

EEHW COMMITTEE MEETING
Thursday, August 20, 2015
5:30 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Tim Dudley

Linda Little

Gary Minich

Matt Brown

Jerry Potts

Grant Noland

MEMBERS ABSENT

Kevin Bird

COUNTY PERSONNEL PRESENT

Carol Reed, Auditor

Sgt Louann Hollon – Animal Control

Kris Horton, Animal Control

Jon Baxter, County Board Member

Kathy Powless, Vet Administration

Patty Cox, County Board Member

Matt Snyder, ROE

Kevin Greenfield, County Board Chairman

Jennifer Hoffman, P&Z

Laurie Rasmus, Env Mgmt

Sheree Zalanka, Health Department

Dianna Heyer, Health Department

Deb Garrett, Env Mgmt

Jeannie Durham, County Board Office

The meeting was called to order by Chair Tim Dudley at the Macon County Office Building. Chair Dudley thanked everyone for attending and announced that the regular meeting would be first on the agenda. It should take about a half hour, there will be a short break and then the wind farm resolution would be considered. He encouraged having one speaker for a group and said he would be sticking to the 5 minute per speaker rule, but would extend the 20 minutes total if needed. He said he did not want a lot of redundancy. If someone comes up to speak against an issue, such as the birds, there is no need for that to be said again. He said the committee wants to hear what the public has to say, but they don't want a bunch of redundancy. Those will be the simple ground rules.

MINUTES

Mr. Potts made a motion to approve the July 16, 2015 meeting minutes, seconded by Mr. Minich and the motion carried 6-0.

CLAIMS

Ms. Little made a motion to accept the report of the claims as presented, seconded by Mr. Brown and the motion carried 6-0.

SUBDIVISIONS – None

REPORTS

Animal Control

Ms. Horton distributed the monthly report and announced that they are having a back to school special and until the end of the month all adoptions are \$25 with an approved application.

There will be a re-grand opening of the new cat room on September 29 from 12 to 4 p.m. There were some problems with the sealant that was put on the walls and it had to be redone. She encouraged everyone to come out and see it and the new cat treadmill.

The Foundation is having the Fido Scurry on September 12 at Fairview Park.

Chair Dudley asked Ms. Horton to explain her haircut. Ms. Horton said she donated about 18" to charity and shaved her head in support of a really sweet, wonderful little girl who has lost all of her hair so that she could help show her that it is not the hair that makes the woman. It's the woman underneath. Everyone applauded her.

Veteran's Assistance –

Ms. Powless announced that she had been able to reach the requested 3% decrease

Ms. Powless also announced that she has been invited to the Farm Progress Show as the Veteran's Service Officer and she would be there with the State Department of the American Legion all 3 days. She encouraged anyone with veterans questions to stop by and see her. Chair Dudley thanked her for her service.

Historical Museum – no report

U of I Extension – no report

Planning & Zoning – Budget Presentation

Ms. Hoffman announced that the budget is a combined budget with the County Board and it has already been reviewed by O&P. There is a 5% plus cut.

Ms. Little made a motion to approve forwarding the budget to the Finance Committee Budget Hearing, seconded by Mr. Minich and the motion carried 6-0.

Regional Office of Education - Budget Presentation

Mr. Snyder announced that his budget is shared between Macon & Piatt Counties. They go through the Statutes that say that they take the total EAV of the two counties and divide it and the counties are responsible for that percentage. After exemptions, Macon County EAV for last year was \$1,567,171,397 which is 79.1% of the ROE budget and Piatt County's was \$414,958,579 which is 20.9%. Last year Macon County was at 80% and Piatt was 20%.

The Macon County portion of the budget was cut from \$174,000 down to \$163,000. There are 4 employees in the office that are paid for with Macon County funds. These are veteran employees that are getting close to retirement and they will be looking at whether they will replace them as they retire.

Chair Dudley said that is a little over a 3% cut.

Mr. Potts made a motion to approve forwarding the budget to the Finance Committee Budget Hearing, seconded by Ms. Little and the motion carried 6-0.

Environmental Management - Budget Presentation

Ms. Garrett explained that the budget was reduced by 3% as requested by the Finance Committee. The office is funded through community host fees and does not rely on general fund financing. In 2005, when Ms. Garrett started working with the county, they were getting about \$172,000 in host or tipping fees annually. Today, it is close to \$570,000. In essence, the department has been contributing to the general fund this year in the amount of approximately \$320,000.

Ms. Little said she didn't see a need to go through the budget line by line, but asked Ms. Garrett to point out line numbers that are contractual obligations, not necessarily employees, but such as hospitalization where you have no options on. She asked if there were lease, rent or outside contracts. Ms. Garrett said the rent on the recycle center would be the only thing.

Ms. Garrett said she wanted the committee members to look at line #7200, the sundry line item. She said this is totally funded by the state IEPA and they have not heard good news on that front. She said she has maintained money in that line item in the event they have to cover those costs, they can do so. Some good news, on the education expense, even though the DOVE RSVP Program had to cut their paper recycling program that their seniors were doing in the county schools, the local recycling company in town has agreed to assume those costs and take that program over. There will be about \$2,700 savings a year in that line item.

Ms. Little made a motion to approve forwarding the budget to the Finance Committee Budget Hearing, seconded by Mr. Potts and the motion carried 6-0.

Health Department – Budget Presentation

Ms. Heyer provided the members of the committee an update in regards to the state budget. She shared the local Health Departments Capacity Survey. It was done in an effort to show local & state government what the current capacity is for local health departments to provide service and how long they expect to be able to hang on with the state budget at an impasse. There are a number of local health departments, especially in southern Illinois, that are already making substantial cuts. Until a state budget is signed and the grants are fully executed, they are essentially working without being paid. She said they know cuts need to be made, and they have done that, if the state budget impasse drags on, they can expect to have to make additional cuts. The Macon County Health Department has traditionally been very fiscally responsible and cautious with funding. They are used to working with very few funds and being creative with the way they do things. She explained that her concern is that if the budget impasse continues, they will see further deterioration of the local public health system which is vital to the community and all the citizens of Macon County; not just the low income, but ALL. Public Health is all about prevention of disease and injury which ultimately decreases health costs. The ability to respond to outbreaks and other public health emergencies will also be impacted if the impasse continues. She thanked Sheree for her hard work on the budget, Tim Dudley for his guidance as one of the Board of Health members and asked Sheree to present the budget they had prepared to the best of their ability considering the circumstances.

Ms. Zalanka went over the summary page stating that the final proposed revenue is \$6.5 million and expenditures are \$6,244,000. FY15 minus the HVAC project showed results of a 6% change in revenue, a 9% change in expenses resulting in a 3% net decrease.

She explained that they are always looking for ways to decrease overhead expenses, but this year they ended up almost exactly the same and the indirect overhead administrative cost rate is about 16%. The budget does include an increase to payroll to be given through performance evaluations in the fall. A salary survey was recently completed comparing several health departments and it showed that the Macon County salaries are 25% lower than positions at other health departments. Per the directive of the Board of Health, they are working to bring salaries up to be more in line with the market. This budget has eliminated 4 full time positions and 3 part time positions. Ms. Heyer added that the positions they are looking at not filling include 2 that will be layoffs. Ms. Little asked if the layoffs are to be permanent or until the state is back on track. Ms. Heyer said the hope is that they would be brought back.

Ms. Zalanka said they received contracts for all of the state grants, but they are not fully executed until there is a signed budget and they are received back from the state with a signature. The only grant that has been received back from the state signed is the Local Health Protection Grant.

Building repairs in FY15 include the replacement of 13 furnace / air conditioning units at a cost of \$250,000. A \$50,000 energy efficiency rebate was received.

The Decatur Building Commission has been handling maintenance needs since April and the contract is in development and is expected to be presented to the Board of Health soon. This budget is presented with the assumption that they will take over.

Currently, the health fund balance is at \$1.7 million which is exactly what is needed for 3 months reserves.

In the futures, electronic health records and further increasing employee salaries to better align with health departments of the same size and county population.

Ms. Little said that Ms. Zalanka had said that salary increases would be an average of 3% and asked what the maximum increase is expected to be. Ms. Heyer said that when she first started the position a year ago, she held focus group meetings with all the staff and one of the biggest concerns was their salaries. She said she explained to them that she would do her best to see what she could do about them. She repeated Ms. Zalanka's statement that they are up to 25% lower than other local health departments. As the year has gone on and Ms. Heyer says she has been working on it, it is just not fast enough for some people who have already left. She said they have lost 4 full time WIC positions, 1 Starting Point full time position, 1 part time emergency preparedness, 1 full time health promotion person, 1 part time dentist, and 4 clinical nursing staff for a total of 10 full time and 2 part time. Of those, there were 3 terminations. The exit interviews revealed that 3 were seeking a more challenging position and the rest said they were looking for higher pay. Ms. Little repeated her question of what the maximum percentage of increase that would be given. Ms. Heyer said that the Board of Health has

directed them to focus on the positions that are leaving the fastest, which is nursing. As a result, they are suggesting a 6% raise for the nurses and case managers. That is anywhere from a 3% to a 6% raise in the budget. Ms. Little said that they had said the average would be 3% and asked if somebody is getting 6% if someone would get nothing. Ms. Heyer said that there would be some people that would get 6%. Those are the nurses and case managers who are the lowest on the scale. Then the other positions that are not as low will be worked up to where they need to be. Those individuals, for the most part, will be getting a 3% to 4% raise. She said she cannot in one swoop get everybody up to where they need to be. Ms. Little said that neither can anyone else in the other Macon County departments. Ms. Heyer said she realized that, but they are basically working with a very, very limited staff currently and they have to do something.

