

**COMMISSIONERS MINUTES
KITITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON
COMMISSIONERS AUDITORIUM
SPECIAL MEETING**

WEDNESDAY

2:00 P.M.

JUNE 9, 2010

Board members present: Chairman Mark McClain; Vice-Chairman Paul Jewell and Commissioner Alan Crankovich.

Others: Julie Kjorsvik, Clerk of the Board; Jan Ollivier, Transportation Manager; Dan Valoff, Staff Planner; Kirk Holmes, Public Works/Interim Community Development Services Director and approximately 11 members of the public.

PUBLIC HEARING

COMMUNITY WIND ENERGY SYSTEMS

CDS

At 2:00 p.m. **CHAIRMAN McCLAIN** opened a public hearing continued from June 1, 2010 to consider proposed text amendments to Kittitas County Code Chapter 17.61C, Community Wind Energy Systems. The oral testimony portion of the hearing had been closed and the written comment deadline was on June 8, 2010 at 12:00 p.m.

COMMISSIONER JEWELL reviewed the history of the request and hearing process. **COMMISSIONER CRANKOVICH** explained how he had been involved in processing several wind energy proposals over the past years. He reviewed and responded to some of the public comments received during the hearing process relating to quality of life issues; visual impacts; setbacks from non-participating property owners; property values and health impacts; the Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council; environmental concerns to avian and wildlife impacts as well as aviation impacts to airports. He said he does support properly sited wind power projects, in fact he had previously voted in favor of two projects and against two others. He said although he appreciated and recognized the efforts in creating the proposed ordinance, he felt the impacts from the Kittitas Valley and Desert Claim Wind power projects should first be evaluated and documented. He said he could not vote in support of the ordinance as proposed.

COMMISSIONER JEWELL felt he had a unique prospective since he was actively engaged in working with the proponent and staff to discuss the pros and cons of the ordinance. He felt it was a balanced proposal for the public's review and said he had read over all of the information that was submitted into the record. He said it has been going on over a year and everyone should

APPROVED
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have had ample time to look at issues. He felt most of the safety concerns were adequately addressed within the document (setbacks; CUP process for every single project which requires SEPA; decommissioning requirements including full bonding which would be renewed on an annual basis; tower types (which had extensive discussion and negotiation) and restrictions. He said he was shocked when someone tried to draw a line between the Community Wind Energy Systems and the IPZ effort, which in fact was not correct and a completely separate issue. He addressed property rights and said although he agrees with those rights, there are some restrictions in place for good reasons such as the protection of natural resources and public health and safety. He did not see it as a property rights issue, but as a potential expansion of a permitted use. He said he had been torn on the issue and really appreciated public process and comments. He announced after consideration of all the information provided, he would be voting to deny the proposed ordinance.

CHAIRMAN McCLAIN said he had spent a lot of time reviewing all of the information and considered the testimony and reading suggested by Jimmy Applegate regarding Property Rights and the Constitution very informative. He felt the speculative impacts caused him concern as it relates to SEPA and an EIS and the potential for cumulative impacts with such a sweeping change in land use. He felt an EIS should be conducted before adopting such a proposed ordinance.

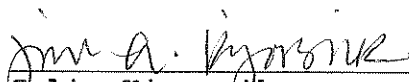
COMMISSIONER JEWELL moved to deny the proposed Ordinance.
COMMISSIONER CRANKOVICH seconded.

COMMISSIONER JEWELL expressed his appreciation for the efforts of everyone involved. **CHAIRMAN McCLAIN** said he appreciated the level of fairness of request. **COMMISSIONER CRANKOVICH** said the proposal deserved consideration.

Motion carried 3-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

CLERK OF THE BOARD


Julie Kjorsvik

**KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON**


Chairman Mark McClain