

Public Hearing Res 25-133

The Board of Supervisors met on August 5, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. in the Clarke County Courthouse Courtroom, for a public hearing on proposed amendments to Section 23, Wind Energy Conversion System Regulations of the Clarke County Zoning Ordinance.

Members present were: Chairman Randy Dunbar, Dean Robins, and Brian Sorensen. Also present were Clarke County Engineer Justin Savage, Clarke County Auditor Jessica Graves, Clarke County Attorney Johanna Olson, Clarke County Zoning Director Rob McCaulley, Osceola Sentinel Editor Candra Brooks, and members of the public.

Moved by Dean Robins to open the hearing at 6:35 P.M., seconded by Brian Sorensen.
Ayes: All. Motion carried

Presentation of the ordinance was made by Dean Robins. The presentation stated the setback requirements of: 2,640 feet from property lines and dwellings; 2 miles from city limits and public conservation land, and 1,000 feet from road right-of-way.

Public Comments:

Members of the public spoke both in support and against wind turbines.

Members stated:

- Wind energy provides clean energy.
- Wind energy support local jobs.
- Brings economic benefits and aligns with Iowa standards
- The shadow effect and sound are annoying
- Wind turbines are bad for the environment.
- They will destroy our roads.
- They are not a good fit for our county.
- They don't run all the time and are not beneficial.
- Wind turbines are a money pit and are government subsidized.
- The zoning board is not properly represented by our county.
- The only benefit is taxes.
- Wind turbines are a great tax base for the county and the main issue is land rights.
- The ordinance is almost non-buildable.
- Wind turbines do not reflect our history and no plans to diminish sound.
- The ordinance is a tough and protects land and neighbors.
- A show of hands was requested for those against turbines.
- The purpose of the meeting was not if the people were for or against, only what should be put in place to protect the County.
- Would like to see County listed as public ground.

Supervisors Response:

The zoning board tried to make it fair for everyone, allowing land owners to make their own decision. Supervisors also stated, if a moratorium had not been placed, we would have had turbines already.

Moved by Brian Sorensen to close the public hearing at 7:41 P.M., seconded by Dean Robins. Ayes: All. Motion carried

Moved by Dean Robins to adjourn, seconded by Brian Sorensen. Ayes: All. Motion carried.

Signed: Randy Dunbar – Chairman

Attest: Jessica Graves, Auditor