Mr. Minich made a motion to approve forwarding the budget to the Finance Committee Budget Hearing, seconded by Mr. Potts and the motion carried 6-0. Ms. Little commented that she was voting to send it on to Finance, but she hoped that Finance would hold it to the end to evaluate when there might be a better idea of what the state is going to do.

Mental Health- No Report

Chair Dudley announced that there would be a short break and restart the meeting at 6 p.m. He repeated that if anyone had spoken at the Monday ZBA Public Hearing, they would not need to speak again because what they said is already on record in a 210 page transcript of the minutes from that meeting.

6:00 p.m. Chair Dudley repeated that there had been a ZBA Public Hearing on Monday and if anyone spoke at that meeting, there is not a reason to speak again because it is already on the record. He said they wanted to hear people that haven't spoken yet. He explained that new evidence could not be accepted.

Mike Baggett explained that he is the Assistant State's Attorney advising the County Board and this committee in regard to the Special Use Permit Application. The purpose of the ZBA Hearing which was held on Tuesday, August 11 was to take evidence and make findings of fact which are going to be considered by this committee as well as by the County Board, but the County Board, because it serves a legislative function and not a fact finding function is not designed by law or statute to take in new evidence. So, evidence which was presented at the ZBA Hearing which was sworn under oath, presented & accepted as exhibits is before the committee tonight and it will be before the County Board on September 10th. Any new evidence which was not submitted and taken by the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) last week would not be proper for this committee to accept on behalf of either the petitioner or any objectors. Mr. Dudley thanked everyone again for their attendance and said it makes him feel good to know that people care about the issues. He also thanked everyone for the cards and letters that had been sent to him. He invited the representative from E.ON to come up and speak.

Mr. Michael Blazer, Attorney for E.ON, 3023 N. Clark St, Chicago, IL

Mr. Blazer explained that they appreciate the magnitude of this project in this county; they appreciate the magnitude of the process everyone is involved in and said that it could be seen from the attendance of people with yes stickers and people with no stickers that it is clearly a significant issue in this county. He said they recognize that and appreciate their attention particularly to those with the red stickers. He said they have all of their experts present at this meeting and they would be available at any time to answer any questions and they will continue to be available to answer questions.

Citizen's Remarks -

Chair Dudley announced that normally public comments are held to 5 minutes a person with 20 minutes total. He said he would extend the 20 minutes total, but would stick to the 5 minutes or less because he wanted to give everyone that wanted to speak a chance to do so. He asked for a show of hand of those that wanted to speak and then called for the first person to come up and state their name and address.

Paul Heft, 11025 W. Lake Fork Road, Kenney, IL 61749:

Mr. Heft announced that he is the road commissioner of Austin Township. This project started in 2009 with the support of the most of Austin Township. It has been a well-known project. There have been wind towers up in the area. Everybody would have known. He said budget cuts were talked about earlier in the meeting and said that in a couple of years after this is built, you will not be talking about budget cuts in your different departments. The EAV is going to tremendously help Macon County and it will help Austin Township. He said that he has the most bridges in the State of Illinois. Two are closed with 4 more under watch that could be closed even at this harvest time if IDOT has enough money to come up and inspect them. He said he does not close them, but they do. He said he hopes the members support the project because he thinks it's the best thing. 5 & 6 generations ago most of the families that have the land in Austin Township families pioneered there. This is a new pioneer that we need to start again today for Macon County & Austin Township and Maroa Township. He said he has truly had his heart in it all these years.

Teresa Banks, 3223 S. Wheatland Road, Decatur, IL 62521

Ms. Banks explained that she was stepping out of her box as she has never spoken before a lot of people before and to her those present represented a lot of people, but she wanted to say yes. Yes to the whole idea of the wind farm. She said it is long overdue. If you look back at Fukushima, it's nothing but a mess that's dirty. We need more clean energy built from a wind farm, water or solar, but we need to move forward for our children and our grandchildren. This is in the best interest of the community for the jobs. It's just good all around.

Roger Wikoff, 12392 N. Bearsdale Road, Maroa, IL 61756

Mr. Wikoff thanked the committee for allowing him to speak. When you look at tax bills, this is where this money from the taxation of the wind farm goes. Everybody can itemize their tax bills and the biggest recipient of the tax money, if this farm goes through, would be the schools. Every school district is hurting for money. It is nothing new. It has been in the papers. It is an old song and it is not going to get cured. If these wind farms go through, they are valued at more than one million dollars apiece. That is like building 140 million dollar homes in four

townships. If you think that is going to happen – 140 million dollar homes is about as likely as a snowball’s chance in wherever. E.ON will pay the taxes for the turbins. It is no expense to the landowner. It is, in Mr. Wikoff’s opinion, a win/win situation. It is not only a win for the county, it is a win for the townships and whichever taxing body you are in because you will not receive that amount of tax money from any other place.

