

Tuscola County Board of Commissioners
Resolution Regarding Wind Turbine Development in Tuscola County

Whereas, there are currently 189 turbines in the County with two more planned projects that could add an estimated 120 additional turbines and,

Whereas, the potential for even more turbines exists especially if the state and federal government require increased energy production from renewable sources and,

Whereas, because local units of government (cities, villages and townships) are provided the legal authority to prepare zoning and wind ordinances, this authority should be used to reasonably and fairly satisfy the needs of wind developers while also protecting the public health, safety and welfare and,

Whereas, building wind turbines in Tuscola County with over 54,000 people and many existing homes requires effective well-reasoned wind ordinances and site planning for safe and publically acceptable projects and,

Whereas, wind turbine development requires the preparation of ordinances that contain generally accepted regulations to protect public health, safety and welfare including, but not limited to: noise levels, setbacks from homes, setbacks from property lines, turbine height-size, shadow flicker, vibration-pulsation and procedures for citizen complaints along with procedures for decommissioning turbines and,

Whereas, it is vital that land owners, citizens, local officials and wind developers work in the spirit of cooperation to resolve issues or unfortunate consequences can be expected for future wind projects including costly project delays and lawsuits which will limit the ability to implement future wind projects if public health, safety and welfare interests are not reasonably protected.

Now Therefore Be It Resolved That, the Tuscola County Board of Commissioners encourages:

1. The use of city, village and township legal authority to establish wind ordinances that enable residents continued reasonable use of their property and protection of their health, safety and welfare.
2. The use of city, village and township legal authority to establish wind ordinances that enable wind turbine construction by developers provided the rights of residents are fairly protected.
3. Establishment of regulations that allow for profitable wind development while mitigating resident concerns such as: noise levels, setbacks from homes, setbacks from property lines, turbine height-size, shadow flicker and vibration-pulsation.
4. The use of cooperation, sensitivity and well-reasoned judgement by elected officials, residents and wind developers to resolve wind turbine issues in order to prevent costly project delays and lawsuits and enable future wind development that is acceptable to all parties.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to city, village and township officials in Tuscola County, known wind developers, Senator Mike Green and Representative Ed Canfield.

Date _____

Thom Bardwell, Chairperson

Tuscola County Board of Commissioners

I, Jodi Fetting, Tuscola County Clerk, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted by the Tuscola County Board of Commissioners at its regular meeting on April 14, 2016.