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| 1 | STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA) IN CIRCUIT COURT |
| 2 | COUNTY OF DEUEL) THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT 19CIV18-000019 |
| 3 4 | GEORGE HOLBORN, RUBY HOLBORN, TO THE STATE OF THE STATE O |
| 5 | KOLBECK, JENNIFER KOLBECK, WILLIAM STONE, FAY STONE, HEATH STONE, KATIE STONE, and STEVEN |
| 6 | OVERBY, |
| 7 | Petitioners, |
| 8 | vs. |
| 9 10 | DEUEL COUNTY BOARD OF) ADJUSTMENT, DEUEL HARVEST WIND) ENERGY LLC, and DEUEL HARVEST) |
| 11 | WIND ENERGY SOUTH LLC, |
| 12 | Respondents. |
| 13 | |
| 14 | DEPOSITION OF KEVIN DEBOER, |
| 15 16 | taken before NANCY MCCLANAHAN, court reporter and notary public within and for the County of Codington, State of South Dakota. |
| 17 | DEUEL COUNTY COURTHOUSE |
| 18 | Jury Room 408 Fourth Street West |
| 19 | 408 Fourth Street West Clear Lake, South Dakota |
| 20 | September 21, 2018 |
| 21 22 | 8:35 A.M. |
| 23 | Nancy McClanahan Reporter/RPR,RMR |
| 24 | MCCLANAHAN REPORTING 1-800-813-0936 |
| 25 | -605-882-0936 P.O. Box 342 Watertown, SD 57201 |
| | water town, 3D 37201 |

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|----------------------------|---------------|--|-------|-----------|
| 1 | | INDEX | | |
| 2 | TESTIN | IONY OF KEVIN DeBOER: | | PAGE |
| 3 | Examina | tion By Mr. Almond: | 6 | |
| 4 | DEPOS | ITION EXHIBITS: | | MARKED |
| 5 | 1 THROU | UGH 7 | 6 | |
| 6 | 8 AND 9 | 9 1 | .5 | |
| 7 | 10 | 4 | 14 | |
| 8 | 11 | 6 | 53 | |
| 9 | 12 | 7 | 7 | |
| 10 | 13 | 7 | '8 | |
| 11 | DEPOSI | TION EXHIBITS PAGE INITIA | LLY R | EFERENCED |
| 12 | 7. | Return to Writ of Certiorari | 6 | |
| 13 14 | 1. | Deuel County Zoning Ordinances B2004-01 | 7 | |
| 15 16 17 18 19 | 2. | Applications of Harvest Wind Energy, LLC ("North") and Harvest Wind Energy South, LLC ("South") for a Conditional Use Permit, each dated December 21, 2017, together with correspondence between their representatives and Deuel County. | 7 | |
| 20 | 3. | The Board's Notices of Public Hearings | 9 | |
| 21 22 23 24 | 4. | Submissions received by the Board, together with related correspondence | 9 | |
| 25 | | | | |

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Minutes of and materials related to the Board's January 22, 2018 hearing, together with correspondence between Deuel County, its State's Attorney, and First District Association of Local Governments The Board's separate Findings of 10 Fact granting the North and South applications, both dated February 13, 2018, letters of assurance, and special exception notices Wind Lease and Easement Agreement, DCBA 1-80 10 11

Deuel County Board of Adjustment's Objections and Answers to Petitioners' Interrogatories (First Set) 23

Deuel County Board of Adjustment's Objections and Answers to Petitioners' Interrogatories (First Set) 29

Minutes of and materials related to the Board's January 22, 2018 hearing, together with correspondence between Deuel County, its State's Attorney, and First District Association of Local Government

Invenergy letters, DH29, November 30, 2016; 37, December 22, 2017; 41, March 23, 2017; 52, January 9, 2017; 53, January 23, 2017

Submissions received by the Board, together with related correspondence

APPEARANCES

Reece Almond, Davenport, Evans, Hurwitz & Smith, P. O. Box 1030, 206 W. 14TH ST., Sioux Falls, SD 57101-1030, ralmond@dehs.com, appearing on behalf of Plaintiffs. George Holborn, Ruby Holborn, John Homan appearing personally at the deposition.

Christina L. Kilby, Kilby Law, PLLC, 112
Geneva Boulevard, Burnsville, MN 55306,
ckilby@kilbylawmn.com appearing on behalf of
Plaintiffs.
Zachary W. Peterson, Richardson, Wyly, Wise,
Sauck & Hieb, LLP, P.O. Box 1030, 1 Court Street,
Aberdeen, SD 57402, zpeterson@rwwsh.com, appearing on
behalf of Defendant Deuel County Board of Adjustment.

Lisa M. Agrimonti, Fredrikson & Byron, P.A., 200 South Sixth Street, Suite 4000, Minneapolis, MN 155402-1425, lagrimonti@fredlaw.com, appearing on behalf of Defendants, Deuel Harvest Wind Energy LLC and Deuel Harvest Wind Energy South LLC. Michael Svedeman appearing personally at the deposition.

STIPULATION

IT IS STIPULATED by and between counsel for the 15 parties hereto that the DEPOSITION OF **KEVIN DeBOER**, may 16 be taken at this time and place before NANCY

17 McCLANAHAN, a court reporter and a notary public in and

18 for the State of South Dakota, for the purpose of

19 discovery or for use at trial or for each of said 20 purposes; that said deposition is taken in accordance

21 with the applicable statutes and rules of civil

22 procedure and taken pursuant to written notice; and

23 that counsel waive reading and signature of the 24 transcript by the deponent. It is further noted that

25 the deponent has waived reading and signature.

McClanahan Court Reporting mcrsteno@gwestoffice.net - 605-882-0936 (Office) - 605-880-9439 (Cell) P. O. Box 342, Watertown SD 57201



Pages 1 - 4

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5 The Board's separate Findings of Fact granting the North and South applications, both dated February 13, 2018, letters of assurance, and special exception notices. 1 2 3 4 11. Deuel County Zoning Board meeting minutes, Monday, April 10, 2017 63 5 6 77 12. County Referendum Petition 7 13. e-mail from Lisa Agrimonti to John Knight, January 18, 2018, DH19, 119, 120 78 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25

1 are the documents that the county produced as part of2 the record in this proceeding.

I've marked as Exhibit 1, the Deuel County Zoning Ordinances. Are you familiar with the Deuel County Zoning Ordinances?

- A. Yes.
- Q. And that is Exhibit A to the return; correct?
- A. This is --
- 9 Q. Yep. It talks about the exhibits that are 10 marked to the return. "A" is the Deuel County Zoning 11 Ordinances?
 - A. Yes.

Q. Then Exhibit 2, which correspond to Exhibit B of the return is the applications that were submitted by Deuel Harvest Wind Energy and Deuel Harvest Wind Energy South, and there are large binders here in front of you, four of which, or four of them. I have them broken up I believe into the first application, which is here. Exhibit 2 starts with the first application. You can see down here at the bottom, it's Bates labeled Exhibit B, page 1 of 1972. Do you see that?

- A. Uh-huh (Yes). Yes.
 - Q. Do you remember going through this application?
- A. I remember looking at it. I don't remember every detail of it.

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PROCEEDINGS (DEPOSITION EXHIBITS 1 THROUGH 7 MARKED.) KEVIN DEBOER,

being first duly sworn, testified as follows: EXAMINATION

6 By MR. ALMOND:

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- Q. Can you state and spell your name for the court reporter, please.
- 9 A. Kevin DeBoer. K-E-V-I-N, capital D-e, capital 10 B-O-E-R.
 - Q. And your current address?
- 12 A. 17345 480A Avenue, Clear Lake 57226.
- Q. Mr. DeBoer, my name is Reece Almond. I'm an attorney with the Davenport-Evans Law Firm. What I first want to talk to you about this morning is just go over some of these documents that are in front of you. I'm going to hand you what has been marked as Exhibit 7. This was produced in the litigation. Have you seen this document?
 - A. I've seen so many I don't know.
- Q. Yeah. So what this basically is is a filing that the County Board of Adjustment produced in the litigation saying that these are the files that we're producing as part of the Return of Writ of Certiorari. There are Exhibits A through F listed on here. So these

Q. Right. It's almost 2,000 pages. I wouldn't expect you to remember every detail of it, but that's what these four binders are in front of you. All of which are going to be Exhibit 2 for purposes of this deposition, but there were two applications submitted by Deuel Harvest; correct?

- A. Yes.
- Q. One was for the Deuel Harvest Wind Energy
 System; the other for the Deuel Harvest Wind Energy
 South System; correct?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. So what I've tried to do is break them up into
 each one, I think. Page 1 starts with the Deuel Harvest
 Wind Energy and then Deuel Harvest Wind South starts on
 page 1085. Did I see that correctly?
 - A. It would appear that way, yes.
- 17 Q. How did you understand the two projects or what 18 did you call them by?
- 19 A. "North" and "South."
- Q. "North" and "South"? So I want to keep that terminology during this deposition. So "South" project is the "South" project. "North" project is, I guess, what's actually called Deuel Harvest Wind Energy, but we'll just call it the "North," because that's what you're familiar with.

McClanahan Court Reporting mcrsteno@qwestoffice.net - 605-882-0936 (Office) - 605-880-9439 (Cell) P. O. Box 342, Watertown SD 57201

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- A. Yes.
- 2 Q. Okay?
 - A. Okay.
- Q. Exhibit 3 is Exhibit C to the return. Looks like these are just the notices that were sent out by the county of its public hearings. Is that right?
 - A. Yes, that would appear that way.
- 8 Q. And Exhibit 4, which is this big binder over
- 9 here, the bottom there is Bates labeled Exhibit D1 of
- 10 518, and that according to the return that was produced
- 11 by the Board are submissions received by the Board
- 12 together with related correspondence. So that's
- 13 Exhibit 4 that we're going to be working with today.
- 14 Okay?
- 15 **A. Okay.**
- Q. And here is Exhibit 5, which correspondences to
- 17 the Board's Exhibit E, and 1 of 95, and if you flip
- 18 through here, it will be all of 95 pages. That
- 19 according to the return is what?
- 20 A. Minutes.
- 21 Q. Minutes of and materials related to the Board's
- 22 January 22, 2018 hearing together with correspondence
- 23 between Deuel County, its State's Attorney, and
- 24 First District Association; right?
- 25 A. Yes.

- A. No, just the males.
- Q. Can you go through each --
 - A. You want each name?
- Q. -- sibling first and last name?
- 5 A. James DeBoer. Robert DeBoer. Kathleen Beste.
- 6 Jerome DeBoer. Joann Dagenhart. Jeanie Hoff.
- 7 Jennifer Quail.
 - Q. So it's is Jennifer Quail?
 - A. Yeah.
- 10 Q. Jeanie --
 - A. Hoff.
- 12 Q. H-O-F-F?
- 13 **A. Yeah.**
- 14 Q. Joann --
- 15 A. Dagenhart.
- 16 Q. And it was Kathleen?
- 17 A. Kathleen.
 - Q. Kathleen --
- 19 A. Beste. Best with an "E" at the end, I believe.
- 20 Q. Do you have any children, Mr. DeBoer?
 - A. Right.
- Q. What are their first and last names?
- 23 A. Miranda DeBoer, Jake DeBoer, Elizabeth DeBoer.
- 24 Luke DeBoer, Isabel DeBoer, and Issac DeBoer.
 - Q. Now, do you know who the family members are of

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- Q. Now I'm showing you what has been marked as
 Exhibit 6, and that corresponds to Exhibit F in the
 return that was submitted by the Board. That's the
- 4 Board's Findings of Fact related to the two projects
- 5 granting the "North" and "South" applications, both
- dated February 13, 2018, along with the letters ofassurance, and special exception notices. So that's
- 8 Exhibit 6. Okay?
- 9 **A. Okay**.
- 10 Q. You were the lucky one that we got to go over 11 that stuff with.
- 12 A. The other ones don't get to go over it?
- Q. We're going to go over some of it, but I'm not going to go over all of it with them, probably. Why
- 15 don't we just start off. What are your parents' names?
- 16 A. George and Margaret Ann.
- 17 Q. DeBoer?
- 18 **A. Yeah.**
- 19 Q. Are they alive?
- 20 A. Mother is.
- 21 Q. Okay. And then siblings? I know you have some
- 22 brothers, James and Jerome; right?
- 23 A. And Jim, Bob, Kathleen, Jerome, Joann, myself,
- 24 Jeanie and Jenny.25 Q. Do they all have Del
 - Q. Do they all have DeBoer as the last name?

- your other board members? And I don't want to know all
 of them, but do you know if Justin and Kristen Brandt
 are related to Paul Brandt in any way?
 - A. I have no clue.
 - Q. Do you know who Jason and Teresa Kanengieter
- 6 are?

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- A. No.
- Q. How about Diane and Joel Brandt? Do you know
- 9 if they're related to Paul Brandt?
 - A. Yes.
- 11 Q. They are?
- 12 **A.** Yes
- 13 Q. And how so?
- A. It's his twin brother and his wife.
- 15 Q. So Joel is Paul Brandt's twin brother?
- 16 **A. Yes**
- 17 Q. And you don't -- Do you know Justin and
- 18 Kristen Brandt?
- 19 **A. No.**
 - Q. There are five board members; correct?
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 Q. Board of adjustment members?
 - A. Yes.
- 24 Q. Yourself, Dennis Kanengieter, Paul Brandt,
 - Steve Rhody, and Mike Dahl; correct?

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- A. Yes.
- Q. Are you all still on the board of adjustment?
- A. Yes
- 4 Q. Do you know who Dennis Kanengieter works for?
- 5 A. I know the name. I don't know the man.
 - Q. What's the name?
- 7 A. Rogness Trucking.
 - Q. Do you know any of the Rognesses?
- 9 A. I know Bert Rogness.
- 10 Q. Is he affiliated with Rogness Trucking at all?
- 11 A. No, I don't believe so.
- 12 Q. Do you know any other Rognesses?
- 13 **A. No**
- 14 Q. You just know that Dennis Kanengieter works for
- 15 Rogness Trucking?
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. What I'd like you to do now, Mr. DeBoer, is 18 give me a list of every agreement you have entered into 19 with a wind energy company.
- 20 A. Just with Invenergy.
- Q. And how many agreements did you enter into with
- 22 Invenergy?

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A. One.
Q. And this agreement you entered with Invenergy,
when did you enter into that agreement?

1 conversation go?

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- A. Well, he was just saying that was there to sign up land for wind leases. And we just talked back and forth about wind towers and if they were going to happen or not, the cost of the tower. That sort of thing.
- Q. And when did Gene first stop by your house? I assume it was before you entered into the agreement with Invenergy?
 - A. Yeah, it was before.
- 10 Q. Do you recall approximately a month when Gene 11 would have stopped by?
 - A. Oh, probably six months.
- 13 Q. Six months before you entered into the 14 agreement with Invenergy?
 - A. Yes.

(DEPOSITION EXHIBITS 8 AND 9 MARKED.)

17 MS. AGRIMONTI: I am requesting this document18 be marked as confidential for purposes of this

- 19 deposition. Mr. Almond and I still have an open item 20 about how these leases will be treated in this
- 21 litigation, and that status being confidential or
- 22 nonconfidential. I understand that this document has
- 23 already been shared with those present in this room so
- 24 nobody needs to be removed but I ask that it be marked
- 25 as confidential.

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- A. I can't even say.
- Q. Can you give me a month and a year?
- A. Oh, it would have been in the summertime. We were cutting silage so probably September, and I would have to say -- I don't know if it was 15 or 16.
- Q. How do you first get introduced to Invenergy?
- A. Well, they were driving around trying to solicit people to put their land in to the wind farm.
- 9 Q. So someone just stopped by your farm or your 10 residence?
- 11 A. Well, yeah, eventually they did.
- 12 Q. Who did you speak with from Invenergy?
- 13 A. I can't remember his name.
- 14 Q. How many --
- 15 A. Gene was his first name.
- 16 Q. Was Gene by himself? This was the first time
- 17 that you spoke with someone from Invenergy?
- 18 **A. Yes.**
- 19 Q. And was Gene by himself?
- 20 A. I believe so.
- 21 Q. Where did that conversation take place?
- 22 A. In the middle of the yard.
- Q. Of your yard?
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 Q. And the best you can, just how did that

MR. ALMOND: Let's go off the record quick. (DISCUSSION OFF THE RECORD.)

MS. AGRIMONTI: Correction to my statement. I understand the document Exhibit 8 were distributed and shared with Ms. Kilby --

MR. ALMOND: Exhibit 9.

MS. AGRIMONTI: Exhibit 9. I'll get it right

8 the third time. Exhibit 9 has been shared only with 9 counsel, and I am asking that it be marked as

10 confidential. To the extent we get into any details

11 regarding specific terms in the agreement, I will ask

- 12 that the three individuals who are non-attorneys leave
- 13 the room so that we can keep the confidentiality of
- 14 the document and understand that we still have to 15 resolve that finally with Mr. Almond. What I'm trying
- 16 to do is mark it as confidential so that I can try to
- 17 keep it that way. Once I mark it as public, I can't
- 18 go back.

- 19 By MR. ALMOND:
- Q. All right. Mr. DeBoer, I'm handing you what has been marked as Exhibit 9. If you look at the Bates label DCBA down at the bottom of the page
 - A. Yeah.
- Q. -- 1 through 21, is that an agreement you 25 signed with Invenergy?

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A. Yes.