Donna Shull, 4710 W. Duroc Road, Maroa, IL 61756

Ms. Shull said she lives in Austin Township and has grandchildren that go to the Maroa schools. If anybody is in financial trouble, it is Maroa. This income that will come from E.ON is going to help, not only Maroa, but Warrensburg tremendously. She said she wanted to see her grandkids get a good education. It is going to help the police departments and the fire departments, which they have had to call to their home, one for a break in and one for a combine fire. This is also the cleanest energy you can come up with. If that thing that’s going up by us now springs a leak, there goes our ground water. She said she wants the groundwater around for the kids because the grandkids will be living in their home after they pass. Most of all, Austin Township has bad roads and help is needed.

Mark Kemp, 9828 W. School Road, Latham, IL

Mr. Kemp said they just moved in a couple of weeks ago. He said after listening to all this talk about how all this started so long ago, he knows an awful lot of people who live right there on the map that didn’t know anything about it. It strikes as a little off that there were special meetings and all these things going through and even our real estate agent didn’t know anything about it. He said he didn’t think anybody was asking for a no vote and to stop this whole thing and throw it out the window, but for those who live there, it’s getting pushed through all of a sudden where about a week and a half ago we found out about it. He said he knew that everybody needs money for their schools, if you remember, the lottery was supposed to pay for our schools years ago too, but he said he didn’t think they see a dime of that tax money any more. He said he thought this golden ticket with all this money that they are going to infuse in might be a one-time deal, but we’re going to be stuck with it for a while. He said they, the people that are living there right now, just need a little more time to evaluate it.

Scott Fisher, 750 S. Willow, Decatur, IL

If a nuclear disaster happens, it could kill us all; if a turbine falls over, we just pick it up and put it back. The safety purpose of this out-weighs what we have to deal with our coal emissions and nuclear, but wind is something that is God-given and natural. Why don’t we use what is naturally here for us?

Nicole Householder, 8873 N. Glasgow Rd, Warrensburg, Il 62573

Ms. Householder said they just moved out about a year and a half ago and their realtor had no clue about this. She said they have a lot of concerns and she has knocked on a lot of doors in the communities and for something that has been going on for several years, she thinks some community members have been missed. Since the majority of people with whom Ms. Householder spoke had no idea what she was talking about. She has a lot of concerns, one of which is her property value. She said she looks on the internet and has found a lot of studies. Some of the studies have been put out by the wind industries that say it does not affect undeveloped properties. She said she begs to differ that her home is not undeveloped. She said

when she stands to lose a significant amount of her property value, it is a problem for her and for her husband and their four small children. According to some appraisal groups, it is an impact on property values and it is not a positive one if it is a rural, residential property. She says she won't deny that it increases the value of agricultural land that these are put on, but perception determines the value of the residential property and perception is reality. She said she hasn't seen too many people lining up to buy a house that is in the middle of a wind farm. She has concerns about her property values. She also has some questions: she has read that several places in Illinois require property value guarantees. If E.ON is quite certain that it will not have an impact on the property values, she asks if they would put a guarantee on it. If they feel it won't affect the property values, then it should not be of significance to put something like that in the works. Another question, she has heard several people speak about clean energy and how wind energy is clean energy. She questioned the source material for the windmills, what they are made of and how those materials are obtained. Is that as clean of energy as the wind energy or is that where the greenness is knocked out of the way when they go to get the materials and actually make them? Another question is about health risks to children. She has struggled to find information specifically about hearing development and hearing in children. She has asked her pediatrician and she said she is unaware of any key studies or anything that had been put out there for children. Ms. Householder has 4 small children with the oldest being 5 and she has some concerns about their hearing. There are other children and grandchildren and she knows everyone has those same concerns. What specific information can be recited that specifically relates to children?

John Cook, 125 S. Cedar, Maroa, IL 61756

He said he and his wife wrote a letter to all the members of the committee in opposition to the wind farm. The letter contained information from several studies showing the adverse environmental impact of wind farms. It also contained Robert Kennedy Jr.'s criticism of windmills that he published in the New York Times. Kennedy spoke at Milliken University a couple of years ago praising windfarms. It seems he likes windfarms in Illinois, but not in Massachusetts where he lives. Yesterday's Wall Street Journal reported that a federal judge in California ruled that the US Fish & Wildlife Service violated that national environment policy act when it improperly allowed windfarms a 40 year exemption from federal laws to protect endangered birds. Wind turbines in the US kill 573,000 birds and 880,000 bats every year. If you have an environmental activist like Kennedy who opposes wind mills and a federal judge who needs to step in to limit the slaughter of wildlife, it is clear that these windmills pose an environmental risk that E.ON must mitigate. The people who live near the windmills will be forced to bear the burden. That, among others, is Mr. Cook and his wife who live on a small farm at 125 S. Cedar in Maroa. He said they have not been consulted, advised of the risk or compensated in any way. He added that it is not cheap either. Germany and Denmark are heavily into windfarms and the cost of electricity in Germany is three times higher than in the US and the cost in Denmark is even higher at almost 4 times. He said he appreciated the opportunity to address the committee adding that this is a contentious issue and he agrees that we need to take our time to make sure we get it right.

Alan Ruwe, 13247 Oakland Ave, Maroa, IL

Mr. Ruwe said that after the zoning hearing, the E.ON application was made available on the County Board website. Mr. Ruwe thanked them for that and said he appreciated it. It is a very

large document and he has not been able to review it completely. He said he had tried to remember the concerns that were raised by the citizens at that meeting and see how they are addressed in the application. It seems that many of them are not adequately addressed. One of his biggest concerns is that the risks that are identified, both by citizens and by reading information that is available, is that within the application, the risk from this industrial facility is being left to the home owners that live within or around it to bear themselves. Many countries, such as Australia, Germany, even European countries, and other states here in the US, and other counties here in Illinois, are taking steps to require the developer to take on these risks and remove them from the residential homeowners that are within the footprint or live close by it. The question of if E.ON would pick up the risk was brought up in the zoning hearing and their quick response was to deny that most of the risks that were identified even existed. This is quite a contrast to the wind farm recently approved in Logan County. There, the developer acknowledged a number of these key risks and was in agreement with the request of the county board to take measures to eliminate or to pick up and guarantee risks at their expense and not the homeowner's. A quick example; a number of people at the last hearing brought up concerns about noise and E.ON contends that there is not a noise problem. This is quite in contrast to the insurance affiliate of the Farm Bureau, Country Mutual who issued a letter early this spring to a policy holder in Illinois stating that they are amending the contract to eliminate noise, damages or claims of damages from the farm umbrella liability policy. This appears to leave that liability with the landowner. He said he was not sure if that is a national change or just applies to the State of Illinois. Because the application is so large, over 230 pages and was made available after the hearing even though requests were made prior to the hearing but they were told that it would take too much time to redact all the names and it could not be made available to the public prior to the hearing. Thanks to the attorney representing E.ON and his discussion with the ZBA chair and it was agreed that it could be released. Those living in and near the wind farm that are non-participants would like more time to have the application reviewed by experts in the associated fields to verify that the tests and validity of the statements and conclusions and to form opinions on the accuracy, partiality and the robustness of the included studies. E.ON has had months, maybe years, to prepare this. Concerned citizens have been asking questions and seeking answers, but they've only got a few weeks because of the schedule. It is respectfully requested that the board give time for review of the application by independent professional parties who are experts in the associated science fields. This pending application and the decisions associated with it, in Mr. Ruwe's opinion, are much more complicated than the typical use permits that come before this board. He also asked that the board review and consider the practices of other governmental bodies in Illinois which place the risk associated with homeowner's back on the developer. E.ON should have no problem with this request as precedence has already been set in Illinois in many counties and E.ON has assured us in the ZBA hearings that the risks do not even exist.

Christine Kruley, 14019 Bantom Rd, Maroa, IL 61756

Ms. Kruley stated she was also stepping out of her box and explained that she lives in Austin Township and was blindsided when the zoning signs went up. They moved into the area about 5 years ago and had no idea about the wind farms. She said shame on her for not doing her due diligence and research when moving into the area, but one thing she wanted to bring forth is that whenever she did research and read the application, there was no study on signals in regard to cell phones, GPS & other devices. The turbines could interfere with these signals or in other

words, they may not be able to talk on their cell phones, have the internet or hear a radio broadcast if they live out in the country. She said she already has a hard time finding internet service. She said flaws need to be covered. Flaw #1 is that there was no study to determine if windmills interfere with the current electrical signals like radios or cell phones. Flaw #2 is E.ON has not performed a study to show a baseline to prove that windmills will not interfere with one's signals like cell phones. Without the baseline study, Flaw #3 is that there is not a process developed or identified by which an effective party can prove interference or get any corrective action to have their cell phones or other devices working again. Flaw #4, as it stands after windmills are built, all studies will come out of the homeowner's pocket. This is when the proof is needed that signals are disrupted by the wind turbines. In conclusion, this should be addressed before the wind farm is built. She urged the members of the committee to think long and hard about voting yes to something that is incomplete. A concession, at the very least, should be added to have a baseline established. E.ON should be accountable if services like radio, cell phone service and other electronic signals are lost. This may not seem like a big deal, but Ms. Kruley said she lived in Bloomington prior to moving here and she did not realize how difficult it would be to find one internet provider for her home.

Robert Bunselmeyer, 2333 West Wise Road, Decatur, IL

Mr. Bunselmeyer said he is a farmer in the area and he lives on the very outskirts of the wind farm. Part of his land is inside and part is outside. He said he has not joined in the process because he did not want towers and roads across his fields. He said that in his farming operation he uses an aerial applicator, crop duster, spray plane to apply pesticides to growing crops. The applicator has indicated that he will charge 50% more to fly in that area where there are wind towers on both ends of the field. The E.ON response was that they had never heard of such a thing. In talking with other wind farm participants, it's a very common practice to charge more inside a wind farm and there have been disputes going on for years between the applicator association and the wind farm people. E.ON was either untruthful or they are very naïve because this problem does exist. There are detailed spraying instructions for wind farm participants about timing and turning off turbines and the risk is all on the pilot. They take no responsibility for any risk. They're also obligated to spray when E.ON says they can. There is a 2 hours window that is not during peak time. Mr. Bunselmeyer said he assumes they would have to follow those same rules if they want the turbines turned off, but he said they have not been contacted. They pledged to be good neighbors and not harm anyone in the testimony at the zoning hearing. This is not considered to be very neighborly and they are harming financially. What else is being concealed in this process? He said, "We as residents of Macon County opposed to the wind farm do not have a panel of experts on our payroll answering all the questions to our satisfaction." He urged the committee members to consider what he called the lack of integrity on E.ON's part and reconsider this proposal for the wind farm. Is the board here to protect the long term residents or some outsiders who are coming in for a tax credit? When the tax credit is gone, they will be gone like the wind.

Alan Alsup, 10090 North Kenney Road, Warrensburg, IL

Mr. Alsup explained that he has lived in Austin Township his entire life and said he was speaking as the president of the Austin Township Plan Commissioners. There is a section of ground that, even though by the name of school section is not owned by the schools. It is owned by the people of Austin Township. He said that any money they have after expenses is

turned over to the County Treasurer to lower the real estate taxes of anyone in Austin Township. According to the map, the school section will get 4 turbines and an estimated another \$40,000 more will be turned over to the Collector of Macon County to benefit everybody in Austin Township. Whether in the footprint of E.ON or not, your property taxes will be lowered.

Michelle Towner, 12707 Oakland Ave, Maroa, IL

Ms. Towner said she spoke at the ZBA hearing, but has done more research on the health consequences of the wind mills and wanted to make sure everyone is aware. She said they moved to a place in the country for peacefulness and tranquility for themselves and their family. They currently have a view of the Maroa / Forsyth Trojans football field. That view will be compromised with the placement of the proposed windmill or two. So, the story of her family's newfound anxiety has arisen. This is anxiety that would only become worse if they put up the proposed windmills. Windmills have been found to cause, according to Asia Peterson's Research and Noise Control Engineering in 2011, enhance risk for chronic imbalance of the psychological stress system causing high blood pressure, cardio vascular disease and nausea. This also causes stress, tension, irritability, head aches & tiredness. The windmills that are proposed to be erected have been known to cause sleep disturbances which include noise induced anxious awakenings, feelings of terror and nervousness. Windmills have been known to precipitate seizures from shadow flickers known as photo sensitive epilepsy. Ms. Towner said her son has been getting migraines since the age of 3. Video games and 3D movies cause them, so he knows that by avoiding them, he can avoid some migraines. Shadow flicker and being outside or inside has a high probability of causing him migraines as well. She asked if she was to prohibit a 10 year old boy from playing outside when the landscape includes a shadow flicker from windmills. E.ON's own application informed them that houses will experience shadow flicker. Personally, Ms. Towner says she experiences vertigo and meniere's disease which is caused from fluid in the inner ear. She said she cannot have lights with ceiling fans on in her home because the shadow flicker from them causes her to become nauseous and dizzy. She said she would not only have to experience the shadow flicker outside her home if the windmills are erected, but inside if the sun is pointed in that direction. Inside the home, she will have to deal with the sounds from the windmills which will cause the fluid in her inner ear to vibrate and exasperate the vertigo and meneiere's disease. In closing, but not nearly the least important, Ms. Towner said she is the proud owner of dogs, cats & horses. She said she lives in the country because her animals do not belong in town, but the horses will be spooked by the shadow of the shadow flicker and the noise of the turbines. The dogs, as well as all dogs, have incredible hearing abilities and the sounds from the windmills will cause them to live in an environment of constant noise pollution. She said she has very nice neighbors who would not appreciate her beloved dogs howling or barking incessantly because of that. She asked the committee members to take all that she said into account because they are very real and rational fears they have. She said she fought for our freedom when she was in the Marine Corps and now she is fighting the invasion of windmills for her family and neighbors.

Phyllis Ruwe, 13247 Oakland Ave, Maroa, IL

Ms. Ruwe said that they will be impacted by the wind farm. She said she spoke before and would not repeat, but she had a couple of questions she had asked about the changes in the wind mill ordinance. She said she was told that it was recently updated to be better. She clarified that

she had a copy of the new one but had not had access to what was prior. It was reported in October 13, 2013 in the Herald & Review that the Board took action in that ordinance to reduce the minimum distance the large energy conversion system could be placed in from a non-participating property. These changes were done so in the hopes that changes would bring in additional income to farmers, tax revenue for the government, and good paying jobs. Those are great reasons and Ms. Ruwe said she would endorse anybody who would endorse those, but she would like to have some information as to why we had a reduction in the distance. Did you have information that said it would be better or at least not detrimental to non-participating owners? It is a concern as we know from documentation seen from other counties, other countries that they are extending rather than decreasing. Chair Dudley asked Ms. Hoffman if they hadn't increased the distances. Ms. Hoffman asked what year she was referring to. Ms. Ruwe said it was reported on October 13, 2013 in the Herald & Review and said that Mr. Dudley was quoted saying that the board had taken action in the ordinance to reduce the minimum distance of a large energy conversion system could be placed from a non-participating property and had done so with the hopes of bringing in the income. Ms. Hoffman asked again what year that was. Ms. Ruwe said it was 2013. Chair Dudley asked what the distance was saying he thought it was 1,500 feet from residences. An E.ON representation stated that in the county ordinance, it is 1,000. Ms. Hoffman verified that the ordinance says 1,000 feet. She said that E.ON is taking the step to put them out further. Ms. Ruwe said she understood that was because the Illinois Zoning Board says it has to be that far back. Mr. Baggett said that it is the Illinois Pollution Control Board and it doesn't say it has to be, it's just that E.ON is taking the first caution in order to prevent any problems with the Illinois Pollution Control Board potentially down the road. The E.ON rep said it was to keep the noise down. Mr. Baggett agreed, repeating that there is no specific requirement in the IPCB's regulations with respect to 1,500 feet. The county ordinance is 1,000 feet. E.ON has, on its own initiative, made its own set-backs 1,500 as a minimum requirement for the purposes of its siting, but the County's ordinance is 1,000. Ms. Ruwe said ok, she had just wondered if it had been reviewed, why it was decreased instead of the same or more. Ms. Hoffman said she had the county ordinance in front of her and nothing was done to it in 2013. Ms. Ruwe asked if she knew when it was changed and what was changed. Ms. Hoffman said that in 2010 changes were made and then not again until 2014 when she had totally rewritten it. Ms. Ruwe repeated that her source was the Herald & Review article that was in the paper on October 13, 2013. She said she went to the paper because of all the conversation and feeling that everyone should be aware, but she said she found very few articles in the Herald & Review about anything, but this article was there and very prominently displayed, so she wanted to ask the question. Another question, E.ON's expert has submitted their home value study and he said, under oath in the ZBA hearing, that there were no concerns for decreases in property. It doesn't exist. Yet, in the documentation from experts of other appraisers and real estates, which we have had and researched, shows far different opinions. Ms. Ruwe said she would like to know if there were outside sources. She said she would like everyone to picture this. If you are going to buy a home and you know you have a wind farm with 140 turbines that are approximately nearly 500' tall within your view and the blades are turning 24/7. There are red flashing lights at about the 300' level blinking in unison all night long. Would you see that as desirable for your property? Keep in mind 500' is close to the height of the Washington Monument in Washington, D.C. Think of how tall that is. Now you're going to put 140 of those all around your property. Would you buy a home with that? Would you be anxious to build a home? Ms. Ruwe said she thinks you're going to see the

market stop in the building of homes and in existing homes. There are new areas coming up on the northwest side of Forsyth with big new homes being built there. You are not going to see new homes coming in. You will see values drop. Ms. Ruwe asked what kind of back-up there is for them. What does E.ON propose? In reality, no matter what study you show, in your mind, you have to think about that picture. Ms. Ruwe added that this has caused tremendous friction in the neighborhood and in the county. She said her neighbors and friends have been very angry and a lot of betrayal because those with more land were notified and would stand to gain while those who don't were not considered in any of the pre-decisions. Just think about that. We bought our homes thinking we were going to live in a rural area and now we're going to have an industrial farm in our back yard. That is something we really need to consider as to whether the value of that and our landscape is any different than putting a coal plant or nuclear plant or anything else. This is a major decision. She said she hoped the members would take their time, listen, look at other things beside what E.ON has put in front of them. She said she realizes it's business. We all want money. We all want our schools. We all want our roads. But there are a lot of things missing from what we can see of this contract.

Mr. Michael Blazer, Attorney for E.ON, 3023 N. Clark St, Chicago, IL

Mr. Blazer said he thought it was important to address some of the things heard at this meeting. He said he was very, very glad that Mr. Ruwe mentioned Country Mutual's decision to change its policy language because that is a perfect example of what certain groups are doing to people like this to cause someone like Mrs. Ruwe to cry. That information comes from a website called Edgar County Watchdogs. Here is what they say about this change in the Country Mutual policy. Whether or not this new exclusion has anything to do with the wind turbines is something we do not know yet, but then they go ahead and warn people about the potential impact from wind turbines. Specifically, they talk about a revision to the standard exclusion language in the Country Mutual Umbrella policy that is issued to farmers, which now specifically excludes noise, odor or dust. People, like Mr. Ruwe, who read this and it is the intent of this outfit with their political agenda to convince people like Mr. Ruwe that what this is really about is wind turbines. It has nothing to do with wind turbines. Country Mutual lost 2 lawsuits in 2012 & 2013: Country Mutual vs Bible Pork and Country Mutual vs Hilltop View. Both of those cases involve situations where neighbors were asserting nuisance claims against pig farms. In both cases, Country Mutual claimed standard pollution exclusion excluding nuisance claims based on noise, odors & dust from pig farms. Both courts, in Illinois, ruled that the pollution exclusion in those umbrella policies is ambiguous and they, therefore, ruled against the insurance company because they did not specifically identify noise, odors & dust. So, what did Country Mutual do in response to those two lawsuits dealing with pig farms, not wind farms? They amended the standard pollution exclusion to now include in the definition, noise, odors & dust. Mr. Blazer said the reason he was so obviously aggravated by it is because it has been seen so often. People with a political agenda who are opposed to the production tax credit will use misinformation like this to scare people into standing up before you and saying they are scared of what is going to happen. It is completely fabricated information.

Photosensitive epilepsy and the concern the young lady expressed for her children. The evidence is clear. There is such a thing as this. It applies to roughly 5% of the population that has epilepsy. The frequency that will trigger what is called PSE is roughly 10 times the rotation rate of a wind turbine. It cannot possibly be caused by a wind turbine.

Health impacts were addressed at length in the hearing last week and this is not just from experts paid by E.ON or the wind industry. There are literally dozens of studies from countries around the world from multiple states in the US, all of which confirm the same thing. There is no medical evidence of adverse health impacts from wind turbines. Zero.

Property value is addressed in appendix G of the application and was not based just on the opinion of our expert who is the leading appraiser in the State of Illinois. It is based on evidence from 18 county assessors in Illinois. In every single county in Illinois that has one or more wind farms. All of them came to the exact conclusion. Zero negative impact. The expert appraisers come to the other conclusion as well. Zero negative impact on listing times. It does not exist.

To the lady who asked about impacts on her cell phone, microwave, etc..., there are studies in the record. Those are exhibits 12, 13 & 14. Those studies have been done and they confirm no impact.

Chair Dudley thanked everyone again for coming out and speaking up.

ZONING

Macon County Board Resolution Regarding Case S-10-08-15 – A Petition for a Special Use Permit Submitted by Twin Forks Wind Farm, LLC

Mr. Baggett announced that Committee member Noland will be abstaining from the votes as to towers #3, #12, #124 & #125. In order to allow him to vote on the remaining 136 towers, the motion would need to recommend approval or rejection of the application to the County Board on Towers #1, #2, #4 thru #11, #13 thru #123, & #126 thru #140. Mr. Minich so moved, seconded by Mr. Brown. Roll call vote showed Mr. Brown, Mr. Noland, Mr. Minich and Mr. Dudley voting aye; Mr. Potts voting nay; and Ms. Little voting present because she received the transcript that morning and had not had a chance to read the 210 pages yet.

Mr. Baggett explained that the 2nd motion would be to approve recommending approval of the application to the County Board in regard to towers #3, #12, #124, & #125. Mr. Minich so moved, seconded by Mr. Brown. Roll call vote showed Mr. Brown, Mr. Minich, Mr. Dudley voting aye; Mr. Potts voting nay; Ms. Little voting present; and Mr. Noland abstaining.

Chair Dudley announced that the first motion carried. Mr. Baggett will check on how the abstention affects the vote on the second motion, so at this point, the second motion will have to go forward as a non-recommendation until further notice. Mr. Baggett said that there is case law that he will have to research as to how an abstention affects the ultimate conclusion of the vote. We have 3 ayes to 1 nay, but how abstentions affect the outcome will determine whether it ends up being a recommendation of approval or a failure to pass the resolution of approval to the County Board on those four turbines. It will be included in the final language of the resolution presented to the County Board in September.

OLD BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS – None

Closed Session – None

NEXT MEETING Next regular meeting - Thursday, September 17, 2015

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Potts made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Little, the motion carried 6-0 and the meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m. *Minutes submitted by Jeannie Durham*