

SEDGWICK COUNTY COMMISSIONER
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
AUGUST 8, 2023

Meeting was called to order in the Annex by Chairman Donald Schneider with Howard McCormick, Ronald Berges and Christy Beckman present. Approximately 30 people joined the meeting via zoom.

At 8:30, Chairman Schneider brought the meeting to order and the second NRS Wind Farm public hearing began. Attorney Kelly Lowery noted to the public that there was compliance with all of the requirements, agencies were notified and no negative comments were received from those companies. There was a determination of completion on June 7, 2023 and then notification was given to land / mineral owners. The public hearings were published 30 days in advance and since the July 18th public hearing, comments received from the public have been reviewed and addressed Alex Ingulsrud, along with Jessie Hipkins Hoel, Chris Ollson, Brian Loomis and Brenda Moore gave a presentation about the wind farm project. The floor was opened for comments from the public. 29 members of the community commented both for and against. At the conclusion of the comments, the Board of Commissioners called for a 10-minute recess.

It is now 10:42 and the meeting has been re-convened. Schneider told the guests that in the 6 ½ years he has been a commissioner there have been financial struggles within the county. Schneider asked NRS if the Board agreed to the smaller setback of 1500 feet, would they be able to add 500 feet to the non-participating residents? Alex Ingsrud told him they would be willing to work with the 2500 setback from the property line if they could get the 1.5 x. Schneider then told the guests that with the building permits and use tax that would come in from this project, it would amount to 6.6 million dollars which is three times our current mill levy. McCormick said that he took the time to go visit a site to experience the wind tower and agreed that it made noise and would be more comfortable with the 2500-foot setback. Berges thanked everybody and said he appreciated their interest and that his is concerned with the status of the roads with the heavy equipment that would be present during construction but agreed that there are safeguards built into the application and contracts. Kelly Lowery, County Attorney discussed some legalities concerning limiting the approval for contingency for 3 years to get the building permit with a possible 1-year extension. Lowery then asked the commissioners again if they had any individual interest in the project to which Berges answered no, McCormick answered no and Schneider answered no.

Schneider moved to approve Resolution #2023-027, approval of the application for the Overland Pass Energy East wind project with the addition of 500 additional feet for non-participating residential landowners and the permitting to be attained within three years with a possible 1 year extension. McCormick second, carried. Roll call vote: Berges – Aye, McCormick – Aye, Schneider – Aye. Lowery then read the condition of approval out loud. Schneider moved to approve the special conditions for application including the addition of 500 feet to the residential non-participating landowners and the 3-year permitting with the possibility of a 1 year extension. McCormick second, carried. Roll call vote: Berges – Aye, McCormick – Aye, Schneider – Aye. It is now 11:05 and this concludes the public hearing portion of the commissioner meeting.

Schneider moved to approve the August 8, 2023 agenda with the addition of a report on ankle track bracelets. McCormick second, carried.

McCormick moved to approve the August 8, 2023 vouchers as presented. Berges second, carried.

McCormick moved to approve the July 28, 2023 minutes as amended. Berges second, carried.

Schneider told the Board that he would like discussion to continue about the ankle track bracelets for the Sheriff's office. This was brought up to Sheriff Crowder prior to him becoming the sheriff. Schnieder learned of these at winter conference, and they are approximately \$4 per day. Schneider explained that Logan County jailing has increased from \$61 per day to \$76 per day per individual and last months invoice was \$12,000. Schneider feels this needs to be looked at for the sake of not wasting taxpayers' money. McCormick said that even with limited funds, this will be an expense that will come out of the Sheriff's budget.

Schneider moved to approve the IGA between Sedgwick County and Holyoke School District RE-1J for the November Election. McCormick second, carried.

McCormick moved to adjourn the meeting. Berges second, carried. Meeting was adjourned.

Donald Schneider, Chairman

Christy M. Beckman, Clerk to the Board