

Village of Rossville
Police, Health & Safety Committee Public Hearing
February 15, 2024
6:00 P.M.

Chairman Black and Trustee Cornell and Richison were physically present at the Public Hearing held at the Rossville Municipal Building, located at 120 East Attica Street in Rossville, Illinois. Trustee Gammon was present electronically. Clerk White was also in attendance. The purpose of the meeting was to provide general information and obtain public opinion regarding the proposed Compensation and Waiver of Siting Authority Agreement between Invenergy and the Village of Rossville and Jurisdiction in discussion.

Guests in attendance: Chief Greene, Officer Finley, Greg Vasilion and Andy Byars from Invenergy, Eric Thomas, Daniel & Michelle Maxwell, Chuck & Debbie Maxwell, Tom Beckner, Renae Ward, Mark Ward, Christina, Scott & Jason Tilman, Jeff Arseneau, Jan Morgan, Margarita Scharm-Payne, Kathryn Scharm, Todd Johnson, Kenny Perkins, Jason Hedgecock, Shawn Cade and Gene Roach.

Chairman Black read a description of a public hearing, only here to receive public opinion and no vote will be taken this evening.

Chairman Black informed attendees of the contents of the proposed Compensation and Waiver of Siting Authority Agreement between Invenergy and the Village of Rossville and Jurisdiction. Maps were provided to show the location of the proposed 4 wind turbines to be placed within the Rossville Zoning jurisdiction. Chairman Black explained the Village of Rossville has no ordinances established stating any zoning restrictions for wind turbines. The agreement basically grants Vermilion County permission to grant permits for the building of the wind turbines. Chairman Black requested the Village of Rossville to have final approval of the building locations. Chairman Black discussed procedures for any breach of the agreement. Invenergy is planning to build 75 wind turbines throughout Vermilion County if the plan is approved by all. The Village would be paid \$14,000 annually for the 4 turbines plus 5% increase during the life of the turbines. If the Village annexes in another area, the 4 wind turbines will still be allowed to be built in the agreed upon area. If the turbines are decommissioned the agreement terminates. Therefore, the Village will not take any material action or encourage anyone to take action, directly or indirectly with any governmental authority to oppose the issuance to the developer any permit, grant, right, application or similar governmental action related to the Project in any way. The Village also agrees that it will not limited to: transmission systems, substations, underground electrical collection systems or access roads located outside of the corporate limits of the

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Village. The agreement allows the wind turbine to be moved within 500 feet of the proposed site in case an obstruction is found.

Chairman Black opened the floor for public comments.

Eric Thomas, originally from Appalachia but now resides in Rossville, explained how the energy companies devastated his homeland when they entered his family's region.

Gene Roach asked why the Village Board is concerned about public opinion on this matter when the matter should have been brought in front of the Zoning Board. Trustee Black answered the Village Board has attempted to prepare an agreement that both parties can agree on but wanted the public's opinion on the matter so the Board can see how to proceed. Mr. Roach replied the Zoning Board of Appeals is who should be listening to public opinion on this matter then refer to the Board.

Ken Perkins asked what Rossville would gain from this agreement. Residents have high electric bills and are not benefiting from the wind turbines now. Mr. Perkins is not in favor of the turbines and would vote no on the matter.

Katherine Sharm and Marguerite Payne asked how the wind turbines will affect their property values, how will it affect people who live closest to the turbines with noise from the turbines and who benefits from the energy the turbines produce.

Greg Vasilion and Andy Byars stated the school districts would benefit most from the project since the benefit is received through tax dollars. The tax revenue is proportionate to how many turbines are located in the taxing bodies' district. Mr. Byars estimated the Rossville-Alvin school district would receive approximately \$1.8 million dollars over 30 years.

Mr. Vasilion attempted to explain the process if a wind turbine project is decommissioned. The company would be required to remove the wind turbine plus everything 5 feet below ground level.

Mayor Queen asked why our area? Mr. Byars stated the wind turbines can be placed on a landowner's property under consensual leasing. Property owners came to Invenergy to sign up for the program.

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Renee Ward stated the wind turbines affect the sun, kills birds that migrate through this area and if the turbines are built in the specified area, it would disrupt the established pair of eagles' hunting grounds.

Marguerite Sharm-Payne urged people to fight to protect the environment, for the wildlife and the beauty of this country. Mrs. Payne urged residents to not allow anyone to destroy their country and fight for the environment.

Debbie Maxwell asked if there are any provisions to prevent liens to be placed on the properties where the project is built in case the contractors don't pay their bills. Mr. Vasilion stated there are indemnity clauses in the agreement to protect the property owners.

Motion was made by Jones, seconded by Richison to adjourn the public hearing. Vote: Black, yes; Cornell, yes; Richison, yes. The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris White
Village Clerk

Board approved 3/13/2024