- 2 And there is a signature date on there or, 3 yeah, there is a signature date. I just want to get our 4 timeline down here. That's why -- On DCBA 16, looks 5 like, is that your signature there?
 - A. Yes.
- 7 If you look at the acknowledgment of owner, it looks like it was signed on July 13 of 2016; is that 8 9 right?
- 10 A. That's what it says.
- 11 Q. Yep. Then I know earlier you said you had one 12 agreement. I'm going to show you another document here, 13 part of Exhibit 9, starting on page 22 of Exhibit 9,
- 14 which as I read it, it's another wind lease that you
- 15 executed with Invenergy on the same day.
 - Yeah.
- 17 Q. So for a different piece of property that you 18 own?
- Well, that's understandable. 19 A.
- 20 Q. Yeah. But technically you have two agreements,
- 21 but you signed them on both the same day. Does that 22 sound right?
- A. Yes. 23
- 24 Q. So you signed those agreements in July of '16. 25 You said you first were approached by Invenergy about

- him when he come out to sign the lease. There was 2 another gentleman along. It probably would say in the 3 document.
 - Q. If you heard his name, would you remember it?
 - A. Not necessarily.
 - Kevin Parzyck?
 - (Gestures.)
 - Q. Doesn't ring a bell?
- 9 Don't ring a bell. A.
- 10 Q. How about Dan Litchfield?
- 11 I never talked to him about the leases.
- 12 Do you know who Dan Litchfield is?
 - A. I know who he is.
- 14 Okay. So after you entered into these two --
- Do you call them lease agreements, or what do you refer 15 16 to them as?
- 17 A. We can refer to them as that, yes.
- 18 Q. Okay. So these two lease agreements that are 19 in Exhibit 9 that we've talked about that you entered
- into in July of 2016, after you entered into these lease
- agreements, when was the next communication you had with 22 anyone from Invenergy?
 - A. Probably when the meetings started happening.
- 24 Q. When you say "the meetings," what are you 25 referring to?

18 20

six months before that earlier; right? 1

- A. Estimation, yes.
- Q. Approximately. So between the time that you were first approached by Invenergy and when you actually signed the agreement, how many conversations did you have with people from Invenergy?
 - A. I can't recall.
- 8 Q. Just give me a rough estimation.
- 9 Couple probably.
- 10 Q. And how were the communications, how did they
- 11 take place? Over the phone? In person? Through 12 e-mail?
- 13 They would have been in person.
- 14 Q. Did you exchange any e-mail with anyone from 15 Invenergy?
- 16 A. No.
- 17 Q. Did you have any telephone conversations with
- 18 anyone from Invenergy?
- 19 Not to my recollection. 20 Q. I assume you didn't send any text messages with
- 21 anyone from Invenergy.
- 22 A.
- 23 Q. Other than Gene, who else did you speak with in
- 24 that six-month time frame? 25
 - A. I don't remember the man's name that was with

- A. Well, when they'd have a gathering about the 1 2 wind towers, the public hearings or public meetings.
- 3 Q. So there were public hearings in front of 4 county boards; right?
 - A. Yes.
 - Q. And you said when they would have the
- 7 gatherings. I understand it, Invenergy would also host
- gatherings for leaseholders and potential leaseholders;
- 9 is that correct?
 - A. That's correct.
- 11 Q. Then did you attend some of those gatherings?
- 12
 - Q. And how many did you attend?
- 14 A. Two, as I recall.
 - And where were those located at?
- 16 One was the Pizza Shack, and the other one was 17 Melvee's.
- 18 Q. Which one happened first? The Pizza Shack 19 meeting or the Melvee's?
 - A. I believe the Pizza Shack one.
- 21 Q. Do you recall when that Pizza Shack meeting 22 took place?
- 23 A. No.
- 24 Q. Do you recall a month?
 - No.

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1 Q. How about the Melvee's meeting? Do you recall 2 when that took place?

A. No.

Q. So let's start with the Pizza Shack meeting. Were there other board members at that meeting?

A. Not that I can recall.

Q. So what about county commissioners? Were there any county commissioners at that meeting?

A. Not that I can recall.

10 Q. Okay. And then the Melvee's meeting. Were 11 there any board members at that meeting?

No. Not that I can recall.

13 Q. What about county commissioners?

14 Not that I can recall.

15 Q. Were your brothers Jerome and or James at 16 either of those meetings?

A. James would have been at both of them. 17

Q. What about Jerome?

19 A. No.

20 Q. And let's start with the Pizza Shack meeting.

21 Just tell me about that meeting. What was going on?

A. It was just talking about how they were going

23 to go to the public hearing and what they were going to 24 present and that are sort of stuff.

25 Q. And the Melvee's hearings, what was --

the Pizza Shack and Melvee's, were you a board member at 2 the time?

A. No.

Q. Neither one of them?

A. No.

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6 Q. Aside from the, I'll call it the Invenergy 7 project, have you been approached by any other wind development companies about signing up your land for a 8

wind lease? 9

> A. No.

> > Q. And how long have you been on the Board?

12 A. Oh, it would have been -- Oh, gosh.

Q. And I'll help you out here. In your

14 interrogatory responses, which is Exhibit 8 here, we asked you that question in writing and the response we

got was February of 2017. Does that sound right?

A. Yeah, February, March, somewhere in there.

Q. Okay. How did you get on the Board of

19 Adjustment?

A. There was a vacancy and I was asked so I said, 20

21 yeah, I'll do it.

22 Q. Who were you asked by?

I can't even remember who asked me.

24 Q. Do you remember how he or she asked you?

Well, it was at one of the public hearings and

22 24

Same thing.

So they were just kind of giving a timeline and Q. their expectations and --

A. Yes.

5 Q. Did Invenergy provide anything to anyone at 6 those meetings?

A. As far as --

8 Q. Did they give them any gifts? Handouts? Did they buy them dinner? Anything. 9

 At the Pizza Shack there was, food was 10 11 provided. I don't know who paid for it, but.

Q. There was pizza there?

A. There was pizza there.

14 Q. But were there like gift bags or --

15 A.

Q. What about Melvee's? Was there anything that 17 was provided at Melvee's?

A. No. 18

19 Q. Were there any documents that were handed out 20 at either of those meetings to people who came and

21 attended?

22 A. Not to me.

Okay. But were there documents handed out?

Not to my knowledge.

Okay. When you were attending the meetings at

somebody, I don't remember who it was said, you know, 1 2 "That would be a good job for you. You should do that." 3

Q. Was it a county commissioner, do you remember?

No. No, it was not a commissioner or the Board.

Q. Just a citizen in Deuel County thought you'd be a good fit for the Board of Adjustment?

A. Yeah.

9 Q. So to get on Board of Adjustment, do you have to get appointed by a commissioner? 10

11 A. I believe you have to be recommended and then 12 they appoint you.

13 Q. Do you know if a county commissioner recommended you, or do you know which county 14 commissioner recommended you? 15

A. No, I don't.

16 17 Q. And typically I go over some rules for depositions, but if you just wait to let me finish asking my question before you answer, the court reporter will like us both a lot more. Okay? 20

A. (Nods affirmatively.)

22 Q. It's normal for people to already know what the answer to the question is going to be so they just give 24 us the answer, but this is not the normal conversation. 25

So somebody recommended you. Did you appear

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1 before the county commission when they decided whether 2 or not to appoint you?

- A. I went to the meeting, the zoning board meeting and that's when I was appointed at the zoning board 5 meeting.
 - Q. Oh, the zoning board appointed you to the zoning board?
- 8 A. I don't know if I was appointed before I got 9 there. But that's, when I got there, they said, "Well, 10 this is the new zoning board member."
- Q. At any point while you were being considered 11 12 for the zoning board, did anyone ask you about any wind 13 leases, whether or not you had any wind leases?
- 14 A. No.
- 15 Q. And did you volunteer that information to 16 anyone at that time?
- 17 A. I do believe I did, when I was on the Board, 18 got on the Board.
 - Q. Once you got on the Board, tell me about that.
- A. I said, "Well, how is this going to affect that 20
- 21 I have a wind lease?"
- 22 Q. And what happened?
- 23 A. They said, "Well, you'll probably have to get
- 24 out of it, or you won't be able to be on the Board.
- because you'll have a conflict of interest."

1 And was there any other discussion about that 2 conflict of interest or what you should do because of 3 it?

- A. Well, no, not to my recollection.
- 5 Q. Do you know when your brothers James and Jerome 6 first signed up with Invenergy?
 - A.

8 Q. Have you had any conversations with them about 9 the Invenergy project?

A. Sure.

11 MS. AGRIMONTI: Objection. Compound. Just 12 get separate answers to the question. I think you 13 started asking the second question.

14 MR. ALMOND: Can you read back both of my 15 questions, I guess, because I don't remember asking 16 two?

17 MS. AGRIMONTI: I apologize. I didn't hear 18 the answer. I thought you were just questioning.

19 MR. ALMOND: He was speaking a little 20 quietly. Well, you caught me off -- Let's go off.

(DISCUSSION OFF THE RECORD.)

22 By MR. ALMOND:

23 Q. All right. Let's go back on. So, again, have 24 you had any conversations with either of your brothers about the Invenergy project?

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- Well, who did you tell that to?
- 2 A. Tell what to?
- 3 Q. That you have a wind lease.
- To the board. 4 A.
- 5 Q. The other four members --
- 6 The full board, yes.
- Q. The other four members of the Board of 7
- 8 Adjustment?
- 9 A. Yeah.
- 10 Q. Just so we're clear here, when we say "the
- 11 Board," we're talking about the Board of Adjustment or
- 12 the zoning board; correct? 13
 - A. Correct.
- 14 Q. We're not referring to the Board of County
- 15 Commissioners.
- 16 A. Correct.
- 17 Q. Was that at a board meeting when you told your
- 18 board members about your wind lease?
- 19 A. I can't recall.
- 20 Q. And did you tell all four of them?
- 21 A. I would believe so.
- 22 Q. And best you can, again, what was their
- 23 response when you told them that?
- 24 A. They figured it would have been a conflict of 25 interest, you know, so.

Yes. 1

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- Q. And tell me about those conversations.
- 3 A. Just if they would come to fruition or not, you 4 know, if they're going to get a tower or not. All the 5 preliminary stuff that you would talk about some new 6 event taking placing in your community.
- 7 Q. And how many towers were each of you hoping to 8 get?
 - Didn't know that we'd get any.
- 10 Q. Was there a maximum amount of towers that was 11 suggested to you during the negotiation?
 - A.
 - Q. So he didn't say, "We might be able to put five
- 14 towers on your land"?
 - A. No.
- 16 Q. Nothing like that?
- 17 A.
 - Do you know whether your brothers were
- 19 expecting a certain number of towers?
 - A. I have no idea.
- 21 Q. And these conversations with your brothers
- 22 about this project and whether it was going to go 23 through and how many towers, whether you would get any
- 24 towers, did they take place shortly after you signed up,
 - or when did they take place, I guess?

A.

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I can't say for sure. Probably prior and after. Q. Prior and after you signed your agreement?

Q. Now, in the answers to interrogatories -- Let's go off the record.

(DISCUSSION OFF THE RECORD.) MR. ALMOND: Go back on.

By MR. ALMOND:

Yes.

10 Q. In the Board's answers to interrogatories, 11 Exhibit 8 here in front of you, the question was asked

12 whether any board members had received any payments from 13 Invenergy and the top of the page here, you received

14 \$3,060 under the agreement and notice of release. So at

15 some point Invenergy paid you \$3,060; correct?

A. Correct.

17 Q. And if you look at Exhibit 9, page 44, looks 18 like a letter from Invenergy to you; correct?

19 A. That's what it would appear to be.

20 Q. And the letter says that enclosed with this

21 letter is your payment for \$3,060; right?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And what's the date on that letter?

24 A. 8-19-2016.

25 Q. So about a month after you had signed up your

that correct? 1

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A. That is correct.

3 Q. So how was it that your -- How were you 4 approached about having your easements released?

A. I approached them.

Q. You approached Invenergy?

Α.

Q. And who did you approach?

9 A. Dan.

10 Q. Dan Litchfield?

Yes.

12 Q. And how did you approach him?

13 I said in order for me to have a voice on the

14 Board, I'll have been to be released from the contract.

Q. Okay. So you asked Invenergy to be released 15

from the contract in order to vote on the Board of

17 Adjustment?

A. Yes.

19 Q. Did you call him? Did you e-mail him? How did 20 you talk with Dan?

A. I believe I called him.

22 Q. And would that have been -- How did Dan

23 respond?

24 A. At first he seemed like he didn't want to, but 25 then eventually he said that that would be acceptable, I

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1 guess. 2

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lease agreements, you got a check for a little over \$3,000 from Invenergy?

A. Yes.

Q. Have you ever paid that money back to Invenergy?

A. No.

Q. Aside from that payment, have you received any other payments from Invenergy?

Not to my recollection.

10 Q. Did you get a payment in 2017 from Invenergy?

11 A. I can't recall one. no.

Q. Let's look at the same Exhibit 9, starting on 12

13 page 45, and these were also produced in discovery by

14 the county's attorney. It looks like these or this

15 document is a notice of release of your wind easement.

16 Are you familiar with this documents?

A. Yep.

Q. Yep?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. And it looks like there is another one shortly

21 behind it. There is two Notices of Release of Easement, 22 because you had two easements like we saw earlier. Do

23 you recall having both of your easements released?

A.

Q. And the date on there is December of '17; is

Q. And then that conversation ended basically saying we'll be sending over some paperwork to document the determination of the lease?

A. Yes. And I told him that he had to send it to the courts here to get it registered that it actually took place.

8 Q. Okay. So how did you actually receive the 9 notice of terminations?

A. In the mail.

11 Q. You got them in the mail.

12 (Nods affirmatively.)

And then did you -- I assume you signed them?

14 A. Yeah, I believe.

> Q. Well --

A. I don't remember that part. 16

17 Q. I'm not sure if you did sign them, actually.

In fact, I don't think you did. So I guess in your

words, tell me what you understood it to mean that your 20 easement was being released.

21 A. That they would no longer had wind rights to my 22 property.

23 Q. Did you have the belief that you would be able 24 to re-sign with them at some point in the future?

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1 So you didn't think you could ever re-sign with 2 Invenergy?

A. I guess I never really thought about it.

Q. So once you received the notice of terminations or notice of releases in the mail, did you have any other conversations with anyone from Invenergy?

No, not to my knowledge.

Q. How many conversations did you have with

Mr. Litchfield about the releases?

A. I believe two.

11 So was the first one, you think you called him 12 up?

13 A. Yeah.

14 Tell me about the second one. Q.

He called and said that the paperwork was filed 15 16 and that he had sent it to the courthouse here and 17 wished me luck.

18 Q. Anything else that was discussed in that 19 telephone conversation?

20 A. Not that I can recall.

21 Q. So going back to Exhibit 9, the two wind lease 22 agreements that we talked about earlier, is it your

23 understanding that you no longer have any obligations

24 under those wind lease agreements?

A. I have no obligation to Invenergy, yeah.

1 cooperative.

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Q. And how long have you been on that board?

Oh, going on nine years, I believe.

Q. As a board member, do you receive compensation from H-D Electric?

A. Yes.

7 Q. You said it's a co-op?

> Α. Yes.

Q. How much compensation do you receive from

10 H-D Electric on an annual basis?

11 A. Well, that will depend on how many events you take in, because you get a per diem for travel and what 13 not so anywhere from five to seven thousand.

14 Q. You said the events you take in. Can you tell me what you're talking about when you say that. 15

A. Well, if you go to the natural or -- natural. 17 National Rural Electric Cooperative meeting, be it in San Diego or different places throughout the United 18 States, it's the big meeting for all the rural 19

cooperatives to go to. Then you get paid, you know,

your per diem while you're gone and your meals and what 22 **not**.

23 Q. I apologize; it's going to be a really 24 stupid-sounding question, but can you just tell me what 25 H-D Electric does.

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- 1 Okay. Do you have any obligation to anyone 2 under those two agreements? 3
 - These agreements here?
 - Q. The two lease agreements, wind leases that you entered into with Invenergy.
 - A. No, I don't believe I have any obligation to them.
- 8 Q. Now, moving a little bit away from the 9 Invenergy project. I want to talk a little bit more 10 about just your service as a board member. In your role 11 as a board member, have you ever recused yourself or 12 abstained from voting on any issue?
 - A. Yes.
 - Q. And how many times have you done that?
- 15 A. Twice, I believe.
- Q. And give me a brief rundown in terms of why you 17 either recused or abstained from voting in those 18 instances?
- 19 A. It was the stuff that dealt with H-D Electric, 20 because I'm on their board. So to avoid a conflict of 21 interest, I just said I was not going to vote on this 22 because I'm on the other board and I think I should 23 abstain from voting.
- 24 Q. So you're on the board of H-D Electric?
 - Yeah, it's a cooperative, rural electric

- They provide electrical services to the rural 1 2 community in Deuel and Hamlin County.
 - Q. Okay. Are there board meetings?
 - Α.

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- Q. How frequently does the board meet?
- Once a month.
- 7 And who else is on that board?
 - Alvin Kangas, Steve Hansen, Roxanne Bass,
- Wayne Tekrony, Terry Strohfus, Laurie Seefeldt, 9
- Dale Williams, and Bert Rogness. 10
 - That's probably how you know Bert Rogness?
- 12 That's how I know him.
 - Q. So does the board for H-D Electric decide --
- 14 What does the board decide?
- 15 A. We figure which direction we want H-D Electric 16 to go in the future. And then our job as board members is to give the CEO direction and make sure he does what 17 we direct him to do. 18
 - Q. What's the CEO's name?
 - Matt Hotzler. A.
- 21 Q. And what are the other, underneath the CEO,
- 22 kind of the main players over at H-D Electric? What are 23 their names?
- 24 A. Troy Kwasniewski. Annie Aberle. Todd Sprang, that's the manager and then the manager.

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1 Q. Are you aware of any communications between 2 H-D Electric and Invenergy?

A. No.

4 Q. So you don't know if Invenergy has approached 5 H-D Electric about the possibility of buying electricity 6 from Invenergy?

A. Not to my knowledge, no.

8 Q. So aside from the two issues in front of the Board that you recused yourself from that were related 9 10 to H-D Electric, were they related to wind at all?

11 A. No.

12 So to state it differently, you've never 13 recused yourself from any wind-related issues from the 14 Board?

A. 15

16 Q. Are you aware of any board members ever 17 recusing themselves from a wind-related issue?

A. 18

19 Q. And tell me about those instances.

20 A. It was last night.

21 Q. Last night?

22 A. Yeah.

23 Q. And what happened last night?

24 There was another wind company coming to submit

25 an application to build in Deuel County. And

1 Q. I'm asking because the Invenergy project, there 2 were two separate special exception permits for two 3 separate projects. Does crowned Ridge just have one 4 special exception? 5

A. For Deuel County, yes.

6 Q. And approximately how large was the application 7 that Crowned Ridge submitted?

A. I think it was for 29,000 acre.

Q. I meant in page numbers, was it similar in size to the Deuel Harvest Wind applications?

A. Yes.

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12 Q. And did you receive a similar amount of public 13 comments from people in the Crowned Ridge as you did 14 from the Deuel Harvest projects?

