



Planning Commission
Gratiot County Department of Community Development
214 E Center St., Ithaca, MI 48847
Phone (989) 875-5201

Approved Minutes of the Wednesday, March 1, 2023 Meeting

The Gratiot County Planning Commission held a meeting **Wednesday, March 1, 2023** beginning at **5:00 pm** in the **Board of Commissioner's Room** at **Gratiot County Courthouse, 214 E Center St., Ithaca, MI 48847 [via Zoom]**

1. **Call to Order** at 5:00pm
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Roll Call:**
 - Present:** L. Quinn Lincoln-Keon, Dan Manley, David Ringle, Karla Childers, Rob Endter, Dave Justin (@5:08)
 - Absent:** Janell Dunham
4. **Approval of the Agenda:**

Board Action: Motion by **Dave Ringle**, second by **Dan Manley** to approve Agenda. Motion Carried 5-0-2.
5. **Approval of January 4th, 2023 Minutes:**

Board Action: Motion by **Dan Manley**, second by **Dave Ringle** to approve minutes. Motion Carried 5-0-2
6. **Public Comment**
7. **Request for Review of Fulton Townships Proposed Wind Ordinance Amendment**
 - a. **Explanation**
 - i. **Karla Childers** offered a brief history of **Fulton Township** and **Wind Ordinance** and **Wind Turbine Farms** in **Gratiot County** for the two newest members of the PC. The latest application in **Fulton Township (denied)** offered **121k revenue** for lease holders and **7.9 million** for school systems (**Fulton** and **Carson City**).
 - ii. **Doug Antes** is Present for any questions.
 - b. **Discussion/Questions**
 - i. **Karla Childers** – The intent behind the language of the ordinance makes it close to impossible to have a wind turbine project.
 - ii. **L. Quinn Lincoln-Keon** – Agrees with **Karla**; states that the current language is too restrictive to allow for any wind energy project in **Fulton Township**.

- iii. Dave Ringle – Will such restrictive language cause potential for law suits? Seville Township has similar “extremely” restrictive Language.
 - iv. Doug Antes – With this new ordinance there are seven section in Fulton that could meet these requirements if all property owners are participation.
 - v. Karla Childers – Fulton may never see an economical chance such as this again.
 - vi. Dave Ringle – Decibel regulation of 35-45 decibels seem strict. A lawnmower runs at 75 decibels. The decibels allowed should be reflective of other “noise makers”.
- c. **Vote for Recommendation of Approval/Approval with Conditions/Denial**

Board Action: Motion by **L. Quinn Lincoln-Keon**, second by **Dave Ringle** to recommend **Denial of Fulton Townships Proposed Wind Ordinance**. Motion Carried 6-0-1.

*The standards can only be met on an estimated 7 out of 36 sections or less than 20% of land located in Fulton Township. Gratiot County Planning Commission offers the suggestion that Fulton Township reevaluates the Proposed Wind Ordinance to find less restrictive regulations.

8. Old Business:

- a. **Update from Spicer**
 - i. Spicer had a few questions regarding the application and missing information. They will follow up with the applicant regarding these items to ensure they are provided by the applicant.

9. New Business:

- a. **City of Saint Louis Parks and Recreational Plan 2023-2027**
- b. **Zoning Complaints January (0) and February (0)**
- c. **Zoning Permits Issued January – Elba (0), Hamilton (0), Lafayette (0), Newark (1), North Star (0), Sumner (1)**
- d. **Zoning Permits Issued February – Elba (1), Hamilton (0), Lafayette (0), Newark (0), North Star (1), Sumner (0)**

10. Committee and Special Reports:

11. General Comment for Public for Items Not on the Agenda

- a. **Bob Baxter: Trustee of Fulton Township Board, “The [original application] was denied under sound ordinance and long sight plan. The decision went to court and was upheld; it is irresponsible for this commission [Gratiot County Planning Commission] to deny this.**
- b. **Harold Defever: This has gone to court and doesn’t need to go again. The sound [section] was written by a professional who does this for a living. As the turbines get older they make more noise – don’t come after the people of Fulton. The more wind turbines mean more crowded; people want distance from the noise. They [renewable energy companies] want to double the amount of wind turbines in Gratiot**

County. Fulton won't grow with turbines. Fulton is not trying to be exclusive. The \$ that is offered for the schools is a joke, I can write a check for that amount. Yes, 7.9, yes (in response to Karla Childers clarifying that the amount that would have gone to the schools from the wind turbines was 7.9 million dollars). People can get sick from the turbines, my doctor has said so. The money the schools received is now being taken away in areas in the thumb [location on the map of MI] – the companies want that money back and are taking it back; look it up it is all over the internet.

12. Adjournment:

Board Action: Motion by **Dave Ringle**, second by **L. Quinn Lincoln-Keon** to adjourn at **5:45** p.m. Motion Carried 6-0-1.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Diandra Messer, recording secretary.

X Date

Minutes respectfully Accepted by Janell Dunham, Secretary.

X Date