

TOWN OF MARSHFIELD
JANUARY 21, 2010 WIND TURBINE STANDING COMMITTEE

Presiding Town Officer, John Bord called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm leading the 'Pledge of Allegiance'. Other Town Officers present were Cathy Seibel, Connie Pickart. Dennis Stenz was tardy. Committee members present were Jim Mueller and Larry Lamont. Dick VanderVelde and John Gierach were absent. John Board introduced members representing We Energies: Walter (Doc) Musekamp, Bob Servias and Dale Borusky. Mr. Musekamp and Mr. Borusky replaced Tanya Holler Muench and Mark Noak respectively. Members from the public included: Leander and Liz Ebertz, Jim Vollmer, Bruce Dalka and Clarence Kraus(Taycheedah Town Board).

Review of Tanya Holler-Muench's Follow Up of Nov. 12, 2009 Meeting

Tanya Holler Muench provided a 5-page 'Follow-up' to the November meeting.

Doc Musekamp offered information regarding Bruce Dalka's complaint. Bruce related to Bob Servias that when a tower (17A) was out of commission, He had no issues with TV reception but when the turbine was restarted, the same issues with TV reception returned. Since there may be a correlation between the shut-down of the tower and Bruce's TV issues, Doc stated that We Energies will investigate this further to establish if there is a correlation.

Bob Servias followed up with Bill. Nielson's complaint regarding declining property values, noise, TV contract for DISH and radio interference. We Energy provided Mr. Nielson with two HD radios. The remaining radios in his home do not provide a consistent signal. Mr. Nielson was provided with an additional HD radio. Mr. Nielson complained that he has the most trouble with TV reception when the turbines face his home. Bob offered to have his system liked at, but Mr. Nielson declined at this time. Mr. Nielsen was satisfied with the radio and the timely response to his request.

John Bord contacted FdL County executive, Al Buechel, regarding an independent 'sound study'. Jim Mueller related that a sound study needs to be honest and impartial.

Regarding Bruce Dalka's issues: Bruce claimed that the FAA was not notified when the turbine lights were not working during a site outage in June 2009. Tanya's follow-up confirms that the FAA was properly notified.

A third party technician, Randy Wagner, inspected Bruce Dalka's DISH Network system. Some irregularities were noted. Bob offered to have a DISH Network technician perform further testing. Bruce declined questioning why Wagner could not perform the tests. Wagner was not a DISH Network technician and Wagner did not have any testing equipment with him. Bruce has asked for Direct TV. Jim Mueller interjected that perhaps We Energies could contact another source other than Ransom's since Ransom does not seem to have the capabilities to solve the problems. Doc stated that we need to focus on this" latest wrinkle", that the turbine anomaly may be the cause of the problem.

Jim Mueller and Larry Lamont presented letters responding to a statement made by Doc that was read at the November 2009 meeting. Doc and Tanya both were disappointed by the speeches Jim and Larry made at the PSC hearing in Friesland, WI. Doc related, "It is

clear from their comments that “these monitoring committee meetings ...have had no value in their opinion”. Jim and Larry maintain they have the right to free speech. The meetings are accomplishing things and they wish the meetings to continue. Larry stated, “We cannot go back to where we were, but we should not give up on our attempts to improve where we are.”

Citizen Concern Forms

Liz Ebertz is concerned that her police scanner is not working. Cathy reported that FdL Co has changed frequency and that possibly is the cause. Bob Servias will be checking Liz’s equipment.

Bruce Dalka is concerned that the turbines are causing interference with his cell phone reception and has asked We Energies to install a personal cell phone tower mounted on his home. We Energies also uses cell phones in the area with no problems. Bob Servias stated, “From their technical consultants, cell phone signals are not interfered with”.

Doc related that in certain instances satellite radios do work and the committee will have to set standards as to who should get a satellite radio. Jim Vollmer and Joe Bauer have received the okay to have the satellite radio installed. At those sites, it has been verified that the turbines have created signal interference. Eligibility needs to be verified in each location.

It was stressed that citizens should contact the ‘hotline’ number first, 1-877-380-0522. Then, if We Energies does not respond, go to the committee and fill out a ‘Concerned Citizen Form’.

Dale Borusky asked how and why this committee was formed. John Bord related that the committee was to address issues that weren’t being addressed by We Energies. There was a need to seek legal counsel as to what the committee is able to do; whether the Town Board has the authority to order the shut-down of the turbines and whether We Energies is in compliance with the Joint Development Agreement (JDA). Attorney John St. Peter was consulted and his memorandum was read by Cathy.

John St. Peter gave a background of the project and the JDA. He noted the formation and role of the committee. He addressed the authority of the Town Board and the regulatory power over We Energies.

In summary, Mr. St. Peter stated, “The complaints receive by the Committee would not justify the Town in declaring We Energies to be in default of the Agreement. As for the Committee itself, I continue to believe that it has a worthwhile role. However, it cannot act as a forum to debate the existence of the Wind Farm. Nor can the Committee function as an arbitrator for the purpose of mandating specific remedies, particularly with regard to signal interference complaints.”

The PSC is the one entity that has control of the situations. They have control over We Energies and the Town.

A verbal altercation occurred between Bruce Dalka and Dale Borusky. Dale stated he was willing to form a working relationship with Bruce but respect is needed from both parties.

Jim Vollmer questioned if any procedure would be put in place before his poultry react to the upcoming seasonal flickering and shadowing. He also noted that TV reception is not completely resolved. He has filed a complaint with the PSC.

It was agreed that the Wind Turbine Standing Committee meetings should continue. An educational session, entitled, 'A General Overview', will be presented by the We Energies team. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 18, 2010 at 7:00 pm at the Marshfield Town Hall. There are no Concerned Citizens Forms filed at this time. We Energies will continue to address the present issues and provide a 'follow-up' at the March 18th meeting.

There being no further business, John Bord moved to adjourn and Larry Lamont seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 9:35 pm.

Connie Pickart
Recording Secretary