

**ELMORE COUNTY
PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION**

MINUTES

Wednesday, February 18, 2009 at 7:00 pm

Chairperson Nettleton called the meeting to order, and established a quorum. Members of the Elmore County Planning and Zoning Commission present were Chairperson Nick Nettleton, Patti Osborn, Al Sobtzak, Rusty Trail, Debbie Lord and KC Duerig. Also present were Attorney of Record Phil Miller, and staff members, Bonnie Sharp, Kacey Hultenius, Beth Westerwelle, and Robert Knight.

New Business

Elect New Vice Chairperson.

P&Z members Patti Osborn and Al Sobtzak were nominated for Vice Chairperson. Each Commission Member voted by written ballot and Patti Osborn was elected Vice Chairperson.

Chairman Nettleton recused himself from the Public Hearing involving Idaho Windfarms.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Vice Chairperson Osborn opened the Public Hearing

Idaho Windfarms, LLC for a Conditional Use Permit and a Variance to the bulk and coverage standards for a 197' temporary meteorological tower in an Agricultural A Zone. Site is located in Section 19, Township 4S, Range 9E, B.M.

John Steiner is the applicant and manager of Idaho Windfarms. He stated that this will be a temporary tower that will be there from 1 to 3 years depending on the amount of data they will need to collect to determine the feasibility of this project. He stated that fortunately they already have a tower in place and they can correlate the data from that tower which will help speed up the data collection.

Gary George is with the company Wind Data Services in Idaho Falls. He stated that he installs wind data towers. He stated that the proposed tower will be 197 feet tall. He presented a handout to the Commission Members describing the towers and how they work. He stated that the Department of Fish and Game made comments about electricity from the towers harming birds in the area. He stated that the towers are powered by two D cell batteries and they last for about 1 year, there will be no other electricity. He stated that there will be minimal impact to wildlife and that there is equipment that would lessen the chance of harm to birds as well. He stated that these towers work to help developers ensure the investment is worth it to them as well as the County.

John Steiner wanted to make clear that they will do everything to go along with the Idaho Department of Fish and Games recommendations. Sobtzak asked how long will this tower would be in place. Steiner stated that it should be no longer than 1 year.

There was no further testimony.

Osborn closed this public hearing.

Commission action:

Sobtzak moved to approve the CUP and Variance.

Duerig seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

FCO's and Minutes

FCO for Updegraff

Osborn moved to approve with one correction

Trail seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

FCO for Livers

Osborn moved to approve.

Lord seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes from 2-4-09

Lord moved to approve with one correction.

Trail seconded.

Motion carried unanimously

INFORMATION ITEMS

Information on upcoming workshop

Sharp stated that there will be a workshop with Mason and Harrington in Twin Falls on Saturday April 4, 2009 if anyone is interested.

Recruiting New P&Z Commission Member

Sharp stated Sobotzak spoke at the Rotary regarding finding a new P&Z member and that staff has received phone calls and 2 letters from people who are interested. She stated that she would be speaking at the Pine Senior Center on February 24th regarding the opening as well.

ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

MEETING ADJOURNED

Nick Nettleton, Chairperson

Date:

Attest: _____

Bonnie Sharp, Administrator

Date: