

Mt Halley Planning Commission Minutes

06.20.18

Mt Haley Planning Commission

Special Meeting – June 20, 2018

Members present – David Wassmann, Norman Jardis, Irene Peck, Deanna McClintic, Ken Brown.

Others attending – Eighty-three and a few others that did not sign in.

Chairman Wassmann called the meeting to order. He introduced the Township Board and the Planning Commission members.

Pledge to the Flag was recited.

Chairman Wassmann stated rules for speaking.

Chairman then asked for public comment. () number of times topic was mentioned.

1. How township will look with turbines. (1).
2. Increase or decrease of property values and taxes. (5).
3. Health issues assumed due to turbines. Gratiot County has had none reported (5).
4. Government's mandate for clean energy increasing, decrease of fossil fuels usage and how long will it be subsidized. (3).
5. How much energy do they really produce. (1)
6. Don't want them in my back yard. (4).
7. If property gets divided will land still be usable or to build on. (1).
8. Not reliable information out there. Too much false information. (1).
9. Revenue to participating farmers, a way to afford to keep farming. Farm prices are not really good now. (1).
10. It won't save us money for electricity because what is produced is going to the grid. (1)
11. They will not keep our people in the area. They are not large employers in the long run. (1).
12. We want more information (facts). Also put on the website dates of meetings, meeting minutes, and meeting agendas. (4).
13. Wind power is getting more competitive in the last 10 years. Turbines have been a great source of revenue for Gratiot County. (1).
14. There is an issue at the Michigan Tax Tribunal and townships may get less tax revenue as a result of it. (1)
15. Things need to change. When high tension lines went in, Dow wells with pollutants etc. people had no say. Today we can make a decision if we want turbines on our property. (1).
16. Solar uses too much land. (1).
17. UofM surveyed 1000 people (1)
 - a. Land values did not come up

b. Breckenridge uses the money for schools, fire equipment, roads, and other public welfare improvements

c. In Thumb, county officials could get a pay raise

d. An increase in farm income, as it is getting harder to afford to farm

18.Can farmer build in turbine set back? (1)

19.In Thumb some areas are limiting turbines by distance of setbacks. (1).

20.What is the draft that Mt Haley is using? (1).

21.Would like information from people who live with turbines nearby. (1).

22.From 45-55 dBA sound doubles and 55-65 dBA sound increases 4 times. (1).

23.Contract was taken to a lawyer and he said there is no gag order in the turbine contracts. This individual has signed up and wants turbines. The tax revenue will be a big help for our local community. (1)

24.These questions and concerns were answered when Planning has had its meetings and they discussed all this. They had experts in talking on flicker, sound, and construction of turbines. Being at these meetings would have given you information from experts and time to ask questions. (1).

25.DTE representative (Sage) said there are no gag orders in their contracts.

Visit our office in Breckenridge. We will take you on a tour of a turbine and answer any questions you may have. (1)

26.How many on the Township Board will benefit from turbines? (1).

27.Gratiot County talks in favor of turbines. They enjoy the income. (1).

There was no additional public comment.

Jardis explained about the draft we used.

Wassmann gave our history on a Wind Ordinance.

a. Mt Haley's Wind Ordinance went into effect in 2011.

b. Renewable energy was mandated and then installing turbines became more feasible with new technology.

c. He explained how electricity is bought off the grid.

Mt Haley's next Planning Meeting will be Wednesday July 11, 2018 at 6:30 pm. We plan to discuss Conflict, Decommissioning, and any other items that need revisiting after the June 20th meeting.

Motion by Jardis to adjourn, seconded by McClintic, M/C Meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm.

Irene Peck, Secretary