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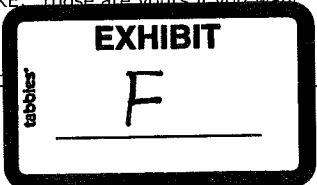
TRANSCRIPT  
OF  
PROCEEDINGS  
(Clark County Commissioners' meeting)  
April 4, 2017  
9:30 o'clock, a.m.

Commissioners Present:  
Violet Wicks, Chairperson  
Robert Bjerke, Vice CHAIRPERSON  
Francis Hass, Commissioner  
Chris Sass, Commissioner  
Richard Reints, Commissioner  
  
Taken at:  
Clark County Courthouse  
200 North Commercial  
Clark, South Dakota

1 has seven towers, they got 6,438.39, and Mount Pleasant has  
2 four towers and they got 3,684.80.  
3 ROD CHRISTMAN: Now is this something we could  
4 put in the paper too that the taxpayers could look at?  
5 CHRISTINE TARBOX: Yeah, those --  
6 ROD CHRISTMAN: I mean, if they can't go in like  
7 the commissioners' report. I'll even pay for it, to put it  
8 in the paper, if we get it in right.  
9 All right. Dick Wells --  
10 COMMISSIONER BJERKE: I'd like to just comment on  
11 part of what she just said. Historically that is a good  
12 number. Going forward, the school portion, that will not  
13 happen in the future.  
14 BOB CHRISTMAN: Well, that's true, I see that and  
15 I realize that, but --  
16 COMMISSIONER BJERKE: That's been kind of my  
17 point all along is --  
18 BOB CHRISTMAN: I know, and that happened before  
19 this here got going even that they switched that, and I  
20 talked to Brock there to let's see if we can get that  
21 changed, but it's still going to South Dakota. I mean, it  
22 isn't going to New York or anything.  
23 But you look at these figures on the school and  
24 they go down, they must go down after -- I'm looking at the  
25 400-megawatt. They must go down after five years to

1 CHAIRPERSON WICKS: Okay, we're going to call  
2 this meeting to order, and Rod, we're going to allow you to  
3 speak.  
4 ROD CHRISTMAN: All right. Can I come up here?  
5 COMMISSIONER REINTS: Yes.  
6 ROD CHRISTMAN: I guess the first thing that I  
7 wanted to do -- good morning -- is that I don't know if the  
8 taxpayers have realized how much money is coming into this  
9 project, and I could have put an editorial probably in the  
10 paper, but this is what Jay brought, and I'll go through  
11 these figures, with Geronimo, and there's a way of figuring  
12 it out, I guess, you know what I mean, but it looks to me  
13 like there's a lot of money that's coming in. And I hope we  
14 can go do the 400 megawatts being as it would be more  
15 efficient for one thing, but you know, we've got to get the  
16 costs down on this project so it goes. And, Chris, do you  
17 have some numbers on like the Makens one there. Could you  
18 tell what's coming in on that?  
19 CHRISTINE TARBOX: Last year the total that came  
20 into the county from the 11 towers out at Makens was  
21 \$67,554.69. The county gets 35 percent of that. The school  
22 gets 50 percent of that and the townships get the rest  
23 divided by -- depending on how many towers are in each  
24 township. Do you want those exact figures? The county got  
25 \$23,644.15. The school got \$33,777.35. Garfield Township

1 nine years, but you guys can figure that out.  
2 The local impact to the school is \$510,000  
3 averaged annually over years one through nine. That's  
4 4.6 million. And then the -- after that, the state, the six  
5 through twenty, the average is 570,000 annually. Through  
6 twenty years, that's \$8.6 million. I mean, that still goes  
7 into South Dakota Fund. Dick Wells, are you here?  
8 DICK WELLS: Over here, Rod.  
9 ROD CHRISTMAN: You wanted to say something about  
10 the money part of this too.  
11 DICK WELLS: Well, yeah, I don't know what  
12 they're dragging their feet about. Good Lord, look at the  
13 income we'll have there, the State of South Dakota can get  
14 just on agriculture tourism and look at where our revenue was  
15 way down because the ag products are just -- they're  
16 terrible, by goodness, and like I say, the county gets money,  
17 the school gets money and our townships need money. I've  
18 been on the board up there, and tried to get them to give me  
19 retirement for 50 years, they just laugh at me, by God, but  
20 we're just kind of skimming by up there and there's different  
21 townships without a colony, so I can't see why -- it looks to  
22 me like an awful good chance for some revenue.  
23 COMMISSIONER BJERKE: Those are yours if you want  
24 to take them with you.  
25 ROD CHRISTMAN: You



1 PATRICK SMITH: I think we had very deep concerns  
2 about being able to get the project done with the size of the  
3 setback. It hurts the project pretty severely in terms of  
4 engineering, design and being able to --

5 COMMISSIONER REINTS: At the three-quarter  
6 setback from nonparticipants?

7 PATRICK SMITH: Correct, yes.

8 COMMISSIONER HASS: The negotiations are not  
9 working?

10 PATRICK SMITH: I guess the -- yeah, I think that  
11 would be the answer that, you know, folks are not interested,  
12 and we've reached out, you know, to the folks that would be  
13 interested or be important to involve in that issue.

14 UNIDENTIFIED MAN: Excuse me, what did you ask,  
15 commissioners, just now, what was the question you asked  
16 Geronimo?

17 COMMISSIONER REINTS: What their thoughts on the  
18 findings that we have asked them to agree to be able to --  
19 they have to agree to these findings in order to --

20 CHAD FJELLAND: Just a minute. They don't have  
21 to agree to the findings at all. I mean, these are your  
22 findings. They are what they are.

23 COMMISSIONER REINTS: If they don't agree to  
24 them, we don't allow the project to go, is that right?

25 CHAD FJELLAND: No, there's no -- Geronimo has no

1 not -- the nonparticipants, I believe the -- wasn't the  
2 Federal Aviation Administration 10,000-foot recommendation,  
3 but it's left up to county ordinances, correct? The FAA  
4 leaves it up to the county ordinances as far as airports,  
5 airstrips or whatever was my understanding, but --

6 CHAIRPERSON WICKS: Okay. We need to get back  
7 into the board of adjustment.

8 KIP OBERMEIER: Is there a current community fund  
9 account and how much is in it, if there's one?

10 JODY OBERMEIER: There will not be one unless the  
11 project is built. There's no project.

12 COMMISSIONER HASS: My comment about negotiation  
13 is if somebody doesn't mind to having a half a mile instead  
14 of a three-quarters of a mile, deal with them and get it  
15 done. That's my comment.

16 DOUG PAULSON: Well, it seems like if there was  
17 able to be a project when it started out at 75 to 125, so  
18 it's not reducing less than that, so why isn't it viable now?  
19 That's what I want to know.

20 CHAIRPERSON WICKS: Okay, I need to call for a  
21 vote on CU1-17. Bob?

22 COMMISSIONER BJERKE: Yes.

23 CHAIRPERSON WICKS: Chris?

24 COMMISSIONER SASS: Yes.

25 CHAIRPERSON WICKS: Dick?

1 role to agreeing to these findings. These are your findings  
2 from the hearing, that's all this is. So there's no  
3 agreement between the board and Geronimo on this.

4 KIP OBERMEIER: Permission to address the board?

5 CHAIRPERSON WICKS: Okay.

6 KIP OBERMEIER: The nonparticipating adjacent  
7 landowners, I believe all of them got letters last week, UPS  
8 airmailed. This started nine and a half years ago and I  
9 believe it was Commissioner Sass last week asked the Geronimo  
10 representatives if you had any contact or been talking with  
11 the nonparticipants on the issues, and you reported that you  
12 talked to most of them. I don't think any of them were  
13 contacted, and I don't know how many pages that contract is  
14 that the landowners signed, but here's the single-sided  
15 letter that the nonparticipants got, and they're using the  
16 word "compensation". You know, there hasn't been any kind of  
17 an offer that I'm aware of, or any kind of negotiations or  
18 talks. We request that you respond with your indication of  
19 interest as soon as possible, preferably by 12 p.m. on  
20 Monday, April 3rd, yesterday.

21 They know going in nine and a half years ago that  
22 there would be people not interested that would be in the  
23 footprint, within the footprint, adjacent to the footprint.  
24 Three, four days they'd like to hear something? I don't get  
25 that. Yeah, the wind farm, fine, I'm not against it. I'm

1 COMMISSIONER REINTS: Yes.

2 CHAIRPERSON WICKS: Francis?

3 COMMISSIONER HASS: Yes.

4 CHAIRPERSON WICKS: Yes.

5 CHAD FJELLAND: Okay, findings are approved on  
6 CU1-17. Next we'd seek a motion for approval of findings on  
7 CU2-17.

8 CHAIRPERSON WICKS: Okay. Do we have to vote?  
9 Bob?

10 COMMISSIONERS REINTS: Do we have to make a  
11 motion first?

12 CHAIRPERSON WICKS: Oh, we have to make a motion,  
13 okay. Do we have a motion?

14 CHAD FJELLAND: Any discussion?

15 CHAIRPERSON WICKS: Any discussion? Anybody want  
16 to --

17 COMMISSIONER BJERKE: Did you get a second?

18 CHAIRPERSON WICKS: Pardon?

19 COMMISSIONER BJERKE: Did you get a second?

20 CHAIRPERSON WICKS: No.

21 COMMISSIONER BJERKE: I'll second it.

22 CHAIRPERSON WICKS: Okay. Now --

23 CHRISTINE TARBOX: Who make the motion?

24 COMMISSIONER REINTS: I will.

25 CHAIRPERSON WICKS: Dick. Okay, now we need