A. No.

Q. All right. Did you receive more or less public comments?

A. Less.

19 Q. In Crowned Ridge you received less public 20 comments?

A. You mean at the meeting or out in public?

22 Q. I mean -- Thanks for asking the clarification

23 question. So Exhibit 4 that we went over earlier are

24 submissions received by the Board related to the project, some of which were submitted to the Board via

Paul Brandt had a metro tower application, which never, 2 he never -- they never built it, but he recused himself 3 because of that.

4 Q. And what was the Board considering last night?

5 Was it a special exception permit? 6

A. Yes.

7 Q. For an entire wind development project?

8 A. For the application, yes.

9 Q. And what's the name of that project?

10 Crowned Ridge.

11 Q. And was it the public hearing last night?

12 A.

13 Q. And how long did the public hearing take?

14 A. Oh, when did we start? I suppose it took three

15 hours.

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16 Q. And the Crowned Ridge project, is it just one 17 project, or are there multiple projects?

A. Part of the project. There is two projects.

19 Part of one of the projects is in Deuel County.

20 Q. So how many special exception permits is 21 Crowned Ridge trying to get from the Board?

A. Well, I do believe they said 68 towers.

23 Q. But they're just getting one special exception

24 permit for a project; right? 25

A. Right. e-mail through the zoning administrator. Some of which

2 were, you know, brought to the hearing. They were

3 papers, etc. I'm calling all those public comments that

4 are part of the record. So that's what I'm curious

5 about is comparing Crowned Ridge to the Deuel Harvest,

6 are you saying that were fewer public comments in the

7 Crowned Ridge project than there were in the

8 Deuel Harvest projects?

A. I would say yes.

Q. And was the hearing shorter in the

11 Crowned Ridge project?

A. I wouldn't say so, no.

Q. What about the number of people that spoke out

13 14 in opposition to the project? Comparable? More or

15 less?

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Comparable.

Q. And how did the Board vote last night?

Α. They didn't.

19 What happened?

They tabled it to study the opposition's

information to make sure that everything is considered 21

22 before they make a decision.

23 Q. Was there anything unique about last night that 24 required that tabling?

A. There was a little more information affecting

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1 animals and people that I wanted to investigate, 2 personally.

- Q. Tell me about that information.
- On the deal, how it affects animals in close proximities to the towers, because there is not a setback for animals, but there is for people and houses and whatnot.
- 8 Q. What kind of animals were they talking about 9 last night?
 - A. All of the beef, cows and pigs and poultry.
- Q. Okay. Anything else other than the discussion 11 12 about animals?
- 13 A. Not that pops out.
- Q. Pretty similar proceeding as what happened in 14 15 the Deuel Harvest?
- A. Yes. 16
- 17 Q. When did Paul Brandt inform the Board he was 18 going to recuse himself from the proceeding last night?
- 19 A. I found out last night at the meeting -- or 20 before, prior to the meeting.
- 21 Q. Do you know when he recused himself?
- 22 A.

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- 23 Q. Is there a process that you board members are
- 24 told to utilize when you're going to recuse yourself?
 - Not that I'm aware of.

1 Q. Just to be fair here, I'm not intending to quiz 2 you about the information in it, because there are 2,000

pages in here. But I'm just trying to get a sense of

4 what portions you read and what portions you didn't

5 read. Because it's pretty important to this proceeding,

6 I'm going to ask that you start here on page 1 of

7 Exhibit 2 and just kind of flip through this. If there

8 is a portion that it looks likes you didn't read, let us

9 know. If it all kind of looks familiar and looks like

10 you read it, I'm not interested in that. I want to know kind of the stuff you didn't read. 11

12 Q. If there is anything you didn't read, I should 13 add.

A. (Complies.)

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- 15 Why don't you flip forward to page 200 for me. Q.
 - (Complies.)
- 17 Q. 201, I guess. Do you remember seeing this 18 document here in the application when you were reviewing 19 it, which is a list of all the leaseholders?
- 20 A. Yeah, I remember. I didn't study it, but,
- 21 yeah, I seen the leaseholders.
- 22 Q. You saw the leaseholders and you went through 23 the names of the leaseholders?
- 24 Α. Some of them, yeah.
- 25 Q. And you did that for the other application as

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well? 1

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A. For the other ones?

Yeah, the "South" and "North" project? Q.

4 As I recall, yeah.

5 MR. ALMOND: Can you mark this, please? 6

THE REPORTER: Sure.

(DEPOSITION EXHIBIT 10 MARKED.)

8 By MR. ALMOND:

9 Q. When did you first receive the two applications for the two projects? 10

- 11 A. I can't say.
- 12 How did you receive them? Q.
 - I believe I got them from Jodi.
- The zoning administrator Jodi? 14 Q.
 - A. Yeah.
- Q. Yes? 16
 - A. Yes.
- 18 Q. Did she e-mail them to you? Did she give you a 19 hard copy?
- A. A hard copy. 20
- 21 Q. She gave you a hard copy. Did she give each 22 board member a hard copy of both applications?
 - A. As I recall.

Q. Approximately how soon before the hearing did she give the board members the applications?

1 Q. So if you were to recuse yourself, how would 2 you do so? 3

A. I would just tell the chairman that I believe I need to recuse myself.

- Q. At the meeting or before the meeting?
- A. At the meeting, if whatever event come up that would make me think that.
- 8 Q. All right. So we got last night Paul Brandt recused himself from a wind project. Are you aware of 10 any other situations in which a board member has recused 11 himself from considering a wind-related project?
- A. Not that I can recall. 12
- 13 Q. All right. Let's turn back to the
- 14 Deuel Harvest project now instead of speaking more
- 15 generally. Earlier I showed you Exhibit 2, which is 16 these four binders in front of you, which were the two
- 17 applications submitted by Invenergy; one for the "North"
- 18 project one for the "South" project. Did you read both 19 of the applications?
- 20 A. Not in its entirety, no.
- 21 Q. Not in their entirety. Which portions did you 22 read?
- 23 I can't recall right offhand. I read them and 24 when you speed read, read headlines, and then
- 25 investigate it if it piques your curiosity.

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A couple months, if I remember right. A while. 2 We had time to study.

- Q. Aside from the applications, was any other information given to you by Jodi? Initially, when she sent you guys the applications, did she send anything 6 else along with them?
 - A. I can't recall.
- 8 Q. Okay. And then you had them, you reviewed them; right? 9
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. And the hearing for the special exception 12 permits took place on January 22 of 2018; is that 13 correct?
- 14 A. One of them, I believe.
- 15 Q. Oh, were there multiple hearings on the special 16 exception permits?
- 17 A. I thought it got tabled once or something. I 18 can't remember.
- 19 Q. Tell me what you do remember about that you 20 think you're getting tabling.
- A. I don't remember if Jodi put something right in 22 the paper so we had to extend it or something like --23 some legal, to do with the paper so we had to have
- 24 another meeting. I don't remember exactly the time
- 25 frame. But it seemed like there was some sort of,

- 1 That would have been after the meeting where we 2 granted the permit.
- 3 Q. So the Board met with First District to talk 4 about how to draft the findings?
 - A. Right.

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- Q. When did that meeting take place?
- I can't give you a date.
- Q. Was it at a public meeting?
- 9 A. Yeah.
- 10 Q. It was at a public meeting?
- It was after a public meeting, I believe. 11
- 12 It was after a public meeting?
 - A. I believe so.
- 14 Q. And who from First District was at that
- meetina? 15
- 16 A. I can't remember his name.
- 17 Luke Muller sound familiar?
- It does. 18 A.
- 19 Q. Todd Kays?
- 20 A. No.
 - Do you think it was Luke Muller?
- 22 A. I think so.
- 23 Q. Okay. What about before you voted at the
- 24 meeting? Did you have any communications with anyone
- 25 from First District?

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something that had happened that we couldn't move 2 forward at one point time.

- Q. Okay. Tell me about First District. I've seen that name pop up in this. What does First District do?
 - A. They're our counsel for the zoning board.
- Q. When you say "counsel," you don't mean attorney, do you?
 - A. No. They tell the rules and regulations.
- They just provide counsel for you guys. Not 10 legal counsel but --
- 11 A. Right.

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- 12 Q. Okay. Tell me what role they had in this
- 13 project. What did First District do for this project?
- A. What I recall is they told us how we were to go 14 15 over the -- What do they call them? The way you, the 16 rule to allowing an application. I can't think of the 17 right word. The findings. The findings over to make
- 18 sure that everything is the way it's supposed to be.
- 19 Q. And did you have any conversations with anyone 20 from First District?
- 21 A. Personally, no.
- 22 Did First District make any sort of
- 23 presentation to the Board?
- 24 Yes. A.

25

Q. When did that take place?

Not to my recollection. 1

- 2 Q. Did you receive any documents, correspondence, 3 anything from First District before voting?
 - A. I don't believe so.
- 5 Q. Do you recall seeing a staff report that was 6 prepared for these projects prior to voting at the 7 hearing?
 - A. I can't say.
 - Q. I'm handing you what has been marked as Exhibit 5. I'm going to page 26 of Exhibit 5. This
- looks like an e-mail from Todd Kays to Jodi. Can you 11
- 12 review that e-mail for me?
 - Do you want me to read it to you?
- 14 Q. Just read it to yourself.
- 15 A. Okay.
- 16 Did you ever receive that e-mail?
- 17 I don't know that it was an e-mail or if it was
- 18 a hard copy but I seen this somewhere.
- 19 Q. Okay. If you flip to the next page quick, 20 looks like that's the start of the staff report that's
- 21 referenced in the e-mail; right?

22 **MS. AGRIMONTI:** Off the record. 23 (DISCUSSION OFF THE RECORD.)

- A.
 - Did you receive that before voting on the two

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special exception permits for "North" and "South" projects?

A. I can't remember.

You don't remember if you got that staff report beforehand?

Before or after, I don't remember.

Q. Okay. But you do remember getting it at some point in time?

A. Yes, I did see it somewhere.

10 Q. So, again, silly question but I just need to be 11 clear about this. You don't remember whether or not you 12 reviewed this before voting at the hearing on the 13 permits?

14 A. No, I don't recall.

15 Q. Going back to page 26, the e-mail that 16 Todd Kays sent. The way I read that e-mail it looks at 17 First District reviewed the two applications, compared 18 them against the Deuel County ordinances and then 19 prepared a report. Is that kind of how you read that 20 e-mail?

21 A. That's what it would appear to be.

22 Q. Let me ask you this. Do you know if

23 First District reviewed the applications at all?

24 A. Do I know?

Q. Yeah. Do you have any knowledge of

1 the Board. They had them afterwards.

2 Q. Go to the third page of Exhibit 10, a March 23, 3 2017 dated letter, template of a letter. Did you

4 receive a letter that had these contents in it?

A. Not that I can recall.

Q. And go to the next page, January 9, 2017 dated

7 letter. Do you recall receiving this letter?

A. No, I don't recall it.

9 Q. And one more page, the very last page, the 10 January 23, 2017. Any recollection of receiving that letter? 11

No, I don't.

MR. ALMOND: Let's take about a five-minute

14 break.

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15 (RECESS TAKEN AT 9:52 TO 10:02 A.M.)

16 By MR. ALMOND:

17 Q. Do you remember if Lynn Pederson is the 18 individual who appointed you to the Board?

Now that you say that, he might have.

20 Q. Do you know Lynn Pederson?

> A. Know of him, yeah.

22 Did you see Lynn Pederson at these gatherings

23 at Pizza Shack and at Melvee's?

> A. Not to my recollection.

Okay. Have you had any conversations with

50

Lynn Pederson about wind development? 1 A. No.

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Q. Okay. Let's go back to the Deuel Harvest "North" and "South" projects. Earlier you testified that you received the applications ahead of time, hard copies from Jodi. My understanding was that public

7 comments were also submitted in writing from various

8 individuals before the hearing. Is that correct? 9

A. Some were.

10 Q. Did you receive public comments before the 11 hearing, written public comments before the hearing?

A. Yes.

13 Q. And how did you receive the written public 14 comments before the hearing?

A. At the hearing they were handed out, the ones 15 16 that were, couldn't have been handed out prior to that.

17 Q. Did you receive some prior to the hearing, 18 though?

19 A. I might have. I can't remember.

20 Q. And as I understand it, the comments were 21 submitted to Jodi. Does that sound right?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. If you would have received public comments 24 before the hearing, would Jodi have e-mailed those to 25 you?

First District reviewing the applications?

A. They didn't do it in front of me.

Q. Right. But you guys use First District as a counsel to counsel you guys on things. Did they counsel you on this project?

A. I can't recall.

Q. Okay. Handing you what has been marked as Exhibit 10.

> MR. ALMOND: Let's go off quick. (DISCUSSION OFF THE RECORD.)

Q. So I've handed you what has been marked as

12 Exhibit 10. Did you receive the first page of

13 Exhibit 10, or was that letter mailed to you?

A. No. 14

15 Q. Do you know who Michael Svedeman is?

16

17 Q. Don't know who Michael Svedeman is. What about 18 the next page? Go to the next page of Exhibit 10,

19 December 22, 2017 letter. Did you receive that letter?

No. A.

Q. And the second paragraph there references a 22 prehearing rally at Melvee's at 5:00 p.m. Do you know 23 if that Melvee's event that was referencing, was that

24 the Melvee's event that you attended? 25

A. No, because I guit going to them once I got on

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She might have, or sent a hard copy. She does 2 it both ways. She e-mails stuff and she sends a hard copy.

Q. Do you have any recollection as you sit here of receiving any public comments before the hearing?

A. I can't say that I do.

Q. Okay. So tell me about the night of the hearing. Where was the hearing?

A. At the City Community Center.

10 Q. So how earlier before the hearing did you show 11 up?

12 Probably 10-minutes.

13 Q. And did the Board meet before the hearing to 14 kind of talk about what was going to happen at the 15 hearing?

16 A. Yeah.

17 Just give me an overview of what that 18 conversation was like.

A. Well, it was to declare that we didn't have a 19 20 financial gain or any special interest in the outcome.

Q. And that was in public; correct?

22 A. Right.

23 Q. But did the Board meet outside of the public 24 aspect to kind of talk about the process that they were going to be going under, how long the hearing was going

attached documents be submitted as my official comments. 1

2 Did you receive this e-mail?

A. I probably did. I can't say.

Q. Okay. And what is your e-mail?

5 A. Treeguy.

Q. Treeguy?

A. Yeah.

Q. At --

A. Treeguy007.kd@gmail.com.

Q. Do you use any other e-mail addresses?

A.

12 Q. At my office there are people that delete 13 e-mails the day they come in; there are people that keep every e-mail they've ever received. What kind of person 15 are vou?

A. Some of both.

17 Q. Some of both. Have you deleted any e-mails 18 that are related to this project?

A. I can't say.

20 Q. So flipping to page 3 of Exhibit 4, it looks

21 like a letter that is to you and other board members

providing public comments. Do you remembering seeing

23 this letter and reading it?

A. Yeah, some of it looks familiar.

Q. And it goes on to page 4 and 5. And then at

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1 to take? Anything like that? 2

A. Not that I can recall.

Q. So the Board didn't gather amongst yourselves and kind of talk about what was going to happen that night?

Not that I recall.

Q. Okay. So you said some of the public comments were in writing at the hearing. So tell me about that. Was there just a table full of the public comments? Or 10 piles of them?

11 A. Well, they were brought up to Jodi, you know, 12 submitted there during the hearing.

13 Q. Right. So some written comments were submitted 14 during the hearing by the public?

Right. A.

Q. Did Jodi have a stack of comments waiting for 17 the board members when you showed up that night?

A. I can't recall.

19 Q. Okay. Let's take a look at Exhibit 4, going to 20 page 2 of Exhibit 4. This is an e-mail from

21 Joe Blastick to dczoning@itctel.com, dczoning is Jodi's 22 e-mail; correct?

23 A. I believe, yeah.

24 Q. It looks like Joe Blastick sent an e-mail to Jodi attaching a bunch of information asking that the the bottom of page 5 it says, documents that I attached

2 to the e-mail that support my perspective, and then it

3 lists documents 1 through 6. Do you see that at the

4 bottom?

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A. The 1 through 6?

Q. Yep.

I see 1 through 6, yeah.

8 Q. As I understand it, those documents 1 through 6 9 are after this letter in the exhibit starting on page --

Can you read what page number that is? Looks like six. 10

A. Yeah. I can't make that out.

12 Q. And then there are the other five documents 13 following it. Do those documents look familiar?

A. Some of it I recognize some things, yes.

Q. Are there others you don't recognize?

A. Like I said, I don't know if I -- you read so 16

17 much stuff and it runs together.

18 Q. In reviewing the file, one of the arguments 19 that people opposed to this project, people opposed were making the argument that this project was going to 21 decrease the value of land around the area. Do you 22 recall that?

A. Yes.

24 Q. Did you receive any reports or read any reports 25 from any appraisers or experts making arguments either

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1 in favor of that argument or against that argument?

- A. There was people that testified saying that it wouldn't change.
- Q. Yep. Was there anyone that testified that said that it would change?
- A. I can't recall. I think there was somebody that said that it would.
- 8 Q. And what about written material? Did you 9 remember receiving any reports saying that this project 10 was going to negatively impact land values?
- 11 A. No, I don't recall that.
- Q. Okay. Let's turn to page 305 of Exhibit D, 12
- 13 Exhibit 4. Take some time to familiarize yourself with
- 14 this document, which is a letter from Kilby Law
- 15 January 15, 2018.
- 16 A. (Complies.)
- 17 Q. Have you seen that letter before today?
- A. I believe so. 18
- 19 Q. Did you see it before you voted at the hearing?
- 20 A. Yes, I believe so.
- 21 Q. Do you recall how you received that letter?
- 22 A. I believe Jodi sent it to me.
- 23 Q. Okay. Stepping away from Exhibit 4 here, did
- 24 the Board have any discussions about these projects
- 25 before the January 22, 2018 hearing?

was a three-minute time limit imposed on people in the 2 public speaking. Is that correct?

A. Yes.

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- Q. Who decided that three-minute time limit?
- 5 A. That was suggested by First District.
 - Q. And who from First District suggested that?
 - I can't tell you that.
- 8 Q. Was it suggested orally? Was it in some sort 9 of writing?
- 10 A. That's just what Dennis said First District or 11 John, maybe it was John who said it, the attorney, John Knight. 12
 - Q. So either Dennis --
 - A. Or John, I can't recall.
- Q. -- Kanengieter or John Knight told you that 15
- 16 First District recommended a three-minute time limit?
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. Would you agree that certain members of the 19 public who were voicing their opposition to the project
- 20 were asked to stop when they hit their three-minute
- 21 mark?

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- 22 Do I believe certain people were? A.
 - Q.
- 24 A. I believe all people were.
 - So everyone who, as soon as they hit their

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- What do you mean?
- Q. Did the Board meet and discuss this project before that January 22 hearing?
 - A. Discussing as in --
- 5 Q. Anything about the project? Did the Board meet 6 and talk about it?
 - A. Not to my recollection.
- 8 Q. I want to talk a little bit about the process 9 used at the hearing. Did the Board talk about what 10 process was going to be used at the hearing before the 11 actual hearing?
- A. The process being that Invenergy was going to 12 13 present and the people that were opposed or for it were 14 going to speak afterwards?
- 15 Q. Yeah.
- A. That. 16
- 17 Q. You did have conversations with your board
- 18 members about that?
- 19 A. That is what was told was going to happen.
- 20 Q. Who told you that?
- 21 A. That, I believe, Dennis Kanengieter who was the 22 chairman.
- 23 Q. And when did he tell you that?
- 24 Beginning of the meeting. A.
 - In looking through the file, looks like there

- three-minute mark, they were asked to stop; correct? 1
- 2 A. Yeah, the time clock went off and then it was 3 your three minutes were up. Some talked a little bit more and some said okay, thank you. 4
- 5 Q. Do you recall members of the public voicing 6 opposition to that three-minute time limit during the 7 hearing?
- 8 A. I don't know if it was during or prior or after. There was comments saying they didn't feel that 10 was enough time.
- 11 Q. Okay. At some point there were Findings of Fact prepared that were signed by the chairman. Tell me 12 about your involvement with the preparation of those 13 14 findings.
- 15 A. Findings for the application?
- 16
- A. Well, we just go over it and discuss it to see 17 if we felt that the findings were relevant or didn't fit 18 19 or, you know.
- 20 Q. There were written findings prepared. And I'll 21 maybe show them to you here if I can find them.
- 22 Exhibit 6 or return Exhibit F, did you assist in
- 23 actually writing the findings?
- 24
 - A. No.

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Q. They were in just presented to you at a board

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1 meeting and the board members, you know, read through 2 them and discussed it, and then voted whether or not to approve the findings; correct?

A. Yes.

Q. So you weren't involved at all in the actual drafting of the findings?

A. No.

Q. Do you know who was?

A. No.

10 Q. So when you're going to the hearing on

11 January 22, 2018, you said you showed up about

12 10 minutes earlier or 10 minutes early before the

13 hearing. What was your expectations for that hearing?

14 What did you think was going to happen?

A. I had no clue. We was going to go there and 15 16 listen to what evidence or information was presented. 17 and then derive a decision from that.

18 Q. Okay. I know a few months before Deuel Harvest 19 Winds applied for their special exception permit,

20 John Homan applied for a runway permit. Do you recall 21 that?

22 A. Uh-huh (Yes). Yes.

Q. Before Mr. Homan applied for his runway permit,

24 had you ever considered a private runway permit before

A. Yes.

Q. And there were no applications that had been approved for wind towers at that time; correct?

A. Correct.

(DEPOSITION EXHIBIT 11 MARKED.)

By MR. ALMOND:

7 Q. I'm handing you what has been marked as 8 Exhibit 11. Do those appear to be meeting minutes from 9 a Deuel County Zoning Board meeting that took place 10 April 10, 2017.

A. That's what it would appear to be.

12 Q. I'll represent to you that I printed that off 13 of Deuel County's website a few days ago. But if you to 14 the back page there, it looks like there is signatures

from both Jodi and your chairman, Dennis Kanengieter. 16 So Mr. Homan submitted his runway application or filed

it in April. This is the -- or excuse me, in March. So 17

18 this was the April 10 meeting. If you go to

19 paragraph 10, which is on the second to the last page.

20 A. (Complies.)

21 Q. Looks like paragraph 10 is talking about that 22 runway application; right?

A. Uh-huh (Yes).

24 Q. If you go to the next page, the last page of 25 Exhibit 11.

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(Complies.) 1 2 Q. Go to the conclusion there of that paragraph 10, it says, motion by Rhody, seconded by Dahl

4 to table the special exception to use the following

5 property, etc., etc., until the Board can get more 6 information about the setbacks for wind towers from an

7 airstrip. Do you see that language there?

> Α. Uh-huh (Yes).

9 Q. Yes?

A. Yes.

11 Q. Tell me why the Board was concerned about 12 setbacks from turbines on April 10, 2017.

A. I suppose they were wondering what the impact 14 would be. I would have to make the assumption.

15 Q. And why were you concerned about the impact of 16 setbacks on turbines at the time?

17 A. I was concerned about timing for the 18 application.

Q. Timing for what application?

For the airstrip application.

21 Q. You were concerned about the timing for the 22 airstrip application.

A. Right.

24 Q. Okay. My question was, were you concerned --My question was why was the Board concerned about

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25 in your time on the Board?

No.

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Q. And for the Homan runway permit, did anyone recuse themselves from participating in those proceedings?

A. Not that I recall.

Q. All right. Do you know if John Knight recused himself from providing advice to the Board in that proceeding?

A. I don't remember.

10 Q. And let's look at Exhibit 4, page 310. Is that

11 Mr. Homan's runway application for a special exception 12 permit?

13 A. Looks like it.

14 Q. Looks like it was filed with the zoning officer

15 on March 15 of 2017; correct?

16 A. That's what it says.

17 Q. As of that time, there weren't any wind 18 turbines around where this runway was going to be

19 placed; correct?

A. Correct.

21 Q. And at this time there weren't any applications 22 to place any wind turbines around that runway; correct?

A. Not to my knowledge.

24 Q. Well, as a board member, you would have had 25 knowledge if any applications were submitted; right?

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1 setbacks for wind turbines, and it sounds like you're not going to say why the Board was concerned. Were you 3 concerned about setbacks for wind turbines?

- A. Was I concerned about setbacks for wind turbines? I would have to say I didn't know. So, yeah, 6 I guess I would be concerned.
 - Q. So why is it that you were concerned about setbacks for wind towers as of April 10, 2017?
 - A. To know the impact to everybody involved.
- 10 Q. Well, we already covered there weren't any 11 turbines around; right?
- 12 A. Right.
- 13 Q. And there weren't any applications for any 14 turbines around?
- Right. 15 A.
- 16 Q. So as a board member, why were you concerned 17 about wind turbines?
- 18 A. Curiosity, I suppose.
- 19 Q. You were just curious about wind turbines?
- 20 A.
- 21 Q. For your other special exception permits that
- 22 you consider, do you share that same curiosity about 23 wind turbines?
- 24 A. The impact from one exception to another 25 exception, you mean?

- I don't know if I can say correct on that.
- Okay. Well, his application didn't mention any 3 wind turbines: right?
 - A. Correct.
- 5 Q. And there weren't any wind turbines around 6 where the runway was going to go; right?
 - A. Correct.
- 8 Q. And there weren't applications to place any 9 wind turbines around where the runway was going to go; 10 right?
 - A. Correct.
- Q. 12 So the application didn't relate to wind 13 turbines?
- 14 A. No. But his was prior visit to me before the application stating how he was opposed to wind towers. 15
 - Q. Explain that to me.
- 17 He come to my home, my residence, to find out 18 my stance on wind towers.
 - Q. Okay.
- 20 And he shared with me that he was opposed to
- 21 wind towers.
- 22 Q. Okay.
- So now he comes with an application for a wind 23
- 24 tower, leads me to believe that it's an intent to
- 25 disrupt something else.

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Q. Yes.

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- A. On different things I do.
- Q. Give my examples, other examples in which you've been concerned about turbines when considering a special exception permit unrelated to wind turbines.
- Unrelated to them? I don't know that we've had any other special applications for anything that, you know. Because this is a -- the wind -- or the airport is an excepted, exception in ag district. The rest of 10 it is always the ag stuff that we deal with, so.
- 11 Q. So for this special exception permit, you were 12 curious about wind turbines and how it might affect 13 setbacks for wind turbines.
 - A. Right.
- 15 Q. Can you provide me another example of any of 16 the other special exception permits that you've 17 considered in your time as a board member that you've 18 been concerned about setbacks for wind turbines that 19 doesn't actually have to be with a wind project?
 - A. I don't know if I understand your question.
 - Q. It was long question, so. It was poorly asked.
- 22 So Mr. Homan's runway special exception permit was 23 asking for a runway; correct?
- 24 A. Correct.
 - Q. And it was unrelated to wind turbines; correct?

- You mean an application for a runway?
 - A. A runway, yes.
- Q. Did Mr. Homan say that to you?
- A.
- 5 Q. So you're just assuming that he was trying to 6 put a runway there to do what?
- A. To keep the towers further away from his 7
- 8 property.
- 9 Q. Okay. And there weren't any application to put any towers close to his property at the time, was there? 10
- 11 A. No. That's why I voted to allow him to have 12 his wind tower.
 - Q. Okay. So aside from --
- 14 MR. PETERSON: Can I just -- When you say, I 15 voted to allow him to have his wind tower, I think you 16 mean, did you mean runway strip?
 - A. Runway.
- 17 18 MR. PETERSON: Okay. I just want to make 19 sure the record -- We don't want to skip over 20 something here.
- 21 Q. So aside from Mr. Homan's special exception 22 permit, tell me other special exception permits where 23 you've considered setbacks from wind towers.
 - A. I can't recall any.
 - Q. Okay. It says you wanted to get more

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1 Information about setbacks from wind towers. Wouldn't 2 that information just be found in the county ordinances?

- A. There was nothing definitive about the flight pattern in or out of a runway in the county ordinance.
- Q. So what kind of setbacks were you looking in 6 to?
 - We just wanted to know if FFA [sic] had rules or regulations for this, for a runway, and the impact that it might have.
- 10 Q. Feel free to review those minutes, but there 11 isn't any mention of a letter of assurance in those 12 minutes, is there?
- 13 A. Not at this time I don't believe there was in 14 these minutes.
- Q. Let's look at Exhibit 4 again, page 331. It 15 16 was a June 9, 2017 letter from Fredrikson & Byron law 17 firm to Chair Kanengieter. Did you receive this letter 18 as well?
- A. I believe I read it at the meeting. I don't 19 20 know that I actually got a hard copy of it or I might 21 have got an e-mail.
- 22 Q. In what meeting did you read that at?
- 23 Probably prior to this one. Not this one but 24 the one after the, the one after that one.
 - Q. Well, this one was April 10, 2017. The letter

1 So your testimony today is that the letter of 2 assurance and the reason one was required from Mr. Homan 3 came from Mr. Brandt? It was Mr. Brandt's idea.

- A. No, it was FAA's idea.
- 5 Q. But Mr. Brandt relayed that information from 6 FAA to the Board.
 - A. Yes.

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- 8 Q. So who came up with the idea to require a 9 letter of assurance?
- 10 A. I believe that it was FAA who said that it's up to the landowner. And who come up with the idea of a 11 letter of assurance I can't tell you. If it was Paul of 12 13 FAA?
- 14 Q. Well, was it you?
- 15 Α.
 - Did you say we should have a letter of assurance?
 - A. No.
- 19 MR. PETERSON: Try not to talk over each
- 20 other for her benefit.
- 21 MR. ALMOND: We're both bad at it, probably.
- 22 So it wasn't your idea. Q.
 - A.
- 24 Q. Let's go to page 346 of Exhibit 4.
- 25 (Complies.) A.

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1 is dated June 9, 2017. So you probably reviewed this at a meeting after the meeting minutes on Exhibit 11; 3 right?

- A. After the April meeting. The June meeting more than likely.
- Q. Okay. If you go to the last page here of this letter in the conclusion section, it says, Should the Board grant Mr. Homan's application, Invenergy respectfully requests that such approval specifically 10 state that it does not grant Mr. Homan any right to 11 limit the uses on neighboring properties. Do you see 12 where it says that?
 - A. Yes.

25 Paul told us.

- Q. So is that where the Board got the idea, make 14
- 15 Mr. Homan sign a letter of assurance?
- A. I believe that where that come from was FAA. 17 the FAA, because Paul Brandt talked to the FAA about 18 this. And that's where that --
 - Q. When you say "that," what are you referring to?
- 19 A. The letter of assurance come from was -- FAA 20 21 told him, according to Paul, that Paul brought to the 22 meeting, was that it's up to the landowner to get 23 unrestricted air access to his landing strip from 24 adjacent landowners. That's what FAA told Paul that

- 1 Q. This is an August 12, 2017 letter that
 - 2 Mr. Homan sent to the Deuel County Commissioners. Does 3 that look right?
 - A. It says, Dear Deuel County Commissioners.
 - Q. It's from John Homan there on page 3 of that letter; right?
 - A. Yep.
 - 8 Q. Looking at the third paragraph, Mr. Homan gives 9 a summary of the April zoning board meeting. Do you see where I'm at?
 - 11 A. The conversation continued for over a half an 12 hour?
 - 13 Q. The third paragraph starts off, I attended the 14 April zoning board meeting.
 - A. Okay.
 - 16 Q. Do you see that?
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 - 18 Q. The very first question I received from the 19 Board before any question about airport or landing strips was from Mr. Kanengieter and it was how is this 21 going to affect wind towers? Do you disagree with that 22 summarization?
 - A. At some point in time he asked that question.
 - 24 Q. At some point in time. You just don't remember 25 if it was right away?

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Yeah, I don't know if it was before or during.

Q. Again, let's go to the next paragraph.

"The conversation continued for over a half hour, and the Board's guestions and comments were only concerning 5 wind towers. It went so far as the Board telling me 6 that they would not grant me the permit because in the future some surrounding landowner may want to put up a wind tower on the adjacent property." Do you disagree 9 with the summarization there?

A. I don't know that we wouldn't grant him one.

- 11 Q. Do you know if a board member told him that 12 they would not grant him a permit because some 13 surrounding landowner may want to put up a wind tower 14 there?
- 15 A. No, I don't recall that.
- 16 But aside from that part, did he summarize it 17 accurately?
- A. He summarized it accurately that there was 18 19 conversation about wind towers, yes.
- 20 Q. Okay. And then if you go to the second to last 21 paragraph there on that page starting with Also, "The 22 Board gave more time to the other parties opposing my 23 landing strip, including representatives for the wind 24 tower company than they gave me to defend my request." 25 Do you disagree with that summarization?

1 Q. I want to go back to when you were released 2 from your lease agreements with Invenergy. Why is it that you thought you needed to get released from those? 4 Couldn't you have just recused yourself from deciding 5 the issue? 6

A. Yeah, I suppose I could have.

7 Can you explain to me why you went one route 8 versus the other?

Then I had a voice.

10 Q. So you wanted to have a voice at the hearing?

A.

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12 Q. Okay. Do you know what a Good Neighbor 13 Agreement is?

A. As far as --

15 Q. Well, in the wind industry, there is this Good Neighbor Agreement, is what it's commonly referred to.

Have you ever heard that? 17

18 A. I've heard the phrase, but I've never seen what 19 the wording of it was.

20 Q. Do you have a general understanding of what a 21 good neighbor agreement is or does?

22 A.

Q. Have you entered into any sort of Good Neighbor

24 Agreements?

A. No.

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I -- Yeah, I would have to disagree.

Q. Explain to me why you disagree.

A. If he's saying each person or all the people had more time individually as a group than him, is that what he's saying?

- Q. I don't know what he's saying. I'm only reading the letter, but so you're saying several people may have spoke in opposition to his runway application?
 - A. Several people did, yes.
- 10 Q. But is he still accurate in saying those 11 opposed to his application were given more time then he 12 was?
- 13 A. I don't believe so. I don't believe they were 14 given more time than him.
 - Q. Let's go to the next page.
- 16 A. (Complies.)
- 17 Q. First full paragraph. "The June meeting was
- 18 handled the same as the April meeting. Every question 19 was about how the landing strip would affect surrounding
- 20 wind towers." Now, I assume you disagree with "every
- 21 question," because I'm sure not every question was about
- 22 wind towers, but would you agree that the vast majority
- 23 of questions during that June meeting were about wind 24 towers?
- 25 A. I'd say that's a fair statement.

- Q. Have you entered into any other agreements with 1 2 any wind developer or neighbor or anyone related to 3 wind?
 - A.
- 5 Q. I understand the county zoning ordinances were 6 amended. Was it some time in 2016?
 - A. You mean when they were changed?
 - Q. Yeah, when the ordinances were changed, when was that?
 - A. It must have been '16.
- 11 Q. I don't remember.
- 12 I don't either.
- 13 Q. Okay. Do you remember the ordinances being
- 14 changed in the recent past?
- 15 Q. No. when was the last time the ordinances were 16 17 changed?
 - A. I don't know. I have no idea.

Prior to that or after that?

- 19 Q. But the change dealt with wind --
 - Wind. A.
- 21 Q. -- ordinances. Right?
- 22 Right.
- 23 Q. And after the county commission changed the 24 ordinances, I understand a petition for referendum went around Deuel County.

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Yes. A. And that petition for referendum, as I understand it, was to make it -- Had the petition for referendum gone through, it would have been easier for wind to come into Deuel County. Is that your understanding what the petition was for?

It would have put it back to the original setbacks.

9 Okay. And the original setbacks would have 10 made it easier for wind to be developed in Deuel County; 11 right?

12 A. Yes.

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Q. And do you recall if you signed any petitions 14 in that referendum process?

A. I believe I refrained from it.

16 Q. You believe you refrained from it. (DEPOSITION EXHIBIT 12 MARKED.)

18 Q. Why would you have refrained from signing the 19 referendum petition?

20 Because I believe I was going to get on the 21 Board or was on the Board.

22 Q. Okay. I'm handing you what has been marked as 23 Exhibit 12. It's the County Referendum Petition. I'm 24 going to have you turn to page 2 at the top there.

> A. There it is.

to you to decide whether you'd like to read your 1 2 transcript or if you waive that right, but you need to 3 indicate on the record your preference. 4 **THE WITNESS:** Did you do it right? 5 THE REPORTER: I quess. 6 (LAUGHTER.) THE WITNESS: Well, I guess I'll waive my 7 8 right. 9 (DEPOSITION CONCLUDED AT 10:47 A.M.) 10 11 12 13 14 15 16

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1 Is that your name and signature there? 2 A. It is. 3 Q. So you did sign a petition? 4 A. I did. 5 Q. Okay. (DEPOSITION EXHIBIT 13 MARKED.) 6 By MR. ALMOND: 7 8 Q. I'm going to hand you what is marked as 9

Exhibit 13. Before this moment right now, have you ever 10 seen that e-mail, or did you ever receive that e-mail?

A. I don't recall seeing this.

12 Q. Okay. Before you joined the Board, did you 13 speak at any board or county commission meetings 14 regarding wind?

15 Publicly, you mean?

16 Q. (Nods affirmatively.)

MR. ALMOND: Those are all the questions I

19 have for you, Mr. DeBoer.

MS. AGRIMONTI: I don't have any questions. MR. PETERSON: All right, Kevin, you have the

22 right to read the transcript that that's being

23 prepared here today and correct any errors you may

24 perceive in your testimony, or you can waive that

25 right and rely upon the court reporter. I'll leave it

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1
              STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA
                                                                                                 :ss
                                                                                                                                    CERTIFICATE
  2
              COUNTY OF CODINGTON
          BE IT KNOWN that the foregoing deposition was taken before me, NANCY MCCLANAHAN, a court reporter and a notary public in and for the County of Codington, State of South Dakota; that the deponent, KEVIN DEBOER, before testifying was duly sworn by me to testify to the whole truth; that the questions propounded to the witness, the answers of the witness thereto, and any objections or statements of counsel were taken down by me stenographically and thereafter typewritten through computerized transcription under my direction; that the witness has waived reading and signature of the deposition; and that the foregoing 6 - 79 pages are a true and correct transcript of all the proceedings had upon the taking of said deposition, all done to the best of my skill and ability.
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             I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am not a relative, employee, attorney or counsel of any of the parties, or am I a relative or employee of such attorney or counsel, or financially interested in the action.
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13
            DATED at Watertown, South Dakota, Codington County, on this 25th day of October, 2018.
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                                                                                                /s/ Nancy McClanahan
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                                                                                              Nancy McClanahan, RPR/RMR/NP
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             Expires: 4/13/2023.
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```

| | 1 | | | 1 |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| | 29/24 76/6 | 73/17 73/18 | Alvin [1] 36/8 | April [10] 63/10 |
| | 2017 [14] 23/16 | acknowledgment | Alvin Kangas [1] | 63/17 63/18 64/12 |
| MR. ALMOND: [10] | | | | |
| 15/25 16/5 27/13 | 30/10 50/19 51/3 | [1] 17/7 | 36/8 | 65/8 69/25 70/4 72/9 |
| 27/18 29/7 44/4 50/8 | 51/6 51/10 62/15 | acre [1] 39/8 | am [2] 15/17 16/9 | 72/14 74/18 |
| | 63/10 64/12 65/8 | actual [2] 58/11 | amended [1] 76/6 | April 10 [5] 63/10 |
| 51/12 71/20 78/17 | 69/16 69/25 70/1 | 61/5 | amongst [1] 54/3 | 63/18 64/12 65/8 |
| MR. PETERSON: [4] | 72/1 | add [1] 43/13 | amount [2] 28/10 | 69/25 |
| 68/13 68/17 71/18 | | | | |
| 78/20 | 2018 [6] 9/22 10/6 | address [1] 6/11 | 39/12 | area [1] 56/21 |
| MS. AGRIMONTI: | 45/12 57/15 57/25 | addresses [1] 55/10 | animals [5] 41/1 | argument [3] 56/20 |
| | 61/11 | adjacent [2] 70/24 | 41/4 41/6 41/8 41/12 | 57/1 57/1 |
| [7] 15/16 16/2 16/6 | 21 [1] 16/24 | 73/8 | Ann [1] 10/16 | arguments [2] |
| 27/10 27/16 48/21 | 22 [7] 9/22 17/13 | adjustment [9] 6/22 | | 56/18 56/25 |
| 78/19 | | 12/22 13/2 23/19 | | aside [7] 23/6 30/7 |
| THE REPORTER: | 45/12 50/19 57/25 | | Annie Aberle [1] | |
| [2] 44/5 79/4 | 58/3 61/11 | 24/7 24/9 26/8 26/11 | 36/24 | 37/8 45/3 68/13 |
| THE WITNESS: [2] | 23 [2] 51/2 51/10 | 31/17 | annual [1] 35/10 | 68/21 73/16 |
| | 26 [2] 48/10 49/15 | administrator [2] | answer [4] 24/19 | aspect [1] 53/24 |
| 79/3 79/6 | 29,000 acre [1] | 40/1 44/14 | 24/23 24/24 27/18 | assist [1] 60/22 |
| & | | advice [1] 62/7 | answers [3] 27/12 | |
| \$ | 39/8 | | | Association [1] 9/24 |
| \$3,000 [1] 30/2 | 3 | affect [4] 25/20 | 29/5 29/10 | assume [4] 15/7 |
| \$3,060 [3] 29/14 | | 66/12 72/21 74/19 | apologize [2] 27/17 | 18/20 32/13 74/20 |
| 29/15 29/21 | 305 [1] 57/12 | affecting [1] 40/25 | 35/23 | assuming [1] 68/5 |
| <u> </u> | 310 [1] 62/10 | affects [1] 41/4 | appear [7] 8/16 9/7 | assumption [1] |
| ı | 331 [1] 69/15 | affiliated [1] 13/10 | 24/25 29/19 49/21 | 64/14 |
| | | | | |
| '16 [2] 17/24 76/10 | 346 [1] 71/24 | affirmatively [3] | 63/8 63/11 | assurance [8] 10/7 |
| '17 [1] 30/25 | 4 | 24/21 32/12 78/16 | application [27] | 69/11 70/15 70/20 |
| | | afterwards [2] 51/1 | 7/18 7/19 7/23 37/25 | 71/2 71/9 71/12 |
| 1 | 44 [1] 29/17 | 58/14 | 38/1 38/8 39/6 43/18 | 71/17 |
| | 45 [1] 30/13 | ag [2] 66/9 66/10 | 43/25 46/16 60/15 | attached [2] 55/1 |
| 1 of 95 [1] 9/17 | 480A [1] 6/12 | | | |
| 1 through 6 [4] | 400A[1] 0/12 | ago [1] 63/13 | 62/11 63/16 63/22 | 56/1 |
| 56/3 56/5 56/7 56/8 | 5 | agree [2] 59/18 | 64/18 64/19 64/20 | attaching [1] 54/25 |
| 10 [15] 44/7 50/8 | | 74/22 | 64/22 67/2 67/12 | attend [2] 20/11 |
| 50/12 50/13 50/18 | 518 [1] 9/10 | agreement [14] | 67/15 67/23 68/1 | 20/13 |
| | 57226 [1] 6/12 | 13/18 13/24 13/25 | 68/9 70/8 74/8 74/11 | |
| 51/2 61/12 63/10 | 5:00 p.m [1] 50/22 | | | |
| 63/18 63/19 63/21 | | 15/7 15/14 16/11 | applications [21] | 50/24 72/13 |
| 64/3 64/12 65/8 | 6 | 16/24 17/12 18/5 | 7/14 8/5 10/5 39/10 | attending [1] 22/25 |
| 69/25 | | 29/3 29/14 75/13 | 42/17 42/19 44/9 | attorney [5] 6/14 |
| 10 minutes [1] | 68 [1] 38/22 | 75/16 75/21 | 44/22 44/25 45/3 | 9/23 30/14 46/7 |
| 61/12 | 8 | agreements [15] | 45/5 49/17 49/23 | 59/11 |
| | | 13/21 17/20 17/24 | 50/1 52/5 62/21 | attorneys [1] 16/12 |
| 10-minutes [1] | 8-19-2016 [1] | | | |
| 53/12 | 29/24 | 19/15 19/18 19/21 | 62/25 63/2 65/13 | August [1] 72/1 |
| 1085 [1] 8/15 | | 30/1 33/22 33/24 | 66/7 67/8 | August 12 [1] 72/1 |
| 10:02 [1] 51/15 | 9 | 34/2 34/3 34/4 75/2 | applied [3] 61/19 | Avenue [1] 6/12 |
| 10:47 [1] 79/9 | | 75/24 76/1 | 61/20 61/23 | avoid [1] 34/20 |
| | 95 [2] 9/17 9/18 | ahead [1] 52/5 | appoint [2] 24/12 | away [4] 34/8 57/23 |
| 11 [4] 63/5 63/8 | 9:52 [1] 51/15 | air [1] 70/23 | 25/2 | 68/7 72/25 |
| 63/25 70/2 | A | | | |
| 12 [3] 72/1 77/17 | <u>A</u> | airport [2] 66/8 | appointed [5] 24/10 | |
| 77/23 | A.M [2] 51/15 79/9 | 72/19 | 25/4 25/6 25/8 51/18 | |
| 13 [4] 10/6 17/8 | Aberle [1] 36/24 | airstrip [3] 64/7 | appraisers [1] | B-O-E-R [1] 6/10 |
| 78/6 78/9 | | 64/20 64/22 | 56/25 | bad [1] 71/21 |
| | able [3] 25/24 28/13 | alive [1] 10/19 | approach [2] 31/8 | bags [1] 22/14 |
| 15 [3] 14/5 57/15 | 32/23 | | | basically [2] 6/21 |
| 62/15 | abstain [1] 34/23 | allow [2] 68/11 | 31/12 | |
| 16 [2] 14/5 17/4 | abstained [2] 34/12 | 68/15 | approached [7] | 32/2 |
| 17345 [1] 6/12 | 34/17 | allowing [1] 46/16 | 17/25 18/4 23/7 31/4 | |
| 1972 [1] 7/21 | acceptable [1] | Almond [3] 6/13 | 31/5 31/6 37/4 | Bass [1] 36/8 |
| | | 15/19 16/15 | approval [1] 70/9 | Bates [3] 7/20 9/9 |
| 2 | 31/25 | almost [1] 8/1 | approve [1] 61/3 | 16/21 |
| | access [1] 70/23 | | | beef [1] 41/10 |
| 2,000 [2] 8/1 43/2 | according [3] 9/10 | along [3] 10/6 19/2 | approved [1] 63/3 | |
| 200 [1] 43/15 | 9/19 70/21 | 45/6 | approximately [4] | beforehand [1] |
| 201 [1] 43/17 | accurate [1] 74/10 | also [4] 20/7 30/13 | 15/10 18/3 39/6 | 49/5 |
| 2016 [4] 17/8 19/20 | | 52/7 73/21 | 44/24 | Beginning [1] 58/24 |
| | accurately [7] | 32/1/3/21 | ' '/ ~ ' | 9 [-] - 0 - - |
| | accurately [2] | 32/1 /3/21 | 11/21 | |

| _ | T | 1 | | 1 |
|---|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| В | can't [29] 14/1 | commissioners [6] | 33/6 33/8 46/19 | D |
| | 14/13 16/17 18/7 | 21/7 21/8 21/13 | 51/25 58/17 | |
| belief [1] 32/23 | 23/23 26/19 29/1 | 26/15 72/2 72/4 | cooperative [3] | D-e [1] 6/9 |
| bell [2] 19/8 19/9 | 30/11 42/23 44/11 | commonly [1] 75/16 | | D1 [1] 9/9 |
| benefit [1] 71/20 | 45/7 45/18 46/16 | communication [1] | cooperatives [1] | Dagenhart [2] 11/6 |
| Bert [3] 13/9 36/10 | 47/7 47/16 48/8 49/3 | 19/21 | 35/20 | 11/15 |
| 36/11 | | | | Dahl [2] 12/25 64/3 |
| Bert Rogness [3] | 50/6 52/19 53/6 | communications [3] | | Dale [1] 36/10 |
| 13/9 36/10 36/11 | 54/18 55/3 55/19 | 18/10 37/1 47/24 | copy [8] 44/19 | Dale Williams [1] |
| Beste [2] 11/5 11/19 | 56/11 57/6 59/7 | community [3] 28/6 | | 36/10 |
| big [2] 9/8 35/19 | 59/14 68/24 /1/12 | 36/2 53/9 | 48/18 53/1 53/3 | Dan [6] 19/10 19/12 |
| binder [1] 9/8 | capital [2] 6/9 6/9 | companies [1] 23/8 | 69/20 | 31/9 31/10 31/20 |
| binders [3] 7/16 8/3 | caught [1] 27/20 | company [3] 13/19 | Correction [1] 16/3 | 31/22 |
| | Center [1] 53/9 | 37/24 73/24 | correctly [1] 8/15 | - |
| 42/16 | CEO [2] 36/17 36/21 | Comparable [2] | correspond [1] 7/13 | Dan Litchfield [3] |
| bit [4] 34/8 34/9 | CEO's [1] 36/19 | 40/14 40/16 | correspondence [3] | 19/10 19/12 31/10 |
| 58/8 60/3 | certain [3] 28/19 | compared [1] 49/17 | 9/12 9/22 48/2 | Davenport [1] 6/14 |
| Blastick [2] 54/21 | 59/18 59/22 | comparing [1] 40/5 | correspondences | Davenport-Evans |
| 54/24 | Certiorari [1] 6/24 | compensation [2] | [1] 9/16 | [1] 6/14 |
| board [104] | | 35/4 35/9 | | day [3] 17/15 17/21 |
| Board's [5] 9/17 | Chair [1] 69/17 | | corresponds [1] | 55/13 |
| 9/21 10/4 29/10 73/4 | Chair Kanengieter | Complies [7] 43/14 | 10/2 | days [1] 63/13 |
| boards [1] 20/4 | [1] 69/17 | 43/16 57/16 63/20 | cost [1] 15/5 | DCBA [2] 16/22 17/4 |
| Bob [1] 10/23 | chairman [4] 42/3 | 64/1 71/25 74/16 | counsel [8] 16/9 | DCBA 16 [1] 17/4 |
| both [13] 10/5 | 58/22 60/12 63/15 | Compound [1] | 46/5 46/6 46/9 46/10 | dczoning [2] 54/21 |
| 17/21 21/17 24/20 | change [3] 57/3 | 27/11 | 50/4 50/4 50/4 | 54/21 |
| | 57/5 76/19 | concerned [14] | county [34] 6/22 | |
| 27/14 30/23 42/18 | changed [5] 76/7 | 64/11 64/15 64/17 | 7/1 7/3 7/5 7/10 9/6 | deal [2] 41/4 66/10 |
| 44/22 53/2 55/16 | 76/8 76/14 76/17 | 64/21 64/24 64/25 | 9/23 20/4 21/7 21/8 | dealt [2] 34/19 |
| 55/17 63/15 71/21 | 76/23 | 65/2 65/3 65/4 65/6 | 21/13 24/3 24/6 | 76/19 |
| bottom [5] 7/20 9/9 | check [1] 30/1 | 65/7 65/16 66/4 | 24/13 24/14 25/1 | Dear [1] 72/4 |
| 16/22 56/1 56/4 | children [1] 11/20 | 66/18 | 26/14 36/2 37/25 | DEBOER [17] 6/3 |
| Brandt [12] 12/2 | citizen [1] 24/6 | concerning [1] 73/4 | 38/19 39/5 49/18 | 6/9 6/13 10/17 10/25 |
| 12/3 12/8 12/9 12/18 | City [1] 53/9 | CONCLUDED [1] | 63/9 69/2 69/4 72/2 | 11/5 11/5 11/6 11/20 |
| 12/24 38/1 41/17 | clarification [1] | 79/9 | 72/4 76/5 76/23 | 11/23 11/23 11/24 |
| 42/8 70/17 71/3 71/5 | 39/22 | | 76/25 77/5 77/10 | 11/24 11/24 13/17 |
| Brandt's [2] 12/15 | | conclusion [2] 64/2 70/7 | 77/23 78/13 | 16/20 78/19 |
| 71/3 | clear [3] 6/12 26/10 49/11 | | | DeBoer, [1] 11/23 |
| brief [1] 34/16 | | confidential [5] | county commission | December [2] 30/25 |
| broken [1] 7/18 | Clear Lake [1] 6/12 | | [1] 25/1 | 50/19 |
| brother [2] 12/14 | clock [1] 60/2 | 16/10 16/16 | county's [2] 30/14 | December 22 [1] |
| 12/15 | close [2] 41/4 68/10 | | 63/13 | 50/19 |
| brothers [6] 10/22 | clue [2] 12/4 61/15 | 16/13 | couple [2] 18/9 45/1 | decide [3] 36/13 |
| 21/15 27/5 27/24 | co [1] 35/7 | conflict [4] 25/25 | court [3] 6/7 24/19 | 36/14 79/1 |
| 28/18 28/21 | co-op [1] 35/7 | 26/24 27/2 34/20 | 78/25 | decided [2] 25/1 |
| brought [3] 40/2 | come [9] 19/1 28/3 | consider [1] 65/22 | courthouse [1] | 59/4 |
| 54/11 70/21 | 42/6 55/13 67/17 | considered [5] | 33/16 | deciding [1] 75/4 |
| build [1] 37/25 | 70/16 70/20 71/11 | 25/11 40/21 61/24 | courts [1] 32/6 | decision [2] 40/22 |
| built [1] 38/2 | 77/5 | 66/17 68/23 | covered [1] 65/10 | 61/17 |
| bunch [1] 54/25 | comes [1] 67/23 | considering [3] | cows [1] 41/10 | declare [1] 53/19 |
| buy [1] 22/9 | coming [1] 37/24 | 38/4 42/11 66/4 | crowned [10] 38/10 | decrease [1] 56/21 |
| | comments [20] | contents [1] 51/4 | 38/16 38/21 39/3 | defend [1] 73/24 |
| buying [1] 37/5 Byron [1] 69/16 | 39/13 39/17 39/20 | continued [2] 72/11 | 39/7 39/13 39/19 | definitive [1] 69/3 |
| PAIOII [T] 09/10 | 40/3 40/6 52/7 52/10 | 73/3 | 40/5 40/7 40/11 | |
| C | 52/11 52/14 52/20 | contract [2] 31/14 | Crowned Ridge [6] | delete [1] 55/12 |
| call [6] 8/18 8/24 | 52/23 53/5 54/7 54/9 | 31/16 | 38/21 39/7 39/13 | deleted [1] 55/17 |
| 19/15 23/6 31/19 | 54/13 54/16 55/1 | conversation [9] | 40/5 40/7 40/11 | Dennis [7] 12/24 |
| | 55/22 60/9 73/4 | 14/21 15/1 24/24 | curiosity [3] 42/25 | 13/4 13/14 58/21 |
| 46/15 | commission [3] | 32/2 33/19 53/18 | 65/18 65/22 | 59/10 59/13 63/15 |
| called [4] 8/23 | 25/1 76/23 78/13 | 72/11 73/3 73/19 | curious [3] 40/4 | depend [1] 35/11 |
| 31/21 33/11 33/15 | commissioner [5] | conversations [11] | 65/19 66/12 | depositions [1] |
| calling [1] 40/3 | 24/2 24/4 24/10 | 18/5 18/17 27/8 | current [1] 6/11 | 24/18 |
| came [3] 22/20 71/3 | 24/13 24/15 | 27/24 28/2 28/21 | cutting [1] 14/4 | derive [1] 61/17 |
| 71/8 | = ., == = ., == | | | detail [2] 7/25 8/2 |
| | | | | |
| | | <u> </u> | | l . |

46/3 46/4 46/13 electricity [1] 37/5 D 7/3 7/7 7/13 7/13 explain [3] 67/16 7/19 7/21 8/4 9/4 9/4 46/20 46/22 47/3 **Elizabeth [1]** 11/23 74/2 75/7 **details** [1] 16/10 47/14 47/25 48/3 **enclosed [1]** 29/20 9/8 9/9 9/13 9/16 **extend [1]** 45/22 determination [1] 49/17 49/23 50/1 end [1] 11/19 9/17 10/2 10/2 10/8 **extent [1]** 16/10 32/4 50/3 59/5 59/6 59/10 16/4 16/6 16/7 16/8 **ended** [1] 32/2 **Deuel [33]** 7/3 7/4 59/16 66/9 energy [7] 7/15 16/21 17/13 17/13 7/10 7/15 7/15 8/6 **FAA [8]** 70/16 70/17 document [11] 6/19 7/16 8/8 8/9 8/14 19/19 23/14 29/11 8/8 8/9 8/13 8/14 70/17 70/20 70/24 15/17 15/22 16/4 8/23 13/19 29/17 30/12 33/21 8/23 9/23 24/6 36/2 71/6 71/10 71/13 39/23 42/15 43/7 16/14 17/12 19/3 Energy South [1] 37/25 38/19 39/5 **FAA's [1]** 71/4 30/15 32/3 43/18 7/16 44/7 48/10 48/10 39/10 39/14 40/5 **fact [3]** 10/4 32/18 enough [1] 60/10 50/8 50/12 50/13 57/14 40/8 41/15 42/14 50/18 51/2 54/19 60/12 documents [12] **enter [2]** 13/21 49/18 52/3 61/18 fair [2] 43/1 74/25 54/20 55/20 56/9 6/16 7/1 22/19 22/23 13/25 63/9 63/13 72/2 72/4 familiar [7] 7/4 8/25 30/16 48/2 55/1 56/1 **entered [10]** 13/18 57/12 57/13 57/23 76/25 77/5 77/10 56/3 56/8 56/12 30/16 43/9 47/17 13/24 15/7 15/13 60/22 60/22 62/10 Deuel County [8] 55/24 56/13 56/13 19/14 19/19 19/20 63/5 63/8 63/25 24/6 37/25 38/19 familiarize [1] draft [1] 47/4 34/5 75/23 76/1 69/15 70/2 71/24 39/5 49/18 72/2 77/5 57/13 **drafting** [1] 61/6 entire [1] 38/7 77/17 77/23 78/6 77/10 **family [1]** 11/25 driving [1] 14/7 entirety [2] 42/20 78/9 Deuel Harvest [13] **far [3]** 22/7 73/5 **Exhibit 1 [1]** 7/3 **duly [1]** 6/4 42/21 8/6 8/8 8/9 8/13 8/14 75/14 during [8] 8/21 errors [1] 78/23 **Exhibit 10 [5]** 50/8 8/23 39/10 39/14 **farm [2]** 14/8 14/9 28/11 54/12 54/14 **estimation [2]** 18/2 50/12 50/13 50/18 40/8 41/15 42/14 **favor [1]** 57/1 60/6 60/8 73/1 74/23 18/8 51/2 52/3 61/18 **February [3]** 10/6 etc [3] 40/3 64/5 **Exhibit 11 [3]** 63/8 **Deuel Harvest Wind E** 23/16 23/17 64/5 63/25 70/2 **[1]** 7/15 e-mail [24] 18/12 February 13 [1] Exhibit 12 [1] 77/23 **Evans [1]** 6/14 **Deuel Harvest Wind** 18/14 31/19 40/1 10/6 **Exhibit 13 [1]** 78/9 even [2] 14/1 23/23 **Energy [1]** 7/15 44/18 48/11 48/12 **felt [1]** 60/18 event [4] 28/6 42/6 **Exhibit 2 [5]** 7/13 **developed** [1] 77/10 48/16 48/17 48/21 few [2] 61/18 63/13 50/23 50/24 7/19 8/4 42/15 43/7 **developer [1]** 76/2 49/15 49/16 49/20 **fewer [1]** 40/6 events [2] 35/11 **Exhibit 3 [1]** 9/4 development [3] 54/20 54/22 54/24 **FFA [1]** 69/7 35/14 **Exhibit 4 [11]** 9/8 23/8 38/7 52/1 **figure [1]** 36/15 55/2 55/4 55/10 eventually [2] 9/13 39/23 54/19 **Diane [1]** 12/8 55/14 56/2 69/21 figured [1] 26/24 14/11 31/25 54/20 55/20 57/13 **Diego [1]** 35/18 78/10 78/10 **file [2]** 56/18 58/25 every [7] 7/25 8/2 57/23 62/10 69/15 diem [2] 35/12 **filed [3]** 33/15 62/14 e-mailed [1] 52/24 13/18 55/14 74/18 71/24 35/21 63/16 **e-mails [3]** 53/2 74/20 74/21 **Exhibit 5 [2]** 48/10 different [3] 17/17 55/13 55/17 **files [1]** 6/23 everybody [1] 65/9 48/10 35/18 66/2 each [7] 8/13 11/2 **filing [1]** 6/21 **everyone** [1] 59/25 **Exhibit 6 [2]** 10/2 differently [1] 11/3 28/7 44/21 **finally [1]** 16/15 everything [2] 10/8 37/12 71/19 74/3 financial [1] 53/20 40/21 46/18 Exhibit 6 or [1] **dinner [1]** 22/9 earlier [9] 17/11 find [2] 60/21 67/17 **evidence** [1] 61/16 60/22 **direct [1]** 36/18 18/1 30/22 33/22 **findings [12]** 10/4 **exactly [1]** 45/24 **Exhibit 7 [1]** 6/17 **direction [2]** 36/15 39/23 42/15 52/4 46/17 46/17 47/4 **EXAMINATION** [1] **Exhibit 8 [2]** 23/14 36/17 53/10 61/12 60/11 60/14 60/15 29/11 disagree [6] 72/21 early [1] 61/12 60/18 60/20 60/23 **example [1]** 66/15 **Exhibit 9 [7]** 16/21 73/8 73/25 74/1 74/2 **easement [3]** 30/15 **examples [2]** 66/3 17/13 17/13 19/19 61/3 61/6 74/20 finish [1] 24/18 30/21 32/20 29/17 30/12 33/21 66/3 **discovery** [1] 30/13 easements [3] firm [2] 6/14 69/17 **excepted** [1] 66/9 **Exhibit B [1]** 7/13 **discuss [2]** 58/2 30/22 30/23 31/4 exception [22] 10/7 **Exhibit C [1]** 9/4 First District [17] 60/17 easier [2] 77/4 38/5 38/20 38/23 **Exhibit D [1]** 57/12 9/24 46/3 46/4 46/13 discussed [2] 33/18 77/10 39/2 39/4 45/11 **Exhibit E [1]** 9/17 46/20 46/22 47/3 61/2 either [7] 21/16 45/16 49/1 61/19 **Exhibit F [2]** 10/2 47/14 47/25 49/17 **Discussing** [1] 58/4 22/20 27/24 34/17 62/11 64/4 65/21 60/22 49/23 50/1 50/3 59/5 **discussion [7]** 16/2 56/25 59/13 76/12 65/24 65/25 66/5 **exhibits [4]** 6/2 59/6 59/10 59/16 27/1 27/21 29/7 **electric [13]** 34/19 66/9 66/11 66/16 **First District before** 6/25 7/9 15/16 41/11 48/23 50/10 34/24 34/25 35/5 66/22 68/21 68/22 **expect [1]** 8/2 **[1]** 48/3 discussions [1] 35/10 35/17 35/25 **exchange** [1] 18/14 expectations [2] **fit [2]** 24/7 60/18 57/24 36/13 36/15 36/22 **five [5]** 12/20 28/13 excuse [1] 63/17 22/3 61/13 **disrupt [1]** 67/25 37/2 37/5 37/10 35/13 51/13 56/12 **executed** [1] 17/15 **expecting** [1] 28/19 **distributed** [1] 16/4 **electrical** [1] 36/1 five-minute [1] exhibit [62] 6/17 **experts** [1] 56/25 **district** [19] 9/24

intent [1] 67/24 **gosh [1]** 23/12 54/14 57/19 57/25 January [8] 9/22 grant [5] 70/8 70/10 58/3 58/9 58/10 interest [5] 25/25 45/12 51/6 51/10 five-minute... [1] 73/6 73/10 73/12 58/11 60/7 61/10 26/25 27/2 34/21 57/15 57/25 58/3 51/13 granted [1] 47/2 61/13 61/13 75/10 53/20 61/11 flight [1] 69/3 granting [1] 10/5 **hearings** [**6**] 9/6 **interested** [1] 43/10 January 15 [1] **flip [4]** 9/17 43/7 group [1] 74/4 20/2 20/3 21/25 interrogatories [2] 57/15 43/15 48/19 **quys [4]** 45/5 46/9 23/25 45/15 29/5 29/10 **January 22 [5]** 9/22 flipping [1] 55/20 50/3 50/4 help [1] 23/13 interrogatory [1] 45/12 57/25 58/3 following [2] 56/13 himself [8] 14/16 23/14 61/11 64/4 14/19 38/2 41/18 into [15] 7/18 8/12 January 23 [1] **follows** [1] 6/4 H-D Electric [11] 41/21 42/9 42/11 13/18 13/21 13/25 51/10 **food** [1] 22/10 34/19 34/24 35/5 15/7 15/13 16/10 **January 9 [1]** 51/6 62/7 **forth [1]** 15/4 35/10 35/25 36/13 **hit [2]** 59/20 59/25 19/14 19/20 19/20 **Jason [1]** 12/5 **forward [2]** 43/15 36/15 36/22 37/2 **Hoff [2]** 11/6 11/11 34/5 75/23 76/1 77/5 **Jeanie** [3] 10/24 46/2 37/5 37/10 **Homan [11]** 61/20 **introduced** [1] 14/6 11/6 11/10 found [2] 41/19 **H-O-F-F [1]** 11/12 61/23 62/2 63/16 Invenergy [45] **Jeanie Hoff [1]** 11/6 69/2 half [2] 72/11 73/3 68/3 70/10 70/15 13/20 13/22 13/24 **Jennifer [2]** 11/7 four [7] 7/17 7/17 **Hamlin [1]** 36/2 71/2 72/2 72/5 72/8 14/6 14/12 14/17 11/8 8/3 26/5 26/7 26/20 hand [2] 6/17 78/8 **Homan's [4]** 62/11 15/8 15/14 16/25 Jennifer Quail [2] 42/16 **handed [5]** 22/19 17/15 17/25 18/4 66/22 68/21 70/8 11/7 11/8 frame [2] 18/24 22/23 50/11 52/15 home [1] 67/17 18/6 18/15 18/18 **Jenny [1]** 10/24 45/25 52/16 hoping [1] 28/7 18/21 19/22 20/7 **Jerome [6]** 10/22 Fredrikson [1] handing [5] 16/20 host [1] 20/7 22/5 23/6 27/6 27/9 10/23 11/6 21/15 69/16 48/9 50/7 63/7 77/22 Hotzler [1] 36/20 27/25 29/13 29/15 21/18 27/5 free [1] 69/10 hour [2] 72/12 73/3 **handled** [1] 74/18 29/18 30/2 30/5 30/8 **Jim [1]** 10/23 **frequently** [1] 36/5 **Handouts [1]** 22/8 hours [1] 38/15 30/10 31/6 31/15 Joann [3] 10/23 **front [8]** 6/16 7/16 **Hansen [1]** 36/8 33/2 33/6 33/25 34/5 **house [1]** 15/6 11/6 11/14 8/3 20/3 29/11 37/8 happen [5] 15/4 houses [1] 41/6 34/9 37/2 37/4 37/6 Joann Dagenhart 42/16 50/2 53/14 54/4 58/19 **huh [4]** 7/22 61/22 39/1 42/17 58/12 **[1]** 11/6 **fruition [1]** 28/3 61/14 63/23 64/8 70/8 75/2 **job [2]** 24/2 36/16 **full [3]** 26/6 54/9 happened [6] 20/18 investigate [2] 41/1 **Jodi [13]** 44/13 74/17 25/22 37/23 40/19 42/25 44/14 45/4 45/21 **further [1]** 68/7 **I'd [2]** 13/17 74/25 41/14 46/1 **involved [2]** 61/5 48/11 52/6 52/21 future [3] 32/24 happening [1] idea [8] 28/20 70/14 52/24 54/11 54/16 65/9 36/16 73/7 19/23 71/3 71/4 71/8 71/11 involvement [1] 54/25 57/22 63/15 **hard [9]** 44/19 71/22 76/18 Jodi's [1] 54/21 G 60/13 44/20 44/21 44/22 impact [6] 57/10 **Isabel** [1] 11/24 **Joe [2]** 54/21 54/24 gain [1] 53/20 48/18 52/5 53/1 53/2 64/13 64/15 65/9 isn't [1] 69/11 Joe Blastick [1] gather [1] 54/3 69/20 65/24 69/8 **Issac [1]** 11/24 54/21 **gathering** [1] 20/1 Harvest [16] 7/15 **important** [1] 43/5 Issac DeBoer [1] Joel [2] 12/8 12/15 gatherings [4] 20/7 7/15 8/6 8/8 8/9 8/13 imposed [1] 59/1 11/24 John [8] 59/11 20/8 20/11 51/22 **including [1]** 73/23 8/14 8/23 39/10 issue [3] 34/12 59/11 59/12 59/14 **Gene [6]** 14/15 39/14 40/5 40/8 **indicate** [1] 79/3 37/17 75/5 59/15 61/20 62/6 14/16 14/19 15/6 41/15 42/14 52/3 **individual [1]** 51/18 **issues [2]** 37/8 72/5 15/10 18/23 individually [1] 61/18 37/13 John Homan [2] general [1] 75/20 he's [3] 74/3 74/5 74/4 itctel.com [1] 54/21 61/20 72/5 **generally [1]** 42/15 74/6 individuals [2] item [1] 15/19 John Knight [3] **gentleman [1]** 19/2 headlines [1] 42/24 16/12 52/8 **its [3]** 9/6 9/23 59/12 59/15 62/6 **George [1]** 10/16 industry [1] 75/15 hear [1] 27/17 42/20 joined [1] 78/12 **Gestures** [1] 19/7 heard [3] 19/4 inform [1] 41/17 July [3] 17/8 17/24 **getting [3]** 38/23 75/17 75/18 information [12] 19/20 45/20 49/7 hearing [38] 9/22 25/15 40/21 40/25 **Jake [1]** 11/23 July 13 [1] 17/8 gift [1] 22/14 21/23 38/11 38/13 41/3 43/2 45/4 54/25 Jake DeBoer, **June [5]** 69/16 70/1 **gifts [1]** 22/8 40/2 40/10 44/24 61/16 64/6 69/1 69/2 Elizabeth DeBoer 70/4 74/17 74/23 given [3] 45/4 74/11 45/11 48/7 49/12 71/5 **[1]** 11/23 **June 9 [2]** 69/16 74/14 **Initially [1]** 45/4 52/8 52/11 52/11 **James [5]** 10/22 70/1 gmail.com [1] 55/9 52/14 52/15 52/17 **instances** [2] 34/18 11/5 21/15 21/17 **Justin [2]** 12/2 gone [2] 35/21 77/4 52/24 53/5 53/8 53/8 37/19 27/5 12/17 good [6] 24/2 24/7 53/10 53/13 53/15 instead [1] 42/14 James DeBoer [1] 75/12 75/15 75/21 53/25 54/8 54/12 **intending** [1] 43/1 11/5 75/23

