

Courthouse
Emmetsburg, Iowa
May 17th, 2022, 8:00 a.m.

The Palo Alto County Board of Supervisors met in regular session. Members present: Keith Wirtz, Chair; Ronald Graettinger, Roger Faulstick, Craig Merrill, Linus Solberg. Present: Diane Weiland, Reporter/Democrat; Jane Hoyman, Lou Clark, Jane Bredehoeft, Delray Bredehoeft, Jim Neighbors, Sharon Neighbors, Christopher Knutson, Wayne Knutson, Missy O'Phelan; Chloe Knutson, Mike Kindall; Lynn Schultes, County Sheriff; John King, Deputy Sheriff.

Unless otherwise indicated, all of the motions offered at this meeting were carried with the following vote: Ayes: Graettinger, Faulstick, Merrill, Wirtz, Solberg. Nays: None. Abstentions: None.

Motion by Faulstick, 2nd by Graettinger to approve the agenda for May 17th, 2022; with Bruce Nelson rescheduled to next week. Motion Carried.

Motion by Graettinger, 2nd by Solberg to approve the minutes for May 10th, 2022. Motion Carried.

Bruce Nelson, Trails Committee, rescheduled to May 24th, 2022.

Christopher Knutson was present for public comment. Christopher appreciated the Board excluding the BCA area & Dewey's pasture in the wind turbine ordinance proposed changes. Christopher asked the board to consider economic impacts and access to trauma centers and the flight path and approach area to the local airport.

Walter Davis-Oeth, County Engineer, met with the Board for the following items.

Motion by Graettinger, 2nd by Merrill to approve Brady Cook, and Carson Hoffman as seasonal hires for Secondary Roads patching crew at \$16/hour effective May 25, 2022. Motion Carried.

Motion by Solberg, 2nd by Merrill to approve Bill Gappa and Christine Geerdes, and Bob Soenen as seasonal hires for mowing at \$16/hour effective May 25, 2022. Motion Carried.

Walter requested a budget amendment for the capital projects roads fund due to early work on contract and good weather.

Motion by Solberg, 2nd by Graettinger to set the Budget Amendment Hearing for FY22 for June 6, 2022, at 8:00 a.m. at the Courthouse Boardroom. Motion Carried.

The Board placed a conference call to Jon Rosengren, Bolton & Menk to get an update on progress of the Drainage District No. 180 project.

Doug Bergold and Derek Montgomery with TurnKey Logistics met with the Board for an update on Summit Carbon Solutions pipeline. Derek provided a map of the proposed 24.32 miles of anticipated pipeline in Palo Alto County. They are planning for construction in summer of 2023 and will pay crop damage for 3 years.

The Board held a conference call with Renee VonBokern regarding Sheriff Deputy salary increases. The sheriff deputies will receive a 6% increase starting July 1, 2022. The Board is considering an additional 4% to help with recruitment and retention.

Motion by Graettinger, 2nd by Solberg to go into exempt session at 9:45 a.m. per Iowa Code Chapter 20.17(3). Ayes: Faulstick, Solberg, Merrill, Graettinger, Wirtz. Motion Carried. The Board exited exempt session at 10:10 a.m.

Aletha King, Zoning Administrator, met with the Board to present the recommendations from the Zoning Board for changes to the wind turbine ordinance.

Zoning Board Recommendations to the Palo Alto County Board of Supervisors
Wind Turbine Ordinance Changes

On **July 12, 2021**, the Zoning Board recommended to raise the distance from residences, cemeteries, and city limits from 1500 ft to 2640 ft. Also, the height was raised from 550' to 640'.

To review now and annually for the aircraft detection lighting systems and other equipment on the existing and future wind turbine towers to reduce the impact of nighttime lighting on nearby residents, communities, and migratory birds. This shall be in accordance with FAA rules and regulations.

On **May 9, 2022**, the Zoning Board voted to recommend to not have any towers in the Bird Conservation Area with a one-mile setback from that area and a one-mile setback from any other public conservation areas in the entire county. This passed with 5 yay and 1 nay.

Submitted
Aletha King, Zoning Administrator
May 12, 2022

The Board discussed the recommendations. Roger Faulstick suggested to consider ½ mile from the Bird Conservation Area & ½ mile from wetlands. Craig Merrill suggested 600' for height of towers and suggested 1500' from the BCA area & the wetlands. Keith Wirtz suggested the 1500' from the BCA area and wetlands. Ron Graettinger stated 1500' from BCA area.

Jim Neighbors stated that the conservation recommendations are based on 400' to 500' towers and are not comparable to 600' towers.

Jane Hoyman asked the Board to consider flight area and asked for the environmental study impact.

Lou Clark, contracted for land leasing, stated he could not speak for Vestas. He did relay that they were in favor of the recommendations of Zoning Board with the exception of the 1-mile setback.

The Board plans to set the date for the public hearing for changes to the wind turbine ordinance at the meeting next week.

Motion by Faulstick, 2nd by Graettinger to approve reimbursement of \$356,492.71 to the General Fund from the Jail Bond proceeds for the Public Safety Center. Motion Carried.

There were no committee reports.

Motion by Solberg, seconded by Graettinger to adjourn at 10:43 a.m. Motion Carried.

Keith Wirtz, Chairman

Carmen Moser, County Auditor