea to find out why these commissioner's decided an AEZ was bad for them. I believe an AEZ is bad for us also, stated Mr. Ledet. Mr. Ledet wanted to quote an excerpt from a County Commissioners Association of Ohio Bulletin dated Oct. 2013. "While the consideration of the effects of granting the abatement and receiving a P.I.L.O.T payment as opposed to rejecting the abatement request and requiring the energy project to pay the full amount of its taxes is relatively straight forward for the counties. The decision process is quite complicated and confusing when trying to evaluate which option is in the best interests of a school district. CCAO is extremely hesitant to suggest that abatement is automatically the best option for a school district, especially when numerous stakeholders, including the educational community, legislatively sought a minimum PILOT between \$12,000 to \$15,000. Mr. Ledet stated since the school districts are clearly the

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biggest winners or losers, these PILOTS should be negotiated on a one on one basis with a clear understanding of what the Commissioners are giving away in taxes.

Furthermore, a PILOT should never be granted without the express consent of that community that will be having the turbines imposed upon them. Mr. Ledet stated that regarding job creation it is 18 jobs for 7 wind facilities, how many jobs for 1 wind facility? Mr. Ledet stated that the township is not able to erect and maintain an industrial wind turbine.

Arnie Depinet from Seneca County, owns property in Huron County. Mr. Depinet is for AEZ. Mr. Depinet stated that Apex is not involved in the Greenwich project. After project is done Apex will still be around to help out.

Bonnie Rhine from Greenwich, Ohio. Ms. Rhine is against the AEZ and wind turbines. Ms. Rhine stated this is not green energy. Apex are salesmen.

Russell Hillis from Willard, Ohio. Mr. Hillis is for AEZ. Mr. Hillis doesn't agree with the lower property values. If he has a turbine on his farm then it will sell for more with the additional income. County & cities lobby for businesses to come in and give them tax abatements. Mr. Hillis stated this is similar. The land is privately owned and it isn't a safety issue. Mr. Hillis stated people have a right to do what they want with their land.

Richard Wiles from Willard, Ohio. Mr. Wiles is against AEZ. Mr. Wiles doesn't feel it's in the best interest of the county. Feels it ties their hands.

Tom Yingling from Bellevue/Lyme Twp. Mr. Yingling is for AEZ. Mr. Yingling stated this is an economic benefit this increases farm land values because you are creating more income. Mr. Yingling stated the tax base will go up and it is green energy.

Dennis Albert from Greenwich, Ohio. Mr. Albert is against AEZ. Mr. Albert stated the more you know about them the less you will like them. For the last three and half years that has been GNU's mantra and with good reason. Mr. Albert stated that it doesn't take long to see that the only good investment they provide for are for the hosting land owners (some who do not even live in the area) and the foreign venture capitalist's whose only desire is to benefit from a fat investment portfolio.

David Fox from Norwich Twp. Mr. Fox is for the AEZ. Mr. Fox has signed up for the wind farm to be on his property. Mr. Fox understands that not everybody wants to look at them, but neither are cell phone towers or utility poles. Mr. Fox stated that wind is green. Mr. Fox stated the climate is changing. Mr. Fox feels the main argument is they don't want to look at them and they are finding any other excuse to back it up.

Valerie Malicki from North Fairfield, Ohio. Ms. Malicki is against the AEZ. Ms. Malicki stated she now lives in North Fairfield because she had to flee her home that was 765 feet from a project site. Mr. Malicki stated her brothers were 7<sup>th</sup> generation farmers in Huron County, they would like to continue farming here. Ms. Malicki stated she learned more than she needed to know about an AEZ then she wanted to. Ms. Malicki stated that the community pleaded with Mr. Hintz and Mr. Boose for help, and they personal stated they would not like to live next to a wind turbine.

Dean Sheldon from Ripley Twp. Mr. Sheldon is against the AEZ. Mr. Sheldon stated he's main concern is in regards to conservation.

Don Thomas from Erie Co. Mr. Thomas was called by Apex, Mr. Thomas has a met tower which is a data collection. Mr. Thomas stated he did not sign up as a land owner that wants to be in the system. Mr. Thomas stated they need to have caution, because what if the towers need to come down.

Sarah Moser from Van Wert County. Ms. Moser works for Apex, she explained you don't need a countywide AEZ, Apex is asking for a project specific PILOT. Ms. Moser stated that this will not include the Greenwich project. Ms. Moser stated that they would like the Commissioners to consider the over 700 people signed into the Emerson Creek Wind Project. Ms. Moser stated that 450 Megawatts for the project was estimated, 450 Megawatts times \$8,000.00 per megawatts 3.6 million dollars in tax base, about 70% goes to the schools, \$450,000.00 goes directly into the General Fund. Ms. Moser stated as leaders, understands that people are very good at complaining, telling you what they don't like about it, but they

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don't have to make the hard decisions. Ms. Moser thanked the Commissioners for hearing everyone's testimony.

Commissioner Hintz stated that if there is no other comments, Mr. Hintz stated they have some comments to make.

Commissioner Boose thanked everybody for attending. Found out that no matter what time the meeting is there is a conflict. Going to contact the local communities for input. This is a gathering of information session. Working on gathering information in the background.

Commissioner Wilde trying to do our due diligence so we can do what's best for our community.

Commissioner Hintz stated he was a part of the old board when the Greenwich Wind Farm came in. contacted other counties for their input.

**At 10:04 a.m.** Terry Boose moved to adjourn. Bruce Wilde seconded the motion. The meeting was 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 November 30, 2017.

**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 10:04 a. m.

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Terry Boose

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Joe Hintz

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Bruce Wilde

**ATTEST**

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Clerk to the Board