

June 17, 2022

The Mahaska County Board of Supervisors met in special session on the above date at 9:00 a.m. in the third-floor conference room of the Mahaska County courthouse. Present were the following board members: Chairman – Mark Groenendyk; Vice chairman – Steve Wanders and Member – Chuck Webb. Also present were Joe Lancello, KBOE; Ken Allsup, Osky News; Olivia Neter, Liberty Power; Lindsey Thomas; Tom Flaherty; Darin Hite; Jonathon Angove; Ron & LeeAnn Failyer; Dave Knox; Antoinette Van Wyk; Lee Veldhuizen; Bill Alexander; Pam Alexander; Andrew Alexander; Joel Van Gilst; Lisa Albertson; Jim Vander Voort; Jan Vander Voort; Micah Van Mersbergen; Eldon Louwsma; Mark Hedge; Cindy Hedge; Ron Reed; Dan Van Donselaar; Brent Meinders; Becky Meinders; Wanda Crosson; Shauna Hol; Cal Roozenboom; Marc Nollen; Jessica Nollen; Dan Van Arendonk; Teri Rogers; Jean Stanford; Pat Scanlon; Joyce Stam; Toni Van Wyk; Helena Hayes; David Taylor; Elie Ford; Leon Groenendyk; Lori Behrens; Eveline Franje; Patrick Franje; Tim Harned; Jim & Melissa Van Donselaar; Gary & Joyce Wilson; Arnie & Ileen Van Donselaar; Jennifer Van Zante; and Susan Brown, Mahaska County Auditor. Kyle Ocher, Ken Allsup attend by telephone. The meeting was opened with a moment of silence.

It was moved by Webb seconded by Wanders to approve agenda for today's meeting. All present voted aye. Motion carried.

Public Comments: None

Board had been approached by Liberty Power in their consideration of the SE quarter of Mahaska County for use as a wind tower farm project. Board felt constituents from county should hear proposal, ask questions, and give their feedback to the board for consideration in moving forward with the project or not.

Olivia Neter, representative for Liberty Power (subsidiary of Algonquin Power & Utilities Corp), gave presentation outlining Liberty Power's interest in expanding wind farm projects across the United States including Iowa and have identified the potential in Mahaska County for one such project. In Mahaska County both wind and solar are readily available. Target area would be Spring Creek, White Oak, Harrison, and Cedar townships. It would be a \$70,000,000 project – up to 300 megawatt with 60-80 turbines. Would need 1500-2000 acres. Company likes to use local labor force and local businesses through the construction process. They are only in the second week of the project; nothing has been done yet. A county ordinance and road use agreements would need to be in place. Any damage to roads etc. would be compensated. Liberty would finance the project. No eminent domain is used. Newer turbines are recyclable in comparison to earlier models that have just gone to scrap yards. She noted that if approved the company wants to support the communities as they expect the project to sustain up to 50 years or more.

Attendees shared concerns and questions and thanked the board for holding the meeting to give opportunity to hear at an early phase before there is any commitment from the county to Liberty.

Public Comments: None

It was moved by Webb seconded by Wanders to adjourn. All present voted aye. Motion carried.

Attest: _____
Susan L. Brown
Mahaska County Auditor

Mark Groenendyk
Mahaska County Board of Supervisors

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