

The Jefferson County Planning and Zoning Committee held a public hearing on Thursday January 13th 2022 at 7:00pm in the Jefferson County Courthouse District Courtroom. Members present were Dustin Fairley, Kevin Banahan, Mike Hansmire, CJ Forsgren, Andy Snyder, Randy Welsch, Bruce Weise, and zoning administrator John McKee.

Chairman Bruce Weise called the meeting to order at 7:00pm and noted that a copy of the Open Meetings Act was on the table, and that the meeting notice was printed in the paper. The agenda was approved as printed. The minutes from the previous meeting were approved as read.

The meeting was opened with statements from Commissioner Schoenrock about his positive views on the proposed wind turbine farms.

First item to take from the table was the item of business concerning section 6.610 of the CWECS. There was much discussion between the committee about the noise levels from wind farms. Local farmer from Diller Kevin Sasse, spoke favorably about his wind turbines and the noise. Speaking on behalf of Next Era Energy about wind noise was; David Levy from Omaha NE, Richard Lampeter from Massachusetts, and Chris Ollson from Canada. Snyder made a motion to amend section 6.610 to replace current language with proposed changes of 50dBA. Motion was seconded by Welsch. After some discussion Snyder moved to amend his amendment by striking current language “No CWECS shall exceed 60dBA at the nearest structure occupied by humans. In the event of periods of severe weather, as defined by the United States Weather Service, a CWECS may exceed 60 dBA” and replacing it with “section 6.610 No CWECS shall exceed 50dBA, measured for ten (10) minutes *Leq* at any occupied primary residence, measured at an exterior wall of the primary occupied residence structure. In response to a verified complaint, the County may direct dBA testing by an independent party approved by the Jefferson County Board of Commissioners. Testing shall be paid for by the owner of the CWECS.” The amendment to the amendment was seconded by Forsgren. The motion passed. The amendment was then voted on. Motion passed.

Next item of business to be taken from the table was shadow flicker. Chris Ollson supporting Next Era spoke about the shadow flicker models. After more discussion from the committee Welsch made a motion to amend Section 6.65 (A)(11) by striking the current regulation and replacing it with “shadow flicker limit of 30 hours per year of actual flicker at any non-participating primary occupied residence.” The motion was seconded by Snyder. Motion passed.

The last item to be taken from the table was decommissioning. There was much discussion by the committee on how to handle decommissioning the CWECS if a future company was to leave. Differing opinions were to let the landowners, State of Nebraska, or the county deal with it. Welsch made a motion to strike 6.69 completely. Seconded by Banahan, motion passed.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:37pm

Respectfully submitted, Dustin Fairley Secretary