STATE OF ILLINOIS PIATT COUNTY ZONING BOARD

GOOSE CREEK WIND, LLC APPLICATION FOR A SPECIAL USE PERMIT

02/02/2023 6:00 P.M. - 8:30 P.M.

PIATT COUNTY ZONING OFFICER:
Keri Nusbaum

HEARING FACILITATOR:
Scott Kains, Esq.

PIATT COUNTY ZONING BOARD MEMBERS:
Loyd Wax - Chairman
William Chambers
Jim Harrington
Kyle Lovin
Dan Larson

PIATT COUNTY BOARD MEMBERS:
Jerry Edwards
Paul Foran
Michael Beem

COUNSEL FOR THE PIATT COUNTY BOARD: Andrew J. Keyt, Esq.

COUNSEL FOR THE APPLICANT:
Ben Jacobi, Esq.

APPLICANT - APEX CLEAN ENERGY:

Jerald Hess, Associate Counsel

Alan Moore, Senior Project Manager

COURT REPORTER: Holly Wingstrom, CSR, RPR, CRR

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1 MR. WAX: Welcome. Glad you're here. Can
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- 2 we have rollcall, please?
- 3 MS. NUSBAUM: Mr. Larson?
- 4 MR. LARSON: Here.
- 5 MS. NUSBAUM: Mr. Harrington?
- 6 MR. HARRINGTON: Here.
- 7 MS. NUSBAUM: Mr. Lovin?
- 8 MR. LOVIN: Here.
- 9 MS. NUSBAUM: Mr. Wax?
- MR. WAX: Here.
- MS. NUSBAUM: Mr. Chambers?
- MR. CHAMBERS: Here.
- MR. WAX: Please call the county board.
- MS. NUSBAUM: Mr. Henricks?
- Mr. Edwards?
- MR. EDWARDS: Here.
- MS. NUSBAUM: Mr. Beem?
- MR. BEEM: Here.
- MS. NUSBAUM: Ms. Jones?
- Ms. Piatt?
- 21 Mr. Foran?
- MR. FORAN: Here.
- MR. WAX: Thank you.
- MR. KAINS: Good evening, ladies and

3

- 1 gentlemen. This is what we expect to be the
- 2 timeline of this public hearing.
- 3
 I'm trying to remember how many sessions
- 4 we've had. Seventeen, perhaps maybe 18.
- 5 Anybody keep track?
- 6 Seventeen. And we are in the process of
- 7 the board considering the draft findings of fact
- 8 prepared by Mr. Keyt, and we are on the first factor
- 9 that the board is to consider under the ordinance,
- 10 and there are various topics that Mr. Keyt has
- 11 delineated under the first factor, and we are on the
- 12 topic now of shadow flicker.
- 13 Mr. Keyt?
- MR. KEYT: Okay. As you recall, we were
- going through the shadow flicker, the finding of
- 16 facts that are on the screen, page 14, of the draft,
- findings of fact, shadow flicker starts there.
- 18 I would suggest we take shadow flicker
- 19 through the end of that page and see if there are
- any suggested changes, additions or revisions.
- MR. WAX: Anybody have anything?
- 22 Any of the board members have any comments
- 23 or suggestions concerning the entire shadow flicker
- 24 portion?

- 1 MR. CHAMBERS: None here.
- 2 MR. LOVIN: No.
- MR. WAX: Anyone have any objections to
- 4 the way it's written at this time?
- 5 MR. KEYT: Okay. Next, over to page 15.
- 6 The top is a continuation of shadow flicker. Any
- 7 changes to those two first paragraphs on page 15?
- 8 This would be the section Shadow Flicker Evidence
- 9 in Support of Objectors.
- MR. WAX: You are just wanting a reply on
- 11 those two paragraphs on the top of 15; is that
- 12 correct?
- MR. KEYT: Yep.
- MR. WAX: Okay. We are in agreement.
- 15 They are fine.
- MR. KEYT: Okay. Next topic is
- 17 Environmental (Wildlife, Avian and Bats). It starts
- on page 15. It continues on through page 16 and
- 19 through half of page 17. I would suggest that we
- take the material on page 15, under Environmental,
- 21 and see if there's any changes, revisions or
- 22 suggestions.
- MR. WAX: At this time, we are going to
- talk about just page 15?

- 1 MR. KEYT: Page 15, Environmental, to the
- 2 end of page 15.
- MR. WAX: Okay. Mr. Keyt, could I ask a
- 4 question for clarification here?
- 5 MR. KEYT: Absolutely.
- 6 MR. WAX: On the last two paragraphs,
- 7 explain this, turbines will be curtailed at wind
- 8 speeds up to 5 meters per second during the period
- 9 of risk.
- 10 Does that mean external -- during external
- 11 wind speeds then up to five meters per second the
- 12 turbines will be slowed down or curtailed so that
- there is no damage? Is that correct?
- MR. KEYT: Correct.
- MR. WAX: So, after it reaches greater
- than five meters per second, apparently there is no
- 17 curtailment? Or am I misreading this thing?
- MR. KEYT: I believe the recommendation
- 19 from IDNR -- and I would be happy to check -- the
- 20 recommendation is to curtail at wind speeds up to
- 21 five meters per second. So, if it's over, it would
- 22 not be curtailed.
- MR. WAX: Pardon me?
- 24 MR. KEYT: If it was over, it would not be

- 1 curtailed.
- 2 MR. WAX: Okay. I am not entirely sure if
- 3 I get the logic, but if the IDNR put forward that
- 4 recommendation, I don't see any reason why we have
- 5 better knowledge.
- 6 What do you think, Jim?
- 7 MR. HARRINGTON: I agree with you. It
- 8 seems a little counterintuitive. I guess, is there
- 9 anything else you would want to add to that, or what
- 10 are your thoughts?
- 11 MR. KEYT: I wouldn't add anything beyond
- what the IDNR recommendation was. I am happy to
- 13 check to make sure that that recommendation is
- 14 correct.
- MR. WAX: I just don't understand the
- logic, but they clearly know a whole heck of a lot
- more about it than I do.
- 18 MR. KEYT: I don't want to speak for them,
- 19 but I understand what you are saying.
- MR. WAX: Other than that, are we okay?
- MR. LARSON: Okay. Good.
- MR. LOVIN: Yeah.
- MR. WAX: I think we are okay with it.
- 24 MR. KEYT: Then the next page would be

- 1 page 16. It's a continuation of the same topic. I
- 2 would suggest that we take that page in its
- 3 entirety. Most of these are recommendations from
- 4 IDNR.
- 5 MR. WAX: Are there any concerns or
- 6 suggestions from the zoning board members?
- 7 MR. CHAMBERS: I have one small one. On
- 8 the bald eagle section, we've got all the species is
- 9 likely to occur in the project area. I think we've
- 10 got enough -- we've had testimony and pictures from
- 11 within the project area of bald eagles in the
- 12 project area, so I'd just change that from "likely"
- 13 to "known" to occur.
- MR. KEYT: What I would suggest is -- what
- 15 I would suggest is we could add something under the
- evidence in favor of objectors, which is on the next
- page, or we could put in a sentence after that
- 18 indicating that there has been evidence to the
- 19 contrary, that there's bald eagles -- there's
- 20 photographs of bald eagles within, however you want
- 21 to phrase it. If you think it's in the project area
- 22 --
- MR. CHAMBERS: So, do you want to keep
- this language in as to what the IDNR is below?

- 1 MR. KEYT: So, what I would say is, if you
- 2 want to add a sentence at the end, indicating there
- 3 has been photographic evidence or evidence -- there
- 4 has been evidence submitted of eagles within what
- 5 area you would like to include?
- The project area; is that right?
- 7 MR. CHAMBERS: Yeah.
- 8 MR. WAX: Okay. I will.
- 9 MR. CHAMBERS: Yeah.
- MR. HARRINGTON: So, what did we end up
- 11 with in the end there?
- MR. WAX: Could you restate that so we can
- 13 fully understand what changes were made?
- MR. KEYT: Give me one second. I am
- 15 scratching out the response here. My suggested last
- sentence to page 16, on the bullet point on bald
- 17 eagles, would be a sentence that states: However,
- 18 there has been evidence of bald eagles within the
- 19 project area submitted.
- MR. HARRINGTON: That's in place of there
- 21 are no bald eagle nests? That is what you are
- 22 saying?
- 23 MR. KEYT: I would add a sentence at the
- end as opposed to replacing the sentence.

- 1 MR. HARRINGTON: You are adding it?
- MR. KEYT: Yeah. I think, for clarity,
- 3 perhaps it should read: However, there has been
- 4 evidence submitted of bald eagles within the project
- 5 area.
- 6 MR. HARRINGTON: I guess I would also want
- 7 to suggest the editorial of maybe there are no bald
- 8 eagle nests currently within the project area. Do
- 9 you have any issue with that?
- MR. KEYT: I don't.
- MR. HARRINGTON: Okay. That would be my
- 12 suggestion.
- MR. LARSON: Would you want the same on
- that last sentence, too, last thing on the page?
- MR. HARRINGTON: Right. Good point.
- 16 Yeah. I would agree with that.
- MR. WAX: I'm not sure I caught that.
- MR. HARRINGTON: Run it by them again.
- MR. LARSON: If we are going to do that,
- 20 we might as well add "currently" to the last
- 21 sentence of the page also.
- MR. HARRINGTON: Referring to the
- 23 statement that says there were no occupied eagle
- 24 nests within a two-mile buffer of the project,

- 1 right, Dan?
- 2 MR. LARSON: Right.
- 3 MR. HARRINGTON: And you are just saying
- 4 edit that to say currently there are no occupied
- 5 nests within it?
- 6 MR. LARSON: If we are doing one, we ought
- 7 to do them both.
- 8 MR. HARRINGTON: I gotcha.
- 9 MR. KEYT: Okay.
- MR. WAX: Okay. Anything else?
- MR. LARSON: No.
- MR. HARRINGTON: Yeah. I do have one
- more.
- MR. WAX: Go ahead.
- MR. HARRINGTON: In regards to the subject
- 16 matter or upland sandpiper, Andy, looking through
- 17 that, as you moved through that, verbiage, start off
- 18 with: If construction activities for linear
- 19 facilities occur during the breeding season,
- 20 suitable habitat will either be removed prior to
- 21 April 15 (mowed) or nest surveys will be conducted
- by a biological monitor to determine if upland
- 23 sandpiper nests are present.
- We sort of have a question as to exactly

- 1 are we clear for future people to review this and
- 2 say, well, who and when is that occurring? How do
- 3 we see that working?
- 4 MR. KEYT: Yeah, that is a good question.
- 5 But it's an IDNR recommendation, so it's hard.
- 6 Other than the recommendation that came,
- 7 it's hard to know what is in the mind of IDNR.
- 8 MR. HARRINGTON: Right. I guess that is
- 9 what I am driving at. If IDNR made the suggestion,
- 10 how are we going to facilitate that as a county?
- 11 How does this work?
- MR. KEYT: Well, that would be part of the
- 13 recommendations that were placed in the conditions.
- So, if you remember the wildlife portion,
- paragraph 31 of the conditions, it states: The
- 16 company shall comply with all current or future
- 17 requirements and all current recommendations from
- 18 IDNR.
- MR. HARRINGTON: So, in that case, we are
- saying the company will facilitate that?
- MR. KEYT: Yes.
- MR. HARRINGTON: Is there anything wrong
- with maybe restating that here?
- MR. KEYT: You could.

- 1 MR. HARRINGTON: Or maybe a comment that
- 2 refers to the condition.
- MR. KEYT: You could refer potentially to
- 4 the conditions, but typically the conditions are
- 5 separate from the findings.
- 6 MR. HARRINGTON: Okay.
- 7 MR. KEYT: But that is what I would -- I
- 8 wouldn't necessarily repeat it there because it's
- 9 already there in the conditions if it's approved.
- MR. HARRINGTON: So you feel we are
- 11 covered in that regard?
- MR. KEYT: I think you are covered in that
- 13 regard.
- MR. WAX: Are you okay with what we have
- 15 so far?
- 16 Will?
- We are in agreement with what we have put
- 18 together so far.
- MR. KEYT: Okay. So that covers
- 20 paragraph 16 or -- I am sorry -- page 16.
- Then, going to page 17, starting at the
- top of the page and going down to the paragraph that
- 23 starts with Physical Safety Issues, I think this is
- 24 a continuation of the environmental. So, if you

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1 take those first four paragraphs there and consider
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- 2 those.
- MR. WAX: Do we have any comments or
- 4 suggestions from board members?
- 5 None here?
- None here?
- 7 None here?
- 8 We are okay with that.
- 9 MR. KEYT: Okay. That will then take us
- 10 to Physical Safety Issues starting on page 17. I
- would suggest just taking the rest of the page 17.
- MR. WAX: How we doing?
- 13 Are there any comments or suggestions by
- 14 board members?
- MR. HARRINGTON: Pretty minor. The only
- 16 thing I would maybe suggest, Andy -- correct me if I
- 17 am wrong -- the sentence right before your
- 18 clarification testimony in regards to the risk
- 19 assessment found, that is Dr. Rogers' risk
- 20 assessment, correct?
- MR. KEYT: Correct.
- MR. HARRINGTON: The only thing I would
- ask or suggest is we just say Dr. Jonathan Rogers'
- 24 risk assessment found instead of the --

- 1 MR. KEYT: So, last sentence of that full
- 2 paragraph that starts the risk assessment found, you
- 3 want it to say, for clarification, Dr. Jonathan
- 4 Rogers' risk assessment?
- 5 MR. HARRINGTON: Instead of the word
- 6 "this."
- 7 MR. KEYT: Gotcha.
- 8 MR. LARSON: I got a couple minor things,
- 9 too.
- 10 MS. NUSBAUM: There is also a typo in
- 11 there where it says exceptionally rare (about in
- 12 10,000 turbines), I think we are missing a number in
- 13 there.
- MR. KEYT: I think it was 1 in about -- I
- think it was 1 in about 10,000.
- 16 MR. LARSON: And on the last two bullet
- points they both say nonparticipating homes.
- MR. WAX: Yeah.
- MR. LARSON: Or maybe that should be like
- 20 that, I guess.
- MR. CHAMBERS: I think that is correct.
- MR. KEYT: I think that is correct.
- MR. LARSON: I was thinking of homes when
- 24 I saw that.

- 1 MR. KEYT: There is a differentiation
- 2 between homes and properties.
- 3 MR. LARSON: I see. Yeah.
- 4 MR. WAX: How are you changing that
- 5 particular wording?
- 6 MR. KEYT: I don't think -- the one
- 7 sentence we have that starts with "the risk
- 8 assessment found" is now going to read "Dr. Jonathan
- 9 Rogers' risk assessment found," and the rest of that
- 10 sentence remains the same.
- I think there was a question about the
- first two bullet points talking about the risk
- impact from an ice fragment to nonparticipating
- 14 homes.
- I think the question was whether both of
- those are supposed to read as homes as opposed to
- one reading as homes and one reading as properties.
- 18 I think it is correct as is because there
- was a differentiation in the risk assessment between
- 20 homes and properties I believe. So, I believe it's
- 21 correct.
- MR. LARSON: You are right.
- 23 MR. KEYT: But it's ultimately the zoning
- 24 board's call.

- 1 MR. WAX: What was the conclusion? What
- 2 did you do about the comment about rare in about
- 3 10,000 turbines? Did you make some change there?
- 4 MR. KEYT: Yeah. In that paren, I added
- 5 "1 in."
- 6 MR. WAX: Yeah, okay.
- 7 MR. KEYT: The number 1 in about 10,000
- 8 turbines experience.
- 9 Anything else?
- MR. HARRINGTON: No. I don't have
- 11 anything.
- MR. CHAMBERS: No.
- MR. WAX: We don't have anything else.
- MR. KEYT: Okay. That takes us over to
- page 18. I would take page 18 in its entirety
- 16 there. It might take a little bit, but it's all on
- 17 the same topic.
- MR. WAX: Any suggested changes, concerns
- 19 from the board members?
- 20 MR. LOVIN: Yeah. The second bullet point
- down, the risk of impact from blade throw is an even
- smaller risk (1 in 10,000,000 years), do we know
- what that blade impact is referring to? property?
- 24 house? road? Everything else has it listed.

- 1 MR. KEYT: Yeah. I don't know, without
- 2 going back and looking at it. I could look at it
- 3 during a break and clarify it.
- 4 MR. LOVIN: Thank you.
- 5 MR. WAX: Anything else?
- 6 MR. HARRINGTON: No.
- 7 MR. CHAMBERS: I had one toward the bottom
- 8 here where the second-to-last paragraph mentions
- 9 testimony regarding fire risk and goes through that.
- 10 What's missing out of that is testimony
- about cropland fire risk, so not just fire risk to
- 12 the turbine itself but to dry cropland that is
- 13 around the turbine.
- MR. KEYT: So, under the portion that
- 15 starts Physical Safety Evidence in Favor of
- Objectors, is that where you are?
- MR. CHAMBERS: Yeah.
- 18 MR. KEYT: So, if you go down: There was
- 19 testimony regarding fire risk of wind turbines,
- 20 though not necessarily specific to Vestas.
- 21 Where do you want to put that information?
- MR. CHAMBERS: So probably immediately
- 23 after that paragraph. Note that there was
- 24 additional testimony given about concerns for

- 1 cropland fire and the spread and containment of any
- 2 cropland fire.
- 3 MR. KEYT: Okay.
- 4 MR. CHAMBERS: That was all I have.
- 5 MR. KEYT: Okay. So, I added a sentence
- 6 at the end of that paragraph that reads: There was
- 7 additional evidence regarding the risk to cropland
- 8 -- I am going to say risk of cropland fire and
- 9 containment of same.
- MR. CHAMBERS: Correct.
- 11 MR. KEYT: Okay. I'll just add that to
- 12 the end of the paragraph, if that make sense.
- MR. WAX: Okay. Are we okay with that?
- MR. HARRINGTON: I am good with that.
- MR. WAX: Okay. We are okay with that
- 16 page.
- MR. KEYT: Okay. That takes us to the top
- of page 19. There is some additional information
- 19 there. This one is about the Mahomet Aquifer.
- 20 There is -- I would suggest we take that redlined
- 21 paragraph by itself.
- It reads right now: One of the primary
- 23 physical safety issues is the utilization of water
- from the Mahomet Aquifer. Applicant submitted no

- 1 evidence of draw-down studies related to the batch
- 2 plant or laydown yard. This is significant as it is
- 3 unknown whether the water usage from the batch plant
- 4 will have a negative impact on the surrounding
- 5 owners. Applicant submitted no experts to attest
- 6 the issue.
- 7 I believe that is largely accurate or it
- 8 is accurate, but I would suggest there was -- I
- 9 think Mr. Carlson testified that there would not be
- 10 a negative impact on the water. So, you could add a
- 11 clause that says, after that first or the second
- 12 sentence: Applicant submitted no evidence of
- draw-down studies related to the batch plant or
- 14 laydown yard but did provide layperson testimony
- 15 that there would not be a negative impact.
- 16 Up to the board, but that would be the one
- addition that would be possible if the board wanted
- 18 to include something like that.
- MR. WAX: Do you like that?
- MR. HARRINGTON: I'm good with the way
- 21 you've got it.
- MR. KEYT: Okay. So, on that paragraph,
- leave as is?
- MR. HARRINGTON: That's what I am saying.

- 1 Yeah.
- 2 MR. WAX: I am okay with it.
- 3 MR. LARSON: I'm good with it.
- 4 MR. WAX: You okay with that, Will?
- 5 MR. CHAMBERS: Yeah. I am fine with it.
- 6 MR. WAX: Okay. We are okay with that
- 7 paragraph.
- 8 MR. KEYT: The next paragraph deals with
- 9 the Federal Aviation Administration Compliance.
- 10 There are two paragraphs there on page 19.
- 11 Any suggested changes or revisions to
- 12 those two paragraphs under the FAA Compliance
- 13 portion?
- MR. HARRINGTON: I am good.
- MR. WAX: Any problems with that?
- MR. LOVIN: No.
- MR. LARSON: No.
- MR. WAX: We agree that section is okay.
- MR. KEYT: All right. There is another
- 20 paragraph on Cultural Resources. Any changes to
- 21 that paragraph?
- MR. WAX: We are okay with that one.
- MR. KEY: All right. The next section
- deals with Decommissioning. It starts on page 19

- 1 and continues on to page 20. I would suggest we
- 2 take the remainder of page 19.
- 3 MR. HARRINGTON: I don't have any.
- 4 MR. WAX: No problems with that.
- 5 MR. KEYT: Okay. Next page is page 20.
- 6 It is a continuation of decommissioning. I would
- 7 suggest we take Decommissioning, the first paragraph
- 8 of page 20.
- 9 MR. WAX: Do the board members have any
- 10 suggestions, concerns or issue with this section
- 11 that we are considering?
- 12 MR. HARRINGTON: I do not.
- MR. WAX: We have none.
- MR. KEYT: All right. Then there is a
- 15 section on Additional Findings. There are two other
- 16 factors listed in your zoning code: 1.) To assure
- that any development and production of wind-energy
- 18 generated electricity in Piatt County is safe and
- 19 effective and to facilitate economic opportunities
- 20 for local residents.
- 21 And then a final sentence there that says:
- These factors are addressed in the findings herein
- 23 by application of these factors.
- 24 Any changes to that portion of the

- 1 findings?
- 2 MR. WAX: Any concerns, suggestions by the
- 3 board members?
- 4 MR. HARRINGTON: In regards to just the
- 5 additional findings you are saying?
- 6 MR. WAX: Yes.
- 7 MR. HARRINGTON: No. I do not.
- 8 MR. WAX: We have no concerns.
- 9 MR. KEYT: Okay. For clarity's sake, we
- 10 are going to go through all of the factors -- I am
- 11 sorry -- all of the evidence first and set the
- 12 findings of fact because some of the findings apply
- 13 across different factors. Then we'll come back and
- 14 address each factor and whether the applicant has
- 15 met the factor itself, okay? Just for
- 16 clarification.
- 17 So that would then take us to factor
- 18 number 2 which starts in with Property Values. That
- is on page 20. So, from Property Values, those
- 20 first paragraphs there at the end of page 20,
- 21 changes or additions there?
- MR. WAX: Do we have concerns regarding
- the last two paragraphs on page 20?
- MR. CHAMBERS: I just have a typo for you.

- 1 Above Property Values there where the factors are
- 2 listed, that last part of the factor about
- 3 diminished property "valued" should be "values"
- 4 within the neighborhood.
- 5 MR. KEYT: Okay. Any other changes or
- 6 additions? Suggested revisions?
- 7 MR. WAX: We are okay with that.
- 8 MR. KEYT: That takes us to page 21,
- 9 continuation of Property Values. Quite a bit of
- information there, but any suggested changes or
- 11 additions there?
- MR. WAX: How far down do you want us to
- 13 consider?
- MR. KEYT: I would suggest just taking the
- whole page.
- MR. WAX: Okay.
- MR. KAINS: Usually people want them blown
- 18 up. There you go. Thank you.
- MR. WAX: Any concerns?
- MR. HARRINGTON: Pretty minor. In regards
- 21 to paragraph 2, all the way down, towards the
- bottom, in the sentence beginning: Wind turbine
- leases can add value to agricultural land.
- 24 And then there is a "; and". I don't

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1 think we want to leave that in there, do we?
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- And assessors, does that all go together?
- 3 MR. KEYT: The way it's written now is
- 4 wind turbine leases can add value to agricultural
- 5 land; and assessor surveys do not reflect...
- 6 You want to remove the semicolon?
- 7 MR. HARRINGTON: I am not interpreting
- 8 that those two sentences go together. Do they?
- 9 MR. KEYT: Well, I think it's just a
- 10 matter of being within the list.
- 11 MR. HARRINGTON: Okay.
- MR. KEYT: So, if you take the first part
- of that paragraph where it starts, "The results of
- 14 marketing impact analysis he undertook found the
- following:" and it just bullet points each one
- separated by a semicolon.
- MR. HARRINGTON: I am saying do we want to
- 18 get rid of the "and" so it doesn't lead someone at a
- 19 later date to believe there is some other piece of
- information there, to that statement? But it's to
- 21 your preference.
- MR. KEYT: Okay. It's up to the board.
- 23 Do you want to remove "and"? We can remove it.
- MR. HARRINGTON: I would suggest we remove

- 1 it. It's up to you guys.
- 2 MR. CHAMBERS: I think the way it's
- 3 written is grammatically correct. I don't see an
- 4 issue if you move it.
- 5 MR. WAX: What do you want to do,
- 6 gentlemen?
- 7 MR. CHAMBERS: I am okay with leaving it
- 8 as is.
- 9 MR. WAX: Okay.
- MR. HARRINGTON: There you go.
- 11 MR. WAX: I don't have a serious problem
- 12 with it, but I think the sentence starting "Goose
- 13 Creek Wind will create well-paid jobs in the area
- 14 which will benefit overall housing market demand," I
- think that is a stretch myself, but I am not going
- 16 to make a big issue out of it.
- MR. HARRINGTON: I agree with you. I
- 18 don't agree with that.
- 19 MR. LARSON: There is no evidence of that.
- 20 MR. WAX: I doubt there is evidence to
- 21 show that in this area.
- MR. KEYT: Do you want to remove the
- 23 sentence?
- MR. WAX: What are your feelings,

- 1 gentlemen?
- I don't feel strongly about it. I just
- 3 have serious doubts about it. I'll leave it up to
- 4 the group here.
- 5 MR. LOVIN: I think it could create some
- 6 well-paid jobs in the area, but that doesn't mean
- 7 it's going to benefit the overall housing marketing
- 8 demand.
- 9 MR. WAX: I agree.
- 10 MR. LARSON: So, cut it off after the
- "well-paid jobs."
- 12 MR. LOVIN: Cut it off after the
- "well-paid jobs."
- MR. WAX: Do you like the idea of leaving
- out -- leaving out "benefit overall housing market
- 16 demand"?
- 17 MR. HARRINGTON: I think that is what we
- 18 are saying.
- MR. WAX: What about it, Will?
- MR. CHAMBERS: Yeah. I would be okay with
- leaving the well-paying jobs in there and then the
- 22 area and taking off the market demand part.
- MR. WAX: Okay.
- MR. KEYT: Okay.

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1 MR. WAX: Rest of that okay?
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- 2 MR. HARRINGTON: Yeah.
- MR. WAX: We are okay with the rest of
- 4 that portion.
- 5 MR. KEYT: So, that would conclude
- 6 paragraph 21 -- or I am sorry -- page 21.
- 7 MR. CHAMBERS: I have one thing that kind
- 8 of runs from the end of 21 and a little bit into 22.
- 9 So, the last paragraph, which details the testimony
- 10 about -- mostly about financial security and
- 11 personal income from the leaseholders, and that runs
- onto page 22 there, where it states, "The payments
- to the landowners will total up to \$210 million over
- 30 years," I would say that this section isn't
- 15 relevant to property value. It's talking about the
- income of the leaseholder. So, I believe this
- 17 section would be better moved to a different
- section; probably the economic impact section I
- 19 believe.
- MR. KEYT: So, it sounds like, rather than
- 21 removing it out of the document, you want to move it
- 22 within the document to the Financial Impact section,
- 23 under factor number 1.
- MR. CHAMBERS: Correct.

- 1 MR. KEYT: Which is?
- THE COURT: Pages 8 and 9, Andy.
- MR. KEYT: Yeah. Pages 8 and 9. It
- 4 probably would make most sense on page 9, the last
- 5 paragraph of those Financial Impact Studies -
- 6 Evidence in Favor of Applicant and just put it right
- 7 above the italicized portion that states Financial
- 8 Impacts Evidence in Favor of Objectors, and just
- 9 put it at the end of that section for the evidence
- in favor of applicant.
- MR. CHAMBERS: Correct. I would be good
- 12 with that.
- And then another paragraph that's the same
- 14 type of testimony would be the third paragraph up
- from the bottom on page 21, John Jordan's testimony
- 16 about wind farm and sending his grandkids to
- 17 college, and it's noted in here, well, perhaps not a
- 18 direct property value issue. If removing the other
- one, I think that one would also go with it.
- 20 MR. KEYT: Okay. It would be moved and
- 21 then edited to where you wouldn't have to have the
- sentence in there about it not being a property
- 23 value issue, since it would then be in a different
- 24 section.

- Okay. That paragraph would read: John
- 2 Jordan testified to his history on his farm in
- 3 Mansfield, Illinois. He indicates the wind farm
- 4 would allow him to send his grandkids to college.
- 5 And that would be the end of that
- 6 paragraph?
- 7 MR. CHAMBERS: Correct.
- 8 MR. KEYT: And that paragraph and the last
- 9 paragraph on page 21 and the very top of page 22
- need to be moved to different sections on page 9.
- 11 Yeah. Okay. Are we ready for page 22?
- 12 Everybody good with the changes on page 21?
- MR. WAX: I think so. We are in agreement
- 14 with the changes up to that time.
- MR. KEYT: Okay. Then there is Property
- 16 Value Information Evidence in Support of
- 17 Objectors.
- We would then take the remainder of
- 19 page 22. There's a couple of typographical errors
- 20 that I need to note.
- One, the very last -- I am sorry -- in the
- second-to-last paragraph, I have realtor misspelled,
- 23 and then also realtor friend should have a plural.
- 24 MS. NUSSBAUM: I think that is another

- 1 area that Sandra Coile's name is misspelled.
- 2 MR. KEYT: Correct. Yes.
- MR. WAX: Board Members, do we have
- 4 suggestions, changes, concerns?
- 5 MR. HARRINGTON: Yeah, I think in that
- first paragraph, I believe it's the third sentence
- 7 in his report that concludes that properties, I
- 8 would suggest we clarify that and say that
- 9 residential properties within the wind farm
- 10 footprint will experience 35 percent -- correct me,
- Andy, that that is what he's trying to say because
- then, later on in this paragraph, he repeats and
- 13 says agricultural properties within the footprint
- 14 would experience an 8.5 percent decrease; is that
- 15 correct?
- 16 MR. KEYT: I believe that is correct.
- MR. HARRINGTON: So, I think that is why
- 18 we ought to have that.
- MR. KEYT: Yeah. Okay.
- 20 MR. HARRINGTON: To that point, I don't
- 21 know if you want to clarify the next one that,
- 22 semicolon, those within a mile. I don't know if you
- 23 need to clarify that also or not. Hopefully,
- 24 including "residential" will encompass that, I

- 1 quess.
- 2 MR. KEYT: Yeah. We could just state, for
- 3 clarification, those residential properties within
- 4 one mile.
- 5 MR. HARRINGTON: Probably a good idea.
- 6 MR. WAX: Any suggestions?
- 7 MR. LARSON: I just got one question.
- 8 MR. WAX: Yes.
- 9 MR. LARSON: On the Hardtke thing, was
- 10 that his home or just another home?
- MR. KEYT: I don't think it was his home,
- 12 but I don't know for sure.
- MR. LARSON: Okay. For some reason, I was
- 14 thinking it was his home, but I could be wrong.
- MR. CHAMBERS: I have one clarity
- 16 suggestion here. So, on the second-to-last
- paragraph, Sandra Coile's testimony referring to
- discussions she had with a realtor friend of hers
- 19 indicated that -- I believe the testimony she gave
- 20 she had spoken with both Russ Taylor and Steve
- 21 Littlefield, which are both owners of a real estate
- 22 practice. So, I think, for clarity, it would be
- 23 however we would do this but to note the
- 24 qualification level of those individuals rather than

- 1 just stating a realtor friend.
- 2 MR. KEYT: So, are you wanting to include
- 3 their names?
- 4 MR. CHAMBERS: Yes. I think that would do
- 5 it.
- 6 MR. KEYT: So, we could add "Sandra Coile
- 7 provided testimony regarding discussions she had
- 8 with" -- I think there were multiple ones --
- 9 "realtor friends of hers that indicated" -- so after
- 10 realtor friends of hers, probably open parens --
- 11 (Russ Taylor and Steve Littlefield).
- MR. CHAMBERS: Yeah.
- 13 Mr. Wax: Anything else?
- MR. HARRINGTON: That's all I have.
- MR. CHAMBERS: No.
- MR. WAX: We are okay with it then.
- MR. KEYT: Okay. That concludes page 22.
- Page 23, I think there is a very small
- 19 clause there at the top trailing off from the
- 20 paragraph. I think I will take that page as a
- 21 whole, if the board is okay with that, page 23.
- MR. WAX: At this point are we considering
- 23 the entire page of Transmission Interference?
- MR. KEYT: Correct. Up to the board, but

- 1 that is what I suggested.
- 2 MR. WAX: Okay.
- 3 Looking okay so far?
- 4 MR. HARRINGTON: Yeah.
- 5 MR. WAX: Will?
- 6 MR. CHAMBERS: Yeah.
- 7 MR. WAX: I think we are okay with that
- 8 section.
- 9 MR. KEYT: That is page 23.
- 10 Page 24 is a continuation of the
- 11 transmission information. So, if you take that down
- 12 to factor number 3, so page 24, top of the page, to
- about three quarters of the page where factor
- 14 number 3 begins, I believe there was one suggestion.
- By the way, in the redlined portion at the
- 16 bottom of that section, where it states "In
- 17 addition, there is evidence that there could be
- 18 interference with weather radar," I believe there
- 19 was a suggestion from one of the board members to
- 20 include "there could be interference with weather
- 21 radar to include tornado detection."
- MR. HARRINGTON: We are okay.
- 23 MR. WAX: We are okay with that section.
- 24 MR. KEYT: Okay. That takes us to factor

- 1 number 3. Factor number 3 --
- 2 MR. CHAMBERS: For clarity, that section,
- 3 are we good with that section, with the addition of
- 4 the --
- 5 MR. KEYT: So, making sure that everyone
- 6 is good with the addition that I read that is not on
- 7 the hardcopy that you have, that redlined portion
- 8 that states, "In addition, there is evidence that
- 9 there could be interference with weather radar," I
- 10 believe a suggestion of weather radar, including
- 11 tornado detection," if everybody is good with that
- 12 to include that.
- MR. CHAMBERS: Yep.
- MR. KEYT: Okay. Then the next factor
- 15 would be factor number 3. Most of the evidence here
- is incorporated from factors 1, 2 and 4 through 7,
- 17 the other factors. Is there any additional
- 18 evidence/findings that the board would like to make
- 19 under factor number 3 that are not already
- incorporated in the other sections?
- 21 MR. WAX: In other words, does anyone have
- 22 any suggestions of anything to add in this section
- 23 other than the reference back to factors 1 and 2 and
- 4 to 7 are also applicable here? Do you have

- 1 anything?
- 2 Are you okay with that?
- 3 MR. LARSON: Uh-huh.
- 4 MR. HARRINGTON: Yeah, I am good with
- 5 using the information that is considered for 3.
- 6 MR. WAX: Okay. We are okay with 3.
- 7 MR. KEYT: Okay. Then that takes us down
- 8 to factor number 4, which starts on page 24. It's
- 9 just listing of the factor. Then it leaves -- the
- substance of it starts on page 25, and the entirety
- of that is on page 25, so I would suggest taking the
- 12 entirety of page 25.
- MR. WAX: Do we have suggestions/concerns
- 14 from the board?
- 15 MR. HARRINGTON: What do we think about
- 16 Applicant has indicated and is working with both
- 17 local drainage authorities on coming to a working
- 18 agreement with those entities?
- Is that what we want to say, or do we want
- 20 to say they had submitted a proposal?
- 21 Maybe you are good with what you got. I
- don't know.
- MR. WAX: My personal look at this thing
- is that, yes, technically it is not required;

- 1 however, I admit to being disappointed that no
- 2 evidence of any degree of progress was presented to
- 3 this board. I am not saying it's required. I am
- 4 just saying I think this group felt that we did not
- 5 get significant input as to what is going on at all
- 6 or what is intended.
- 7 MR. LARSON: Maybe we could add that.
- MR. WAX: Pardon me?
- 9 MR. LARSON: Maybe we could add that to
- 10 the last of it.
- MR. KEYT: It's up to the board. If it's
- 12 not required, it may not be particularly relevant,
- 13 but it's okay to include it.
- MR. HARRINGTON: It's not required as says
- the SUP, but it does say it's required prior to the
- 16 construction permit, correct?
- 17 MR. KEYT: Yeah, correct.
- 18 MR. HARRINGTON: So, it is sort of
- 19 required as all of these items have been denoted,
- 20 right?
- MR. KEYT: Yeah.
- MR. HARRINGTON: So, maybe that is where
- 23 you craft your statement -- right? -- and you say
- "To date, the zoning board is unaware of any

- 1 progress in this regard; however, it is still
- 2 required prior to the issuance of a" -- I notice we
- 3 use building permit in some cases and construction
- 4 in others, so I don't know which one you are wanting
- 5 to go with.
- 6 MR. WAX: I think you are going in the
- 7 right direction there. It is just a matter of it
- 8 makes it kind of tough and you have to have kind of
- 9 faith that everything is going to work out right
- 10 because we don't have a lot of good evidence to date
- 11 that there is much progress if any.
- MR. KEYT: So, a potential sentence for
- the ZBA to consider would be "The Zoning Board of
- 14 Appeals was not provided evidence of progress, if
- any, on this issue."
- MR. WAX: That's reasonable. Okay.
- 17 MR. CHAMBERS: With the additional note
- 18 that that was not required for the special use
- 19 permit but would be required for a building permit
- or prior to the issuance of a building permit.
- 21 MR. KEYT: Okay. So I added a third
- sentence to that paragraph that would say, "For the
- 23 ZBA's consideration, though not required for the
- 24 special use permit application, such evidence is

- 1 required prior to the issuance of construction
- 2 permits."
- 3 MR. HARRINGTON: Yep.
- 4 MR. WAX: Okay. We are okay with that.
- 5 MR. KEYT: Okay. Any other changes or
- 6 additions to page 25?
- 7 MR. WAX: Anything else, gentlemen?
- 8 MR. HARRINGTON: No.
- 9 MR. WAX: I think we are okay with it.
- 10 Thank you.
- 11 MR. KEYT: Okay. That takes us to
- 12 page 26. I would suggest we take factor number 5 in
- its entirety and then factor 6 after that.
- 14 Factor 5 deals with ingress and egress.
- 15 It's fairly short.
- MR. WAX: Any suggestions to this portion?
- MR. LARSON: (Shaking head.)
- 18 MR. HARRINGTON: I don't know. We don't
- 19 have any visibility of the road access agreement, so
- it's hard for us to say.
- MR. WAX: I think that what you are saying
- is that, while we do not -- I am not sure we want to
- 23 make a significant change in this thing, but we are
- 24 kind of operating here on faith that there is going

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1 to be a significant interaction and correction and
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- 2 make use of; and to make this, we lean heavily on
- 3 this that measures will be taken because we are not
- 4 aware of what's going on, where the roads are going
- 5 to be, exactly what is going to be used today. So,
- 6 we are just -- I think we're just going to have
- 7 faith that the appropriate negotiations between the
- 8 attorney and the applicant and the county board are
- 9 going to make it work because right now we are not
- 10 presented with a lot of information that gives us
- 11 credit to say, yes, yes, this is a done deal. We
- have to have faith that it's going to happen.
- MR. KEYT: In terms as to the ingress and
- 14 egress portion and the design to minimize traffic
- 15 conditions, so I think -- here is what I am trying
- 16 to understand: Is there a change or removal that
- you want to make to that paragraph?
- 18 MR. HARRINGTON: I don't think there is.
- 19 At least, not in my regard.
- MR. WAX: Pardon me?
- 21 MR. HARRINGTON: I don't think so. I am
- commenting that we don't have any knowledge of the
- 23 topic.
- MR. KEYT: Okav.

- 1 MR. WAX: I think we are in agreement with
- 2 it.
- MR. KEYT: Okay. All right. That would
- 4 take us to factor number 6. I would suggest taking
- 5 that one in its entirety, page 26.
- 6 MR. WAX: Members of the board, do you
- 7 have questions, concerns, slight concerns, suggested
- 8 changes?
- 9 MR. LARSON: The only thing I have is, on
- 10 the last paragraph, it says: The increase in
- 11 revenue to the local farmers can assist in the
- 12 protection of the land.
- I think that should maybe be the
- landowners, instead of just stating farmers.
- MR. CHAMBERS: I would agree with Dan on
- 16 that one.
- MR. WAX: It may not be something that
- anyone else thinks so, but I looked at that whole
- 19 paragraph as a pretty stretch of imagination to
- 20 believe that is reality.
- 21 MR. HARRINGTON: I would agree. You go
- 22 right off the top and "The allowance of wind
- turbines on properties may assist in conserving
- 24 agricultural property for farming activities as

- 1 opposed to other development..." I mean is that
- 2 really something we proved? I mean I don't know
- 3 about that.
- 4 MR. WAX: I don't know where the evidence
- 5 for that is.
- 6 MR. HARRINGTON: "...and protect the value
- 7 of the land on which farm-related equipment is
- 8 placed." I can't really think of that case.
- 9 MR. WAX: Any thoughts?
- 10 MR. KEYT: Do you want it -- I am just
- 11 trying to understand where you want to go. So, on
- that second paragraph, do you want to remove the
- 13 second paragraph?
- MR. HARRINGTON: I would be fine with
- 15 that.
- MR. KEYT: It's up to the zoning board.
- MR. HARRINGTON: You guys should discuss.
- 18 MR. LOVIN: I am fine with it.
- MR. LARSON: I am fine with it.
- MR. CHAMBERS: Yeah.
- MR. KEYT: So, the second paragraph under
- factor 6, on page 26, will be removed.
- 23 Any other changes to the evidence listed
- there under factor number 6?

- 1 MR. WAX: Are the rest of us okay?
- We are okay with the rest of it.
- 3 MR. KEYT: Okay. That takes us almost to
- 4 the end of page 27, factor number 7. I suggest we
- 5 take the entirety of that factor that is listed
- 6 there.
- 7 MR. WAX: Comments/suggestions about the
- 8 verbiage in number 7?
- 9 MR. LARSON: Again, I think it should say
- 10 landowners instead of farmers.
- 11 MR. LOVIN: Right.
- MR. WAX: Okay.
- MR. HARRINGTON: I agree.
- MR. WAX: State again what you would like
- 15 to change.
- MR. LARSON: Where it says "The project
- 17 also provides economic growth to the community and
- 18 local farmers," I think it should say local
- 19 landowners.
- 20 MR. WAX: Right. Do you like that change
- 21 to landowners?
- MR. LOVIN: Yeah.
- MR. KEYT: Any other suggested revisions
- 24 or changes?

- 1 Any other changes from anybody on factor
- 2 number 7?
- MR. WAX: Any other changes, gentlemen?
- 4 No.
- 5 MR. KEYT: The rest of the document is the
- 6 recommendation, which we'll get to in terms of a
- 7 vote.
- 8 Is there a motion to approve the findings
- 9 of fact as written?
- Now, for clarification, this is not
- 11 considering each factor yet. We will go through
- 12 each factor and determine whether and take a vote or
- consensus on whether the applicant has met each
- 14 factor, and then there will be a discussion and vote
- on whether to recommend approval, approval subject
- 16 to conditions, or denial of the project. Those two
- 17 votes will happen later. And if there is a motion
- 18 to approve the findings of fact as written --
- MR. HARRINGTON: Yes.
- 20 MR. KEYT: -- that would make sense at
- 21 this point.
- MR. WAX: I'll ask the board: Do you want
- just a motion, a voice vote? Or, I tend to prefer a
- 24 rollcall in this.

- 1 MR. HARRINGTON: Rollcall.
- 2 MR. WAX: Rollcall. Open to a motion and
- 3 approve findings of fact as written.
- 4 MR. HARRINGTON: I make a motion.
- 5 MR. CHAMBERS: Second.
- 6 MR. WAX: Got a second from Will.
- 7 Any discussion?
- If no discussion, may we have a rollcall,
- 9 please?
- 10 MS. NUSBAUM: Mr. Lovin?
- MR. LOVIN: Yes.
- MS. NUSBAUM: Mr. Larson?
- MR. LARSON: Yes.
- MS. NUSBAUM: Mr. Chambers?
- MR. CHAMBERS: Yes.
- MS. NUSBAUM: Mr. Harrington?
- 17 MR. HARRINGTON: Yes.
- MS. NUSBAUM: Mr. Wax?
- MR. WAX: Yes.
- The Findings of Fact as revised and
- 21 written here are approved.
- MR. KAINS: It's 7:30. Do you want to
- 23 take a break?
- MR. WAX: I think at this point in time a

- 1 break would be appropriate.
- 2 MR. KAINS: Very good. All right. The
- 3 time is 7:28. We'll take a 10-minute recess, until
- 4 7:38, at which time the board will discuss each of
- 5 the seven factors contained in the ordinance and
- 6 take a vote. This board is in recess for
- 7 ten minutes.
- 8 (BREAK TAKEN.)
- 9 MR. KAINS: The board has now approved the
- 10 draft Findings of Fact. They are now the Findings
- of Fact for the Piatt County Zoning Board of Appeals
- and are made part of the record of this public
- 13 hearing.
- Now it is time for the board to consider
- each of the seven factors contained in the Piatt
- 16 County Ordinance.
- 17 And, Mr. Keyt, I will again look to you to
- 18 direct the discussion, and then you will then call
- 19 upon the chairman to seek rollcall votes with
- 20 respect to the issues.
- So, Mr. Keyt?
- MR. KEYT: Okay. Thank you.
- 23 My understanding is that the board has
- 24 traditionally taken factors on special use permit

- 1 applications and had a discussion as to whether the
- 2 applicant has met each factor or not and voted on
- 3 whether or not that applicant has met that
- 4 individual factor.
- 5 So, here we have seven factors that are
- 6 before the board for consideration. Just so we're
- 7 clear, votes on these individuals factors is
- 8 separate from whether there is a recommendation of
- 9 approval, approval with conditions, or
- 10 recommendation of a denial.
- 11 So, what I would suggest, to keep with
- 12 your past practice, is to go through each factor,
- 13 we'll talk about them individually, you will then
- 14 have discussion on whether or not the applicant has
- met the factor or not, and then someone makes a
- 16 motion, a motion as to whether the applicant has met
- 17 the factor.
- 18 When making the motion on whether an
- 19 applicant has met an individual factor, make sure
- you are making the motion in the positive, whether
- 21 you intend to vote yes or no, simply so that
- 22 everyone -- so that the record is clear on what the
- 23 intended vote was to be.
- So, the motion would sound something like,

- 1 "I make a motion that the applicant has met factor
- 2 number 1 or requirements of factor number 1."
- And then there will be a rollcall vote, so
- 4 each member then would vote individually on whether
- 5 the applicant -- whether the board feels the
- 6 applicant has met that factor or not.
- 7 So, any questions? I am happy to answer
- 8 or assist in answering those questions.
- 9 At this time, before we start with factor
- 10 number 1 --
- 11 MR. HARRINGTON: Correct me if I am wrong
- 12 Loyd, in the past, we had a discussion but we didn't
- actually make a motion for each factor, but you are
- 14 suggesting we do that tonight?
- MR. WAX: I am going to ask Mr. Keyt here.
- 16 Traditionally parliamentary procedure is
- you need a motion and then a discussion, but I hear
- 18 you saying that we -- what I think I hear you saying
- is that we go through and, if people have questions
- or discussions, comments about this thing, we
- 21 discuss it back and forth and then have a motion, a
- 22 positive motion to approve. Is that what you are
- 23 suggesting?
- 24 MR. KEYT: What I would suggest is on -- I

- 1 just want you to keep with whatever your past
- 2 practice is.
- If you want to do it by consensus, you
- 4 could and just have a discussion on whether they met
- 5 that.
- 6 But you could also do it by making a
- 7 motion on every single factor, each one, one by one,
- 8 and then having a vote.
- 9 It sounded to me, from earlier, that your
- 10 preference was to have a vote as to each factor. Is
- 11 that correct?
- MR. WAX: Right.
- MR. HARRINGTON: That is your call.
- We typically give a rollcall, don't we,
- 15 Keri?
- MS. NUSBAUM: Yeah.
- 17 MR. HARRINGTON: I don't remember making
- 18 motions on the factors in the past.
- MS. NUSBAUM: Well, we don't. In the past
- 20 we've kind of voted on each factor.
- MR. HARRINGTON: Right.
- MS. NUSBAUM: And we haven't necessarily
- done a motion, but I think if we are going to do a
- 24 rollcall for each motion or for each factor we

- 1 should have a motion.
- 2 MR. HARRINGTON: Okay. Let's do it.
- MR. WAX: So, at this point in time do you
- 4 want to have some additional discussions prior to a
- 5 motion and then kind of come to a consensus and then
- 6 have a motion, or do you want a discussion after the
- 7 motion?
- 8 MR. HARRINGTON: I think, if I understand
- 9 this right, we are going to actually make a motion
- 10 and it will be voted on.
- MR. WAX: Okay.
- MR. LARSON: On each factor.
- MR. WAX: Okay. That's what I am
- 14 understanding now for clarity. I am not making
- 15 myself clear on this thing.
- MR. LARSON: You want it as a positive?
- MR. KEYT: Yeah. Any motion you make,
- just by terms of the practice, regardless of here or
- 19 anywhere, you want to make whatever the motion is
- 20 going to be in the positive. If you make it in the
- 21 negative, it's difficult to determine what the
- intent of the vote was. So, because you are going
- 23 to rollcall the vote, you make the motion in the
- 24 positive even if you are going to vote no or that

- 1 the applicant did not meet that individual factor.
- 2 You would still make the motion in the positive, and
- 3 there will be a rollcall vote, and if your vote is
- 4 no, then no; if yes, then yes.
- 5 MR. LARSON: Okay.
- 6 MR. WAX: Are we ready for a motion?
- 7 Have you thought about this thing enough
- 8 that you want to have a motion on this factor
- 9 number 1 as to, I guess the motion should be a
- 10 motion that the applicant has met this requirement?
- To be positive, you would want a motion
- 12 that I move that we make a motion that the applicant
- has met this requirement of factor number 1.
- 14 Whether you are going to say yes or no, that would
- 15 be the correct motion.
- 16 MR. KEYT: Correct.
- 17 MR. WAX: Is that correct?
- 18 MR. KEYT: Correct.
- MR. HARRINGTON: Right.
- MR. WAX: So, at this point in time, we've
- 21 been through all the discussion. We've been through
- 22 it. We understand these things, so we are open to a
- 23 motion of that nature.
- 24 MR. KEYT: For clarity, we are on factor

- 1 number 1.
- MR. WAX: Just for factor number 1.
- 3 MR. KEYT: Right.
- 4 The establishment, maintenance or
- 5 operation of the special use will not be detrimental
- 6 to or endanger the public health, safety, morals,
- 7 comfort or general welfare.
- 8 You can discuss it. You can -- somebody
- 9 can make the motion. However you want to do it.
- MR. WAX: What is your preference?
- 11 Any problem?
- MR. CHAMBERS: I am assuming, since each
- 13 factor would have a motion here, if we are going to
- have discussion on each one, it would be proper to
- do a motion and then discussion in each case.
- MS. NUSBAUM: Correct.
- MR. WAX: That was the point I was not
- able to explain myself clearly enough.
- 19 Do you want the motion first and then
- 20 discussion?
- MR. CHAMBERS: Right.
- MR. WAX: Thank you.
- MR. CHAMBERS: So, in that case, I will
- 24 make the motion that Applicant has met the

- 1 requirements of factor 1.
- MR. WAX: Okay. We have a motion that the
- 3 applicant has met the requirements.
- 4 Is there a second?
- 5 MR. LARSON: I'll second.
- 6 MR. WAX: And Dan has seconded this.
- Now, we have a motion and second that the
- 8 applicant has met the requirements of factor
- 9 number 1.
- 10 It's time for discussion or whatever you
- 11 want to say.
- 12 Is there any discussion?
- MR. CHAMBERS: I have my notes. I assume
- 14 you may have thoughts or notes, too.
- MR. WAX: Go ahead.
- MR. CHAMBERS: I broke it down, you know,
- going through the factors. We have health and
- 18 safety and morals, comfort and general welfare.
- So, on health, I have the concerns
- 20 outlined there that stood out most that I bring into
- 21 the decision on that, would be the constant noise
- 22 potential and then uncertainty in the discussion
- 23 around possible negative health effects related to
- the noise potential there, especially in sleep

- 1 disturbance, and then the stress and what the IPCB
- 2 classifies as noise annoyance. I put that under the
- 3 health banner there.
- And then safety, we've got cropland fire
- 5 risk, of course, which is a big factor to consider.
- 6 The blade or ice throw doesn't concern me.
- 7 The only other note I had on safety was
- 8 the risk to the safety of aerial applicators that
- 9 operate within the footprint.
- 10 And then, on the last bit there, the
- 11 morals, comfort and general welfare. Comfort, I
- think we'll get into a little more in factor 2.
- 13 There is a little bit of overlap there on use and
- 14 enjoyment, but I think comfort of those residing
- 15 within the footprint could be impacted. That's what
- 16 I've got so far.
- MR. WAX: Thank you. Thank you.
- 18 Other discussion?
- MR. HARRINGTON: I would agree with Will.
- 20 I had a lot of similar thoughts. I think it
- 21 definitely needs to be taken into consideration.
- There are various numbers of conflicting
- 23 information on multiple topics here.
- I guess I agree there is some evidence of

- detrimental factors affecting public health, safety,
- 2 morals, comfort, general welfare.
- I have a lot of your same thoughts, Will.
- 4 I think one in particular that sticks out to me is
- 5 the Gantz residence. I am concerned for that
- 6 location. So, I would agree with what he's saying.
- 7 MR. WAX: Okay.
- 8 Kyle?
- 9 Dan?
- MR. LARSON: I agree with both of them.
- 11 MR. LOVIN: I think the fire concern is a
- real big issue with me, not having any kind of
- 13 suppression or, you know, our best effort is to let
- 14 it burn. We don't want field fires in this area
- when we have those days of 30-mile-an-hour south
- winds in the fall and we've got dry corn. It's
- going to be hard to stop that. So, that is my
- 18 biggest issue there.
- MR. HARRINGTON: I agree. That just
- doesn't sound like a good plan.
- MR. WAX: Will, you've hit on basically
- 22 everything that I've listed here.
- 23 Any more discussion?
- 24 Okay. The motion we have and the second

- 1 is motion that the applicant had met this
- 2 requirement, and we've had the discussion. I think
- 3 we are ready for a rollcall.
- 4 MS. NUSBAUM: Mr. Harrington?
- 5 MR. HARRINGTON: No. We have not met.
- 6 MS. NUSBAUM: Mr. Lovin?
- 7 MR. LOVIN: No.
- 8 MS. NUSBAUM: Mr. Larson?
- 9 MR. LARSON: No.
- MS. NUSBAUM: Mr. Chambers?
- MR. CHAMBERS: No.
- MS. NUSBAUM: Mr. Wax?
- MR. WAX: No.
- MR. KEYT: Okay. That takes us to the
- 15 second factor. Same procedure. I'll read the
- second factor just so that it's clear in the record:
- 17 The special use will not be injurious to
- 18 the use and enjoyment of other property in the
- immediate vicinity for the purpose already permitted
- 20 nor substantially diminish property values within
- 21 the neighborhood.
- MR. HARRINGTON: I make a motion.
- MR. LOVIN: I'll second.
- 24 MR. WAX: Okay. We are ready for a motion

- on this thing to recommend the applicant has met
- 2 this requirement. You are saying motion to admit
- 3 the requirement, and who made it?
- 4 MR. HARRINGTON: I made a motion.
- 5 MR. WAX: And Kyle has seconded it.
- 6 Discussion please?
- 7 MR. HARRINGTON: So, I guess one of my
- 8 topics there would be, I believe we did see some
- 9 reference to the fact that there could be effects on
- 10 property values. I think that is in consideration
- 11 of this matter in particular.
- I do feel there is concern with that to
- the point that I don't think we can go along with
- 14 there is no effect there.
- Use and enjoyment, I don't think it's very
- hard to argue the fact that, obviously, if you are
- in close proximity to this, you are going to, at
- 18 least at the bare minimum, notice this in your
- 19 backyard or something, I mean differing degrees
- 20 based on location. I would say there is enough
- 21 evidence that says it will adversely affect some
- individual's use and enjoyment. I'll just leave it
- 23 at that for anybody else that wants to add to it.
- MR. WAX: My concerns are I believe there

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1 is evidence for diminished property value, and I
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- 2 have concern about some health issues.
- 3 Will, do you have concerns?
- 4 MR. CHAMBERS: On the use and enjoyment, I
- 5 pretty much agree with Jim that, you know, the noise
- 6 level is a big consideration there.
- 7 And then the vista concerns, we've had a
- 8 lot of testimony through the hearings that the
- 9 reason a lot of residents live in the project area
- is because they moved there because of the peace and
- 11 quiet, you know, the rural tranquility, and I think
- this goes against that in a way that would affect
- their use and enjoyment of that property.
- And then, on the property values, this
- would be another case, like Jim mentioned on the
- last factor, where there is conflicting evidence
- 17 that has been presented. So, even if you take a
- 18 middle ground on the evidence that is presented, you
- 19 end up somewhere between no effect and a very
- 20 negative effect, and wherever that may be is still a
- 21 negative effect.
- So, on the property values, with the
- 23 testimony we've had there, I do feel that there is a
- 24 significant risk to the property values within the

- 1 area.
- 2 MR. WAX: Thank you, Will.
- 3 Any other comments?
- 4 We have no more discussion.
- 5 Are you ready for rollcall on this?
- 6 MR. HARRINGTON: I am ready.
- 7 MS. NUSBAUM: Mr. Chambers?
- 8 MR. CHAMBERS: No.
- 9 MS. NUSBAUM: Mr. Larson?
- MR. LARSON: No.
- MS. NUSBAUM: Mr. Lovin?
- MR. LOVIN: No.
- MS. NUSBAUM: Mr. Harrington?
- MR. HARRINGTON: No.
- MS. NUSBAUM: Mr. Wax?
- MR. WAX: No.
- MR. KEYT: Okay. That takes to us to
- 18 factor number 3:
- The establishment of the special use will
- 20 not impede the normal and orderly development of the
- 21 surrounding property for uses permitted in the
- 22 district.
- 23 MR. WAX: I think we've been over and
- 24 discussed a lot of this. We've gone back to these

- 1 other factors to look at the information there. I
- 2 think we are ready for a motion on this one.
- 3 MR. CHAMBERS: I'll make a motion that the
- 4 applicant has met their requirements of factor 3.
- 5 MR. LOVIN: I'll second.
- 6 MR. WAX: We have a motion and a second.
- 7 Time for discussion. Anybody over here?
- 8 I'll start it off then. I do not believe
- 9 that there is as much concern about annoyance,
- 10 property values and concerns about health as we had
- in number 2 or number 1.
- 12 However, I still believe there is some
- 13 degree of concern in this area and in those areas
- 14 about health, general annoyance, some degree in
- 15 property value.
- MR. CHAMBERS: On this one, I think we've
- got a little bit of overlap with factor 2. On
- 18 property notes, I have on this one would be impact
- 19 to the future development by reducing the desire to
- 20 develop property within the area for uses other than
- 21 agricultural, specifically rural residential uses.
- I think there would be a very steep
- 23 decrease in any interest in developing anything
- 24 rural residential within the area.

- 1 And then any future development, whether
- 2 it's rural or commercial or not is hampered by the
- 3 reduction in available area to develop because of
- 4 the setbacks that we would have in place, it would
- 5 narrow down the available space to develop. So, I
- 6 would say that it does hamper or impede the normal
- 7 and orderly development.
- 8 MR. WAX: Thank you, Will. That is very
- 9 well stated.
- 10 Other comments?
- 11 MR. LARSON: I agree with Will.
- 12 MR. HARRINGTON: Yeah. I think he's on
- 13 the right track. I agree also. Even if it isn't
- 14 completely going to stop it or impede it, I would
- have to say it's going to be cumbersome due to
- 16 adjacent setbacks and/or other items involved in the
- sheer size of these is something to consider, right?
- 18 MR. WAX: Right.
- MR. HARRINGTON: So, I think that is a
- 20 concern.
- 21 And I also think that the actual
- 22 construction of them will probably be a little more
- 23 -- what would I say? -- negative to that exact area
- 24 than we realize. I think there is a lot of

- 1 consideration there, granted some of it being road
- 2 debridement that we are not directly involved with.
- I do think there is reasons to have
- 4 reservations at the very least about how that is
- 5 going to play out.
- 6 MR. WAX: Okay. What do you think, Kyle?
- 7 Dan?
- 8 MR. LOVIN: I think he covered it pretty
- 9 well.
- 10 MR. LARSON: I agree.
- MR. WAX: Are you ready for rollcall on
- this one, please?
- MS. NUSBAUM: Mr. Larson?
- MR. LARSON: No.
- MS. NUSBAUM: Mr. Harrington?
- MR. HARRINGTON: No.
- 17 MS. NUSBAUM: Mr. Lovin?
- MR. LOVIN: No.
- MS. NUSBAUM: Mr. Chambers?
- MR. CHAMBERS: No.
- MS. NUSBAUM: Mr. Wax?
- MR. WAX: No.
- MR. KEY: Okay. Next factor is number 4:
- 24 Adequate utilities, access roads, drainage

- 1 or necessary facilities have been or will be
- 2 provided.
- 3 MR. HARRINGTON: I would like to make a
- 4 motion to consider that the applicant has met the
- 5 adequate utilities access road drainage or the
- 6 necessary facilities will be provided.
- 7 MR. KEYT: Okay. Is there a second?
- 8 MR. LOVIN: Second.
- 9 MR. WAX: Kyle got a second.
- 10 Discussion?
- MR. HARRINGTON: Just pretty much what I
- 12 said before. I just don't think we're -- I don't
- 13 feel I am apprised enough of any road use agreements
- 14 to make a firm decision on this. Mainly because
- there are so many details on that subject alone, I
- don't know that I have enough knowledge to formally
- 17 tell you.
- 18 MR. WAX: It's a tough one.
- MR. HARRINGTON: Right.
- 20 MR. WAX: It's kind of a deal based on
- 21 faith that somebody is going do right in the future.
- MR. LARSON: Same with the drainage.
- MR. WAX: Right. The drainage deal is
- 24 included in that one.

- 1 MR. HARRINGTON: Right. And I think it's
- 2 good that we made the statements regarding that.
- 3 MR. WAX: Discussion, Will?
- 4 MR. CHAMBERS: Yeah. On this one, I
- 5 think, just based on the way -- the way the
- 6 structure of this is set up with the special use
- 7 permit and then going on into construction and road
- 8 use agreements, I would have faith that, you know,
- 9 the county is going to only agree to a good and
- 10 reasonable road use agreement, and the same on the
- 11 drainage with the drainage commissioner.
- 12 So, I think, for the purpose of the
- 13 factor, in the state that we are in with the
- 14 hearing, I don't really have any concerns on this
- one. I think with everything, as in the preliminary
- stage right now and the framework that is in place
- for the future agreements to come into play, that I
- don't really see any major concerns on this one.
- 19 MR. WAX: Okay. I tend to lean in the
- 20 favor of the idea that the negotiators -- that we
- 21 can have faith on this one of getting it done.
- Other discussions that we have?
- Okay. We don't all have to agree on this.
- We can take our vote and see how it plays out.

- 1 MR. HARRINGTON: That's right.
- MR. WAX: Are you ready for rollcall?
- 3 MS. NUSBAUM: Mr. Larson?
- 4 MR. LARSON: No.
- 5 MS. NUSBAUM: Mr. Chambers?
- 6 MR. CHAMBERS: Yes.
- 7 MS. NUSBAUM: Mr. Lovin?
- 8 MR. LOVIN: No.
- 9 MS. NUSBAUM: Mr. Harrington?
- MR. HARRINGTON: No.
- MS. NUSBAUM: Mr. Wax?
- MR. WAX: Yes.
- 13 Three and two.
- MR. KEYT: That takes to us factor number
- 15 5:
- Adequate measurements have been or will be
- taken to provide ingress and egress so designed as
- 18 to minimize traffic congestion in the public
- 19 streets.
- MR. CHAMBERS: I will go ahead and make
- 21 the motion that the applicant has met the
- 22 requirements of factor 5.
- MR. WAX: Okay. Is there a second on
- 24 this?

- 1 MR. HARRINGTON: Second.
- 2 MR. WAX: We've got a motion to second.
- 3 Discussion, please?
- 4 MR. LARSON: I think this one is more like
- 5 what you guys were saying, kind of based on faith,
- 6 because traffic is one thing, but destroying roads
- 7 and drainage is another thing, in my opinion.
- 8 MR. WAX: Right.
- 9 MR. LARSON: But I do have faith that the
- 10 right steps will be taken.
- 11 MR. WAX: Okay. I tend to agree with you.
- 12 I tend to agree with you on this one.
- MR. CHAMBERS: I would say that the factor
- 14 concerns the project as a whole. So, you know,
- eight permanent employees, there is not much traffic
- 16 congestion that can be caused by that during normal
- operations and with the access roads and everything.
- 18 I am sure all of that will be fine.
- 19 It would be worth noting that, during
- 20 construction, I am sure there would be traffic
- 21 congestion issues during construction, but there is
- 22 not any getting around that. So, I don't think that
- 23 construction phase really should get brought into
- the discussion on this one. I think it's more of an

- 1 overall picture. So, in that case, I don't have any
- 2 issues.
- MR. WAX: Okay. Any other concerns?
- 4 MR. HARRINGTON: I think the applicant has
- 5 demonstrated a willingness to try and do everything
- 6 they can do.
- 7 MR. WAX: Rollcall, please.
- 8 MS. NUSBAUM: Mr. Larson?
- 9 MR. LARSON: Yes.
- 10 MS. NUSBAUM: Mr. Lovin?
- MR. LOVIN: Yes.
- MS. NUSBAUM: Mr. Harrington?
- MR. HARRINGTON: Yes.
- MS. NUSBAUM: Mr. Chambers?
- MR. CHAMBERS: Yes.
- MS. NUSBAUM: Mr. Wax?
- MR. WAX: Yes.
- 18 MR. KEYT: Okay. That take us to factor
- 19 number 6:
- The establishment, maintenance and
- 21 operation of the special use will be in conformance
- 22 with the preamble to the regulations of the district
- in which the special use is proposed to be located.
- MR. WAX: Want a motion on this one?

- 1 MR. CHAMBERS: I'll go ahead and make that
- 2 motion that the applicant has met the requirements
- 3 of factor 6.
- 4 MR. LOVIN: Second.
- 5 MR. WAX: Okay. Kyle has come in with a
- 6 motion to second the motion.
- 7 Okay. Is there discussion here?
- 8 May I ask first? I suspect I may not be
- 9 the only one who in this group or the audience who
- doesn't understand the reference to the preamble,
- and I would like for Mr. Keyt to explain that to us,
- where that document is and what his interpretation
- of this thing is so we know what we are actually
- 14 comparing this against.
- MR. KEYT: Okay. Understood. Where it
- 16 refers to the preamble is I believe a reference to
- 17 the Piatt County Zoning Ordinance as amended
- 18 October 12, 2022, that zoning ordinance has various
- 19 districts laid out, so there may be a district for
- 20 agricultural or residential, etc.
- 21 There is an agricultural districts section
- 22 under Article 5(a)(1), and it lists out essentially
- 23 what I would consider the preamble is not
- 24 necessarily titled that way, but there is another

- 1 section that is labeled as the preamble, but I think
- 2 this is the reference that those factors are
- 3 referring to as the preamble. The preamble -- I am
- 4 just going to read it in the record, and I will let
- 5 you draw your inferences and let you think what that
- 6 may mean.
- 7 1. Agricultural districts.
- 8 A. A-1 Agricultural, A-C Conservation:
- 9 Agricultural land is under urban pressure from
- 10 expanding incorporated areas. This urban pressure
- 11 takes the form of scattered development in wide
- belts around the communities of Piatt County, brings
- 13 conflicting land uses into juxtaposition, creates
- 14 high costs for public services and stimulates land
- 15 speculation. Certain agricultural land constitutes
- 16 unique and irreplaceable land resources. It is the
- 17 purpose of the A-1 and A-C Districts to provide a
- means by which agricultural land may be protected
- and enhanced as an economic and environmental
- 20 resource of major importance to the County.
- 21 Therefore, these Districts are intended to
- accomplish the following objectives, in order of
- 23 priority:
- 24 (1) Promote the agricultural use of land

- 1 most suitable for farming activities.
- 2 (2) Protect the value of agricultural
- 3 lands from indiscriminate, incompatible and
- 4 conflicting land uses.
- 5 (3) Conserve and protect open space,
- 6 wooded areas, streams, mineral deposits and other
- 7 natural resources from incompatible land uses and
- 8 provide for their timely utilization.
- 9 (4) Provide for the location and govern
- 10 the establishment and operation of land uses which
- 11 are compatible with agriculture and are of such a
- 12 nature that their location away from residential,
- 13 commercial and industrial area is most desirable.
- 14 (5) Provide for the location and govern
- 15 the establishment of residential uses that are
- 16 necessary to and necessary for the conduct of
- 17 agricultural.
- 18 (6) Provide for the location and govern
- 19 the establishment and use of limited nonfarm
- 20 dwellings.
- 21 b. Agricultural Nuisance Disclaimer:
- 22 Properties within the A-1 and A-C Districts are
- 23 located in areas where land is used for commercial
- 24 agricultural production. Owners, residents and

- 1 other users of property in or adjoining these
- 2 districts may be subjected to inconvenience,
- 3 discomfort, and the possibility of injury to
- 4 property and health arising from normal and accepted
- 5 agricultural practices and operations, including but
- 6 not limited to noise, odors, dust, the operation of
- 7 machinery of any kind, including aircraft, the
- 8 storage and disposal of manure, the application of
- 9 fertilizers, soil amendments, herbicides and
- 10 pesticides. Therefore, owners, occupants and users
- of property within the A-1 and A-C Districts should
- be prepared to accept such inconveniences,
- 13 discomfort and possibility of injury from normal
- 14 agricultural operations, and are hereby put on
- official notice that the Illinois Right to Farm Law
- 16 may bar them from obtaining a legal judgment against
- 17 such normal agricultural operations.
- I do have a copy of the zoning code. That
- is a reference on page 23. I do have a copy if each
- 20 of the board members want that in black and white in
- 21 front of them.
- MR. HARRINGTON: I get the gist of it. I
- am good.
- MR. KEYT: Gotcha.

- 1 MR. WAX: What kind of discussion do you
- 2 have here on this matter?
- 3 MR. HARRINGTON: So the establishment,
- 4 maintenance and operations of the special use would
- 5 be in conformance with the preamble, what Andy just
- 6 read, to the regulations of the district in which
- 7 the special use is proposed to be located in.
- 8 So, I mean, in general terms, I don't know
- 9 that the establishment of wind farms was necessarily
- 10 outside of it. I don't think, however, we have to
- 11 delineate priorities -- right? -- to a certain
- degree -- right? -- or at least to a scope that we
- 13 encompass, and as he mentioned item number 1 --
- 14 Correct, Andy?
- 15 -- was to promote the use of production
- 16 ag, as I perceive what you said.
- 17 MR. KEYT: I'll read it: Promote the
- 18 agricultural use of land that is most suitable for
- 19 farming activities.
- 20 MR. HARRINGTON: Right. So, that could be
- 21 production of ag or, if you have one of these, you
- 22 my say, well, it's within production, right?
- So, we don't want to encroach too hard on
- 24 that, but we also have to say, hey, we have to give

- 1 due consideration to all parties.
- 2 So, I think that the long and short of it,
- 3 you know, there is, you know, the one that catches
- 4 my eye -- I hate to say it -- is at the bottom of
- 5 number 6. There is, however, evidence of farmland
- of adjacent property owners may suffer decrease
- 7 value in the findings of fact; and I have to say
- 8 that is a concern of mine. So, I'll just leave it
- 9 at that and say I think it's within striking
- 10 distance. However, the neighboring
- 11 non-participants, I think, are at a bit of a
- 12 disadvantage here.
- MR. WAX: Right. I agree.
- MR. LOVIN: Me too. I agree.
- MR. LARSON: I agree.
- MR. WAX: Will?
- 17 MR. CHAMBERS: I agree with Jim. There is
- not really too much grounds to pick at the zoning
- 19 usage and whether or not that applies.
- But the language in there about, you know,
- 21 protection of property value and open space and just
- 22 kind of the general feel of the language about
- 23 prioritizing and protecting A-1 and ag and use, I
- think those parts of it lend themselves to being a

- 1 little more critical of this.
- 2 MR. WAX: Okay. Any other?
- 3 Okay. Are you ready for rollcall?
- 4 MR. HARRINGTON: (Nodding.)
- 5 MR. WAX: Would you do that, please?
- 6 MS. NUSBAUM: Mr. Larson?
- 7 MR. LARSON: No.
- 8 MS. NUSBAUM: Mr. Harrington?
- 9 MR. HARRINGTON: No.
- 10 MS. NUSBAUM: Mr. Lovin?
- MR. LOVIN: No.
- MS. NUSBAUM: Mr. Chambers?
- MR. CHAMBERS: No.
- MS. NUSBAUM: Mr. Wax?
- MR. WAX: No.
- MR. KEYT: Okay. Factor number 7 then is
- 17 the final one:
- The special use shall, in all other
- 19 aspects, conform to the applicable regulations of
- 20 the district in which it is located and the board
- 21 shall find that there is a public necessity for the
- 22 special use.
- MR. WAX: We've had time to think about
- 24 this a little bit.

- 1 Is there a motion that we are -- that the
- 2 applicant has met this requirement?
- 3 MR. LARSON: I'll make that motion.
- 4 MR. HARRINGTON: I will second.
- 5 MR. WAX: We've got a motion and a second.
- 6 Discussion, please?
- 7 MR. CHAMBERS: Well, I'll start on this.
- 8 My notes on this one would be the longest.
- 9 The bulk of this factor is on the board
- shall find that there is a public necessity for the
- 11 special use.
- So, if members of the public have
- 13 testified for various needs or need for more tax
- 14 relief, money for roads, money for schools, other
- members of the public have testified to a need to
- 16 preserve the rural character of the area and
- 17 protecting their lifestyle and rights as rural
- 18 residents.
- 19 So, if there has to be a public necessity
- for the special use, it would seem, from the
- 21 testimony we've heard so far, that there is not any
- 22 consensus on what that necessity is.
- As is noted in the finding of facts, we
- don't have a necessity for this as a means of

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- 1 electricity generation because we already have
- 2 adequate electricity infrastructure in the area. So
- 3 that, if the electricity needs of the county are
- 4 already met, some other purpose of the project would
- 5 have to rise to the level of public necessity in
- 6 order for us to determine that it is a public
- 7 necessity. I don't see anything of that level.
- I do take note of the amount of money
- 9 involved, especially for schools, that would benefit
- 10 from the tax revenue.
- I feel that the public institutions that
- would benefit are already well established and
- well-funded through tax revenues and those, while
- 14 they could benefit, I believe that there is not
- 15 enough benefit there to outweigh the negative impact
- 16 to residents within the project area for that to be
- deemed a public necessity for those people to be
- 18 outweighed.
- MR. WAX: Thank you.
- 20 Are there other comments, or are you in
- 21 agreement with Will?
- I am open to other discussion.
- MR. HARRINGTON: Yeah. I think Will did
- 24 an excellent job hitting a lot of the key points. I

- 1 think, in the terms here, in all other respects
- 2 conform.
- I got to say hats off to Apex. You guys
- 4 went through a mountain of work to try and -- and
- 5 you did in a lot of cases check the boxes of the
- 6 SUP, etc. I think, once again, good job.
- 7 But I think when it comes to the other
- 8 piece of this question, which is -- I agree with
- 9 you, Will -- the board shall find there is a public
- 10 necessity.
- It's a contentious subject, right? As it
- mentions in the findings of fact, there is not a
- 13 general need in the community for more