K Kanengieter [9] 12/5 12/24 13/4 13/14 58/21 59/15 63/15 69/17 72/20 **Kangas [1]** 36/8 **Kathleen [5]** 10/23 11/5 11/16 11/17 11/18 **Kays [3]** 47/19 48/11 49/16 **keep [5]** 8/20 16/13 16/17 55/13 68/7 **KEVIN [4]** 6/3 6/9 19/6 78/21 **Kevin DeBoer [1]** 6/9 Kevin Parzyck [1] 19/6 Kilby [2] 16/5 57/14 Kilby Law [1] 57/14 kind [12] 22/2 36/22 41/8 43/7 43/9 43/11 49/19 53/14 53/24 54/4 55/14 69/5 **Knight [3]** 59/12 59/15 62/6 knowledge [6] 22/24 33/7 37/7 49/25 62/23 62/25 **Kristen [2]** 12/2 12/18 **Kristen Brandt [2]** 12/2 12/18 Kwasniewski [1] 36/24 label [1] 16/22

labeled [2] 7/20 9/9 **Lake [1]** 6/12 land [6] 14/8 15/3 23/8 28/14 56/21 57/10 landing [4] 70/23 72/19 73/23 74/19 landowner [4] 70/22 71/11 73/7 73/13 landowners [1] 70/24 language [1] 64/7 large [2] 7/16 39/6

last [20] 10/25 11/4

11/22 37/20 37/21

37/23 38/4 38/11

40/17 40/23 41/9

41/18 41/19 42/8

51/9 63/19 63/24

70/6 73/20 76/16

Laurie [1] 36/9 Laurie Seefeldt [1] 36/9 **law [3]** 6/14 57/14 69/16 **leads [1]** 67/24 lease [15] 17/14 19/1 19/15 19/18 19/20 23/9 25/21 26/3 26/18 30/1 32/4 33/21 33/24 34/4 75/2 leaseholders [6] 20/8 20/8 43/19 43/21 43/22 43/23 **leases [6]** 15/3 15/20 19/11 25/13 25/13 34/4 **leave [2]** 16/12 78/25 legal [2] 45/23 46/10 **less [4]** 39/16 39/18 39/19 40/15 **let [3]** 24/18 43/8 49/22 **let's [18]** 16/1 21/4 21/20 27/20 27/23 29/5 30/12 42/13 50/9 51/13 52/3 54/19 57/12 62/10 69/15 71/24 73/2 74/15 letter [33] 29/18 29/20 29/21 29/23 50/13 50/19 50/19 51/3 51/3 51/4 51/7 51/7 51/11 55/21 55/23 56/9 57/14 57/17 57/21 69/11 69/16 69/17 69/25 70/7 70/15 70/20 71/1 71/9 71/12 71/16 72/1 72/6 74/7 **letters** [1] 10/6 **likely [1]** 70/5 **likes [1]** 43/8 **limit [5]** 59/1 59/4 59/16 60/6 70/11 list [2] 13/18 43/19 **listed [1]** 6/25 **listen [1]** 61/16 lists [1] 56/3 **Litchfield [4]** 19/10 19/12 31/10 33/9 litigation [3] 6/18 6/23 15/21 **little [7]** 27/19 30/1 34/8 34/9 40/25 58/8

LAUGHTER [1] 79/6

60/3 **located [1]** 20/15 **long [5]** 23/11 35/2 38/13 53/25 66/21 longer [2] 32/21 33/23 looks [21] 9/4 17/4 17/8 29/17 30/14 30/20 43/8 43/9 43/9 48/11 48/20 49/16 54/24 55/20 55/24 56/10 58/25 62/13 62/14 63/14 63/21 **lot [1]** 24/20 luck [1] 33/17 lucky [1] 10/10 **Luke [3]** 11/24 47/17 47/21 Luke DeBoer [1] 11/24 Luke Muller [1] 47/21 **Lynn [4]** 51/17 51/20 51/22 52/1 Lynn Pederson [4] 51/17 51/20 51/22 52/1 М made [1] 77/10

mail [27] 18/12 18/14 31/19 32/10 32/11 33/5 40/1 44/18 48/11 48/12 48/16 48/17 48/21 49/15 49/16 49/20 54/20 54/22 54/24 55/2 55/4 55/10 55/14 56/2 69/21 78/10 78/10 mailed [2] 50/13 52/24 mails [3] 53/2 55/13

55/17 main [1] 36/22 majority [1] 74/22 **make [11]** 36/17 40/21 40/22 42/7 46/17 46/22 56/11 64/14 68/18 70/14 77/3 making **[2]** 56/20 56/25

males [1] 11/1 **man [1]** 13/5 man's [1] 18/25 manager [2] 36/25 36/25 many [11] 6/20

13/21 14/14 18/5

50/24 51/23

member [11] 23/1

25/10 34/10 34/11

35/4 42/10 44/22

38/20 March [4] 23/17 51/2 62/15 63/17 March 15 [1] 62/15 **March 23 [1]** 51/2 Margaret [1] 10/16 mark [5] 16/16 16/17 44/5 59/21 60/1 marked [20] 6/2 6/17 7/3 7/10 10/1 15/16 15/18 15/24 16/9 16/21 44/7 48/9 50/7 50/11 63/5 63/7 77/17 77/22 78/6 78/8 material [1] 57/8 **materials** [1] 9/21 **Matt [1]** 36/20 Matt Hotzler [1] 36/20 maximum [1] 28/10 may [4] 73/7 73/13 74/8 78/23 maybe [2] 59/11 60/21 meals [1] 35/21 **meant [1]** 39/9 meet [5] 36/5 53/13 53/23 58/2 58/5 meeting [48] 20/19 20/21 21/1 21/4 21/5 21/8 21/10 21/11 21/20 21/21 25/3 25/3 25/5 26/17 35/17 35/19 39/21 41/19 41/20 42/5 42/5 42/6 45/24 47/1 47/6 47/8 47/10 47/11 47/12 47/15 47/24 58/24 61/1 63/8 63/9 63/18 69/19 69/22 70/2 70/2 70/4 70/4 70/22 72/9 72/14 74/17 74/18 74/23 meetings [9] 19/23 19/24 20/2 21/16 22/6 22/20 22/25 36/3 78/13 Melvee's [12] 20/17 20/19 21/1 21/10 21/25 22/16 22/17 23/1 50/22 50/23

20/13 28/7 28/23

33/8 34/14 35/11

62/24 65/16 66/17 73/11 members [20] 11/25 12/1 12/20 12/22 21/5 21/11 26/5 26/7 26/18 29/12 36/16 37/16 41/23 44/25 54/17 55/21 58/18 59/18 60/5 61/1 **mention [2]** 67/2 69/11 messages [1] 18/20 **met [1]** 47/3 metro [1] 38/1 **Michael [2]** 50/15 50/17 **Michael Svedeman [1]** 50/15 middle [1] 14/22 might [7] 28/13 51/19 52/19 53/1 66/12 69/9 69/20 Mike [1] 12/25 minute [7] 51/13 59/1 59/4 59/16 59/20 60/1 60/6 **minutes [11]** 9/20 9/21 53/12 60/3 61/12 61/12 63/8 69/10 69/12 69/14 70/2 **Miranda [1]** 11/23 Miranda DeBoer [1] 11/23 moment [1] 78/9 money [1] 30/4 month [6] 14/2 15/10 18/24 20/24 29/25 36/6 **months** [**5**] 15/12 15/13 18/1 45/1 61/18 more [15] 24/20 34/9 39/16 40/14 40/25 42/14 51/9 60/4 64/5 68/25 70/4 73/22 74/4 74/11 74/14 morning [1] 6/15 **Mother [1]** 10/20 **motion [1]** 64/3 **move [1]** 46/1 moving [1] 34/8 **Mr. [24]** 6/13 11/20 13/17 15/19 16/15 16/20 33/9 61/23 62/11 63/16 66/22 68/3 68/21 70/8 70/10 70/15 71/2

Kevin DeBoer September 21, 2018

next [8] 19/21 48/19 ones [3] 10/12 44/2 page **346** [1] 71/24 62/2 62/12 66/5 М 50/18 50/18 51/6 52/15 page 4 and 5 [1] 66/11 66/22 68/22 **Mr.... [7]** 71/3 71/3 63/24 73/2 74/15 only [3] 16/8 73/4 55/25 73/6 73/12 71/5 72/2 72/8 72/20 night [14] 37/20 page 44 [1] 29/17 74/6 **permits** [9] 38/20 78/19 37/21 37/23 38/4 page **45** [1] 30/13 39/2 45/12 45/16 **op [1]** 35/7 Mr. Almond [2] 38/11 40/17 40/23 **open [1]** 15/19 page **5** [1] 56/1 49/1 49/13 65/21 15/19 16/15 pages [3] 8/1 9/18 41/9 41/18 41/19 **opposed [6]** 56/19 66/16 68/22 Mr. Brandt [2] 71/3 42/8 53/7 54/5 54/17 56/19 58/13 67/15 person [4] 18/11 43/3 71/5 paid [4] 22/11 29/15 **nine** [1] 35/3 67/20 74/11 18/13 55/14 74/3 Mr. Brandt's [1] **nobody [1]** 15/24 **opposing [1]** 73/22 30/4 35/20 personally [2] 41/2 71/3 **Nods [3]** 24/21 opposition [4] paper [2] 45/22 46/21 Mr. DeBoer [5] 6/13 40/14 59/19 60/6 32/12 78/16 45/23 perspective [1] 11/20 13/17 16/20 **non [1]** 16/12 74/8 papers [1] 40/3 56/2 78/19 non-attorneys [1] opposition's [1] paperwork [2] 32/3 **petition [7]** 76/24 Mr. Homan [8] 16/12 40/20 33/15 77/2 77/3 77/6 77/19 61/23 63/16 68/3 nonconfidential [1] **orally [1]** 59/8 paragraph [9] 77/23 78/3 70/10 70/15 71/2 15/22 order [2] 31/13 50/21 63/19 63/21 **petitions** [1] 77/13 72/2 72/8 normal [2] 24/22 31/16 64/3 72/8 72/13 73/2 **phone [1]** 18/11 Mr. Homan's [4] 73/21 74/17 **ordinance** [1] 69/4 phrase [1] 75/18 24/24 62/11 66/22 68/21 North [9] 8/19 8/20 paragraph 10 [3] **ordinances** [11] 7/4 **piece [1]** 17/17 70/8 8/22 8/24 10/5 42/17 7/5 7/11 49/18 69/2 63/19 63/21 64/3 **pigs [1]** 41/10 Mr. Kanengieter [1] 44/3 49/1 52/4 76/5 76/8 76/13 parents' [1] 10/15 piles [1] 54/10 72/20 part [8] 6/24 7/1 piques [1] 42/25 76/16 76/21 76/24 **nothing [2]** 28/16 Mr. Litchfield [1] 69/3 original [2] 77/7 17/13 32/16 38/18 pizza [11] 20/16 33/9 20/18 20/20 20/21 notice [5] 29/14 77/9 38/19 40/4 73/16 **Ms.** [1] 16/5 30/15 32/9 33/4 33/5 others [1] 56/15 participating [1] 21/4 21/20 22/10 **Ms. Kilby [1]** 16/5 **notices [3]** 9/5 10/7 our [3] 17/3 36/16 62/3 22/12 22/13 23/1 **Muller [2]** 47/17 46/5 parties [1] 73/22 51/23 30/21 47/21 number [3] 28/19 **outcome** [1] 53/20 **Parzyck [1]** 19/6 Pizza Shack [8] multiple [2] 38/17 40/13 56/10 **outside** [1] 53/23 **past [1]** 76/14 20/16 20/20 20/21 45/15 **numbers** [1] 39/9 **overview [1]** 53/17 **pattern [1]** 69/4 21/4 21/20 22/10 **myself [2]** 10/23 own [1] 17/18 **Paul [13]** 12/3 12/9 23/1 51/23 42/4 12/15 12/24 38/1 owner [1] 17/7 **place [13]** 14/21 **Objection [1]** 27/11 Ν 41/17 42/8 70/17 18/11 20/22 21/2 **obligation [3]** 33/25 70/21 70/21 70/24 28/24 28/25 32/7 name [16] 6/7 6/13 34/1 34/6 **p.m [1]** 50/22 70/25 71/12 45/12 46/25 47/6 10/25 11/3 11/4 13/5 obligations [1] **page [40]** 7/21 8/13 Paul Brandt [6] 62/22 63/9 67/8 13/6 14/13 14/15 33/23 8/15 16/22 17/13 12/9 12/24 38/1 placed [1] 62/19 18/25 19/4 36/19 offhand [1] 42/23 29/13 29/17 30/13 places [1] 35/18 41/17 42/8 70/17 38/9 46/4 47/16 78/1 office [1] 55/12 39/9 43/6 43/15 Paul Brandt's [1] placing [1] 28/6 **names [4]** 10/15 officer [1] 62/14 48/10 48/19 49/15 players [1] 36/22 12/15 11/22 36/23 43/23 official [1] 55/1 50/12 50/18 50/18 **Paul of [1]** 71/12 **please [2]** 6/8 44/5 **National [1]** 35/17 Oh [8] 14/3 15/12 51/2 51/6 51/9 51/9 payment [3] 29/21 **point [8]** 25/11 **natural** [2] 35/16 23/12 23/12 25/6 54/20 55/20 55/25 30/7 30/10 29/15 32/24 46/2 35/16 35/3 38/14 45/15 56/1 56/9 56/10 payments [2] 29/12 49/8 60/11 72/23 necessarily [1] 19/5 once [6] 16/17 57/12 62/10 63/14 30/8 72/24 **need [3]** 42/4 49/10 25/19 33/4 36/6 63/19 63/24 63/24 **Pederson [4]** 51/17 **poorly [1]** 66/21 79/2 69/15 70/6 71/24 45/17 50/25 51/20 51/22 52/1 **pop** [1] 46/4 **needed** [1] 75/3 one [35] 8/8 8/13 72/5 73/21 74/15 people [20] 14/8 pops [1] 41/13 needs [1] 15/24 10/10 13/23 17/11 77/24 18/6 22/20 24/22 **portion [1]** 43/8 negatively [1] 20/16 20/16 20/18 page 1 [2] 8/13 43/6 39/13 40/13 41/1 portions [3] 42/21 57/10 **page 1085 [1]** 8/15 20/20 23/4 23/25 41/6 55/12 55/13 43/4 43/4 negotiation [1] 30/11 30/20 33/11 page 2 [2] 54/20 56/19 56/19 57/2 **possibility** [1] 37/5 28/11 33/14 38/16 38/19 77/24 58/13 59/1 59/22 **potential** [1] 20/8 **neighbor [5]** 75/12 38/23 39/3 42/17 **page 200 [1]** 43/15 59/24 74/3 74/7 74/9 **poultry [1]** 41/10 75/16 75/21 75/23 42/18 45/14 46/2 **page 22 [1]** 17/13 per [2] 35/12 35/21 **preference [1]** 79/3 76/2 51/9 56/18 65/24 **page 26 [1]** 48/10 **perceive [1]** 78/24 prehearing [1] neighboring [1] 69/23 69/23 69/24 page 3 [2] 55/20 **permit [15]** 38/5 50/22 70/11 69/24 69/24 69/25 72/5 38/24 47/2 61/19 preliminary [1] **Neither [1]** 23/4 71/2 73/10 75/7 **page 331 [1]** 69/15 61/20 61/23 61/24 28/5 **new [2]** 25/10 28/5

P public [34] 9/6 released [7] 30/23 Ridge [10] 38/10 55/2 56/24 69/17 16/17 20/2 20/2 20/3 78/10 31/4 31/14 31/15 38/16 38/21 39/3 preparation [1] 21/23 23/25 38/11 received [12] 9/11 32/20 75/1 75/3 39/7 39/13 39/19 60/13 releases [2] 33/5 38/13 39/12 39/16 29/12 29/13 30/7 40/5 40/7 40/11 prepared [5] 48/6 39/19 39/21 40/3 33/4 39/19 39/24 rights [1] 32/21 33/9 49/19 60/12 60/20 40/6 47/8 47/10 52/5 52/23 55/14 relevant [1] 60/18 ring [2] 19/8 19/9 78/23 47/11 47/12 52/6 57/21 72/18 rely [1] 78/25 **Robert [1]** 11/5 present [3] 15/23 52/10 52/11 52/13 receiving [4] 51/7 remember [33] Robert DeBoer [1] 21/24 58/13 52/23 53/5 53/21 51/10 53/5 57/9 7/23 7/24 7/24 8/2 11/5 presentation [1] 53/23 54/7 54/9 recent [1] 76/14 14/13 18/25 19/4 **Rogness [6]** 13/7 46/23 54/14 55/22 59/2 **RECESS [1]** 51/15 23/23 23/24 24/1 13/9 13/10 13/15 presented [2] 60/25 59/19 60/5 recognize [2] 56/14 24/3 27/15 32/16 36/10 36/11 61/16 **Publicly [1]** 78/15 43/17 43/20 45/1 **Rogness Trucking** 56/15 **pretty [2]** 41/14 **purposes** [2] 8/4 recollection [8] 45/18 45/19 45/21 **[3]** 13/7 13/10 13/15 43/5 15/18 18/19 27/4 30/9 48/1 45/24 47/16 49/3 **Rognesses [2]** 13/8 **printed** [1] 63/12 51/10 51/24 53/4 49/4 49/6 49/7 49/11 13/12 **prior [10]** 29/1 29/3 58/7 51/17 52/19 57/9 **role [2]** 34/10 46/12 41/20 48/6 52/16 **Quail [2]** 11/7 11/8 recommended [5] 62/9 72/24 76/11 room [2] 15/23 52/17 60/8 67/14 question [19] 23/15 24/11 24/14 24/15 76/13 16/13 69/23 76/15 24/19 24/23 27/12 24/25 59/16 remembering [1] rough [1] 18/8 **private [1]** 61/24 route [1] 75/7 27/13 29/11 35/24 recuse [5] 41/18 55/22 proceeding [5] 7/2 39/23 49/10 64/24 41/24 42/1 42/4 62/3 removed [1] 15/24 **Roxanne** [1] 36/8 41/14 41/18 43/5 64/25 66/20 66/21 recused [10] 34/11 report [4] 48/5 Roxanne Bass [1] 62/8 72/18 72/19 72/23 34/17 37/9 37/13 48/20 49/4 49/19 36/8 proceedings [2] 6/1 74/18 74/21 74/21 38/2 41/21 42/9 **reporter [3]** 6/8 **rule [1]** 46/16 62/4 questioning [1] 42/10 62/6 75/4 rules [3] 24/17 46/8 24/19 78/25 process [6] 41/23 27/18 recusing [1] 37/17 reports [3] 56/24 69/7 53/24 58/8 58/10 **questions** [5] 27/15 **Reece [1]** 6/13 56/24 57/9 rundown [1] 34/16 58/12 77/14 73/4 74/23 78/18 Reece Almond [1] represent [1] 63/12 **runs [1]** 56/17 **produced** [5] 6/18 78/20 6/13 representatives [1] **runway [21]** 61/20 6/22 7/1 9/10 30/13 quick [3] 16/1 48/19 **refer [2]** 19/15 73/23 61/23 61/24 62/2 **producing** [1] 6/24 50/9 19/17 request [1] 73/24 62/11 62/18 62/22 **project [36]** 8/21 quietly [1] 27/20 requesting [1] 63/16 63/22 66/22 referenced [1] 8/22 8/22 23/7 27/9 **quit [1]** 50/25 66/23 67/6 67/9 68/1 48/21 15/17 27/25 28/22 34/9 quiz [1] 43/1 references [1] requests [1] 70/9 68/2 68/6 68/16 38/7 38/9 38/16 68/17 69/4 69/8 74/8 50/21 require [1] 71/8 38/17 38/18 38/24 referencing [1] required [2] 40/24 rural [4] 34/25 39/1 39/25 40/7 rally [1] 50/22 50/23 71/2 35/17 35/19 36/1 40/11 40/14 42/9 re [2] 32/24 33/1 referendum [6] residence [2] 14/10 42/11 42/14 42/18 re-sign [2] 32/24 76/24 77/2 77/4 67/17 42/18 44/3 46/13 33/1 same [6] 17/15 77/14 77/19 77/23 resolve [1] 16/15 46/13 50/5 55/18 read [25] 17/14 17/21 22/1 30/12 referred [1] 75/16 respectfully [1] 56/19 56/20 57/9 27/14 42/18 42/22 65/22 74/18 referring [3] 19/25 70/9 58/2 58/5 59/19 42/23 42/24 42/24 San [1] 35/18 26/14 70/19 respond [1] 31/23 66/19 43/4 43/5 43/8 43/10 **San Diego [1]** 35/18 **refrained [3]** 77/15 response [2] 23/15 **projects** [13] 8/17 43/11 43/12 48/13 77/16 77/18 26/23 **saw [2]** 30/22 43/22 10/4 38/17 38/18 48/14 49/16 49/19 **saying [12]** 6/23 **regarding [2]** 16/11 responses [1] 23/14 38/19 39/3 39/14 56/10 56/16 56/24 15/2 32/3 40/6 57/2 rest [1] 66/9 78/14 40/8 44/10 48/6 49/2 61/1 69/19 69/22 57/9 60/9 74/3 74/5 **registered** [1] 32/6 return [9] 6/24 7/7 52/4 57/24 78/22 79/1 regulations [2] 46/8 7/10 7/14 9/4 9/10 74/6 74/7 74/10 **properties** [1] 70/11 reading [2] 55/23 69/8 9/19 10/3 60/22 **second [5]** 27/13 **property [6]** 17/17 74/7 relate [1] 67/12 review [2] 48/12 33/14 50/21 63/19 32/22 64/5 68/8 really [2] 33/3 35/23 **related [13]** 9/12 69/10 73/20 68/10 73/8 **reason** [1] 71/2 9/21 10/4 12/3 12/9 reviewed [5] 45/8 **seconded** [1] 64/3 provide [4] 22/5 receive [20] 32/8 37/9 37/10 37/13 section [1] 70/7 49/12 49/17 49/23 36/1 46/9 66/15 35/4 35/9 39/12 **Seefeldt [1]** 36/9 37/17 39/24 42/11 70/1 provided [2] 22/11 39/16 44/9 44/12 55/18 76/2 reviewing [3] 43/18 **seeing [4]** 43/17 22/17 48/2 48/16 48/25 48/5 55/22 78/11 **relayed** [1] 71/5 50/1 56/18 **providing [2]** 55/22 50/12 50/19 51/4 seemed [2] 31/24 release [3] 29/14 Rhody [2] 12/25 52/10 52/13 52/17 45/25 30/15 30/21 64/3 **proximities** [1] 41/5

| | T | T | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| S | similar [3] 39/9 | starting [4] 17/13 | 73/7 73/13 74/19 | themselves [2] |
| send [3] 18/20 32/5 | 39/12 41/14 | 30/12 56/9 73/21 | Svedeman [2] | 37/17 62/3 |
| 45/5 | sit [1] 53/4 | starts [4] 7/19 8/13 | 50/15 50/17 | they'd [1] 20/1 |
| | situations [1] 42/10 | 8/14 72/13 | sworn [1] 6/4 | they've [1] 55/14 |
| sending [1] 32/3 | six [5] 15/12 15/13 | state [3] 6/7 37/12 | System [2] 8/9 8/10 | |
| sends [1] 53/2 | 18/1 18/24 56/10 | 70/10 | · | third [4] 16/8 51/2 |
| sense [1] 43/3 | six-month [1] 18/24 | | <u>T</u> | 72/8 72/13 |
| sent [8] 9/5 33/16 | size [1] 39/9 | statement [2] 16/3 | table [2] 54/9 64/4 | though [1] 52/18 |
| 45/5 49/16 53/1 | skip [1] 68/19 | 74/25 | tabled [2] 40/20 | thousand [1] 35/13 |
| 54/24 57/22 72/2 | solicit [1] 14/8 | States [1] 35/19 | 45/17 | three [9] 16/12 |
| separate [3] 27/12 | somebody [3] 24/1 | stating [1] 67/15 | tabling [2] 40/24 | 38/14 59/1 59/4 |
| 39/2 39/3 | 24/25 57/6 | status [1] 15/21 | 45/20 | 59/16 59/20 60/1 |
| September [1] 14/4 | someone [2] 14/9 | Stepping [1] 57/23 | take [13] 14/21 | 60/3 60/6 |
| service [1] 34/10 | 14/17 | Steve [2] 12/25 36/8 | 18/11 28/24 28/25 | three-minute [6] |
| services [1] 36/1 | something [6] | Steve Hansen [1] | 35/12 35/14 38/13 | 59/1 59/4 59/16 |
| setback [1] 41/6 | | 36/8 | 46/25 47/6 51/13 | |
| setbacks [14] 64/6 | 45/17 45/21 45/22 | | 54/1 54/19 57/13 | 59/20 60/1 60/6 |
| 64/12 64/16 65/1 | 46/1 67/25 68/20 | Steve Rhody [1] | | throughout [1] |
| 65/3 65/4 65/8 66/13 | somewhere [3] | 12/25 | TAKEN [1] 51/15 | 35/18 |
| 66/18 68/23 69/1 | 23/17 48/18 49/9 | stop [3] 15/6 59/20 | taking [1] 28/6 | timeline [2] 17/4 |
| 69/5 77/8 77/9 | soon [2] 44/24 | 60/1 | talk [12] 6/15 28/5 | 22/2 |
| seven [1] 35/13 | 59/25 | stopped [2] 14/9 | 31/20 34/9 47/3 | timing [3] 64/17 |
| several [2] 74/7 | sort [6] 15/5 21/24 | 15/11 | 53/14 53/24 54/4 | 64/19 64/21 |
| 74/9 | 45/25 46/22 59/8 | strip [4] 68/16 70/23 | | today [4] 9/13 57/17 |
| Shack [9] 20/16 | 75/23 | 73/23 74/19 | talked [6] 15/3 | 71/1 78/23 |
| 20/18 20/20 20/21 | sound [4] 17/22 | strips [1] 72/20 | 19/11 19/19 33/22 | Todd [4] 36/24 |
| 21/4 21/20 22/10 | 23/16 47/17 52/21 | Strohfus [1] 36/9 | 60/3 70/17 | 47/19 48/11 49/16 |
| 23/1 51/23 | sounding [1] 35/24 | study [3] 40/20 | talking [5] 21/22 | Todd Kays [3] 47/19 |
| share [1] 65/22 | sounds [1] 65/1 | 43/20 45/2 | 26/11 35/15 41/8 | 48/11 49/16 |
| shared [4] 15/23 | South [12] 7/16 | stuff [8] 10/11 | 63/21 | together [3] 9/12 |
| | 8/10 8/14 8/19 8/20 | 21/24 28/5 34/19 | talks [1] 7/9 | 9/22 56/17 |
| 16/5 16/8 67/20 | 8/21 8/22 10/5 42/18 | 43/11 53/2 56/17 | technically [1] | told [12] 26/17 |
| shorter [1] 40/10 | 44/3 49/1 52/4 | 66/10 | 17/20 | 26/23 32/5 41/24 |
| shortly [2] 28/24 | speak [4] 14/12 | stupid [1] 35/24 | Tekrony [1] 36/9 | 46/14 58/19 58/20 |
| 30/20 | 18/23 58/14 78/13 | stupid-sounding [1] | telephone [2] 18/17 | 59/15 70/21 70/24 |
| should [6] 24/2 27/2 | speaking [3] 27/19 | 35/24 | 33/19 | 70/25 73/11 |
| 34/22 43/12 70/7 | 42/14 59/2 | submissions [2] | tell [25] 21/21 25/19 | took [6] 20/22 21/2 |
| 71/16 | special [21] 10/7 | 9/11 39/24 | 26/1 26/2 26/20 28/2 | 32/7 38/14 45/12 |
| show [3] 17/12 | 38/5 38/20 38/23 | submit [1] 37/24 | 32/19 33/14 35/14 | 63/9 |
| 53/10 60/21 | 39/2 39/4 45/11 | submitted [13] 7/14 | | top [2] 29/13 77/24 |
| showed [3] 42/15 | 45/15 49/1 53/20 | 8/5 10/3 39/7 39/25 | 42/3 45/19 46/3 46/8 | tower [9] 15/5 28/4 |
| 54/17 61/11 | 61/19 62/11 64/4 | 42/17 52/7 52/21 | 46/12 53/7 54/8 | 38/1 67/24 68/12 |
| showing [1] 10/1 | 65/21 66/5 66/7 | 54/12 54/13 55/1 | 58/23 59/7 60/12 | 68/15 73/8 73/13 |
| sibling [1] 11/4 | 66/11 66/16 66/22 | 62/25 63/16 | 64/11 68/22 71/12 | 73/24 |
| siblings [1] 10/21 | 68/21 68/22 | such [1] 70/9 | telling [1] 73/5 | towers [26] 15/4 |
| sic [1] 69/7 | | sucn [1] 70/9 suggested [4] 28/11 | | |
| sign [7] 15/2 19/1 | specific [1] 16/11 | | Teresa [1] 12/5 | 20/2 28/7 28/10 |
| 32/17 32/24 33/1 | specifically [1] 70/9 | 59/5 59/6 59/8 | : | 28/14 28/19 28/23 |
| 70/15 78/3 | speed [1] 42/24 | summarization [3] | terminations [2] | 28/24 38/22 41/5 |
| signature [4] 17/2 | spell [1] 6/7 | 72/22 73/9 73/25 | 32/9 33/4 | 63/3 64/6 65/8 67/15 |
| 17/3 17/5 78/1 | spoke [3] 14/17 | summarize [1] | terminology [1] | 67/18 67/21 68/7 |
| signatures [1] | 40/13 74/8 | 73/16 | 8/21 | 68/10 68/23 69/1 |
| 63/14 | Sprang [1] 36/24 | summarized [1] | terms [2] 16/11 | 72/21 73/5 73/19 |
| signed [12] 16/25 | stack [1] 54/16 | 73/18 | 34/16 | 74/20 74/22 74/24 |
| 17/8 17/21 17/24 | staff [3] 48/5 48/20 | summary [1] 72/9 | Terry [1] 36/9 | transcript [2] 78/22 |
| 18/5 27/6 28/24 29/3 | 49/4 | summertime [1] | testified [4] 6/4 | 79/2 |
| 29/25 32/13 60/12 | stance [1] 67/18 | 14/3 | 52/4 57/2 57/4 | travel [1] 35/12 |
| 77/13 | start [6] 10/15 21/4 | support [1] 56/2 | testimony [2] 71/1 | treated [1] 15/20 |
| 77/13 signing [2] 23/8 | 21/20 38/14 43/6 | suppose [4] 38/14 | 78/24 | Treeguy [2] 55/5 |
| 77/18 | 48/20 | 64/13 65/18 75/6 | text [1] 18/20 | 55/6 |
| - | started [2] 19/23 | supposed [1] 46/18 | thank [1] 60/4 | Treeguy007.kd [1] |
| silage [1] 14/4 | 27/13 | surrounding [3] | Thanks [1] 39/22 | 55/9 |
| silly [1] 49/10 | | | | · |
| | | | | |
| | l | | | |
| | | | | |

| Kevin DeBoer | | | S | September 21, 2018 |
|------------------------------------|--|---|---|--------------------|
| Т | us [5] 24/20 24/24 | website [1] 63/13 | 56/7 56/11 58/15 | |
| tried [1] 8/12 | 43/8 46/14 70/25 | well [28] 14/7 14/11 | | |
| Troy [1] 36/24 | use [3] 50/3 55/10 | 15/2 17/19 20/1 | 75/6 76/8 | |
| Trucking [3] 13/7 | 64/4 | 23/25 25/9 25/20 | year [1] 14/2 | |
| 13/10 13/15 | used [2] 58/9 58/10 | 25/23 26/1 27/4 | years [1] 35/3 | |
| try [2] 16/16 71/19 | uses [1] 70/11 | 27/20 32/15 35/11 | Yep [9] 7/9 17/11 | |
| trying [5] 14/7 | utilize [1] 41/24 | 35/16 38/22 44/1 | 30/17 30/18 56/6 | |
| 16/15 38/21 43/3 | V | 53/19 54/11 60/17 | 57/4 60/16 72/7 | |
| 68/5 | vacancy [1] 23/20 | 62/24 65/10 67/2 69/18 69/25 71/14 | 72/17 | |
| turbines [22] 62/18 | value [1] 56/21 | 75/15 79/7 | you'd [2] 24/6 79/1 you've [5] 37/12 | |
| 62/22 64/12 64/16 | values [1] 57/10 | weren't [8] 61/5 | 66/4 66/16 66/17 | |
| 65/1 65/3 65/5 65/11 | various [1] 52/7 | 62/17 62/21 65/10 | 68/23 | |
| 65/14 65/17 65/19 | vast [1] 74/22 | 65/13 67/5 67/8 68/9 | • | |
| 65/23 66/4 66/5 | versus [1] 75/8 | whatever [1] 42/6 | 34/11 37/9 37/13 | |
| 66/12 66/13 66/18 | very [2] 51/9 72/18 | whatnot [1] 41/7 | 41/24 42/1 48/14 | |
| 66/25 67/3 67/5 67/9 67/13 | via [1] 39/25 | whether [9] 25/1 | 57/13 75/4 | |
| turn [3] 42/13 57/12 | visit [1] 67/14 | 25/13 28/18 28/22 | yourselves [1] 54/3 | |
| 77/24 | voice [3] 31/13 75/9 | 28/23 29/12 49/11 | Z | |
| Twice [1] 34/15 | 75/10 | 61/2 79/1 | | |
| twin [2] 12/14 12/15 | voicing [2] 59/19 | while [3] 25/11 | zoning [18] 7/4 7/5 | |
| two [23] 8/5 8/17 | 60/5 | 35/21 45/1 | 7/10 25/3 25/4 25/6 | |
| 10/4 17/20 19/14 | volunteer [1] 25/15 vote [3] 31/16 34/21 | wife [1] 12/14 | 25/7 25/10 25/12 26/12 40/1 44/14 | |
| 19/18 20/14 27/16 | 40/17 | 16/11 24/20 35/11 | 46/5 62/14 63/9 72/9 | |
| 30/21 30/22 33/10 | voted [5] 47/23 | Williams [1] 36/10 | 72/14 76/5 | |
| 33/21 34/2 34/4 37/8 | 57/19 61/2 68/11 | wind [81] | 72/11/0/0 | |
| 38/18 39/2 39/2 | 68/15 | wind-related [3] | | |
| 42/16 44/9 44/10 | voting [7] 34/12 | 37/13 37/17 42/11 | | |
| 48/25 49/17 | 34/17 34/23 48/3 | Winds [1] 61/19 | | |
| typically [1] 24/17 | 48/6 48/25 49/12 | wished [1] 33/17 | | |
| U | W | won't [1] 25/24 | | |
| Uh [4] 7/22 61/22 | wait [1] 24/18 | wondering [1] | | |
| 63/23 64/8 | waiting [1] 54/16 | 64/13 | | |
| Uh-huh [4] 7/22 | waive [3] 78/24 | word [1] 46/17 wording [1] 75/19 | | |
| 61/22 63/23 64/8 | 79/2 79/7 | words [1] 32/19 | | |
| under [4] 29/14 | want [16] 6/15 8/20 | working [1] 9/13 | | |
| 33/24 34/2 53/25 underneath [1] | 11/3 12/1 17/3 31/24 | works [2] 13/4 | | |
| 36/21 | 34/9 36/15 43/10 | 13/14 | | |
| understand [11] | 48/13 58/8 68/18 | Writ [1] 6/24 | | |
| 8/17 15/22 16/4 | 68/19 73/7 73/13 | writing [5] 23/15 | | |
| 16/14 20/7 52/20 | 75/1 | 52/7 54/8 59/9 60/23 | | |
| 56/8 66/20 76/5 | wanted [4] 41/1 68/25 69/7 75/10 | written [5] 52/11 | | |
| 76/24 77/3 | wasn't [1] 71/22 | 52/13 54/13 57/8 | | |
| understandable [1] | way [7] 8/16 9/7 | 60/20 | | |
| 17/19 | 12/3 16/17 46/15 | Y | | |
| understanding [4] | 46/18 49/16 | yard [2] 14/22 14/23 | | |
| 33/23 52/6 75/20 | Wayne [1] 36/9 | yeah [41] 6/21 | | |
| 77/6 understood [1] | Wayne Tekrony [1] | 10/18 11/9 11/13 | | |
| 32/19 | 36/9 | 14/11 15/9 16/23 | | |
| unique [1] 40/23 | ways [1] 53/2 | 17/3 17/16 17/20 | | |
| United [1] 35/18 | we'd [1] 28/9 | 23/17 23/21 24/8 | | |
| unrelated [3] 66/5 | we'll [2] 8/24 32/3 | 26/9 32/14 33/13 | | |
| 66/6 66/25 | we're [7] 6/23 9/13 10/13 26/10 26/11 | 33/25 34/25 37/22 | | |
| unrestricted [1] | 26/14 71/21 | 43/20 43/21 43/24 44/3 44/4 44/15 47/9 | | |
| 70/23 | we've [2] 19/19 | 49/25 51/21 53/16 | | |
| until [1] 64/5 | 66/6 | 54/23 55/7 55/24 | | |
| upon [1] 78/25 | , - | 3 1/23 33// 33/27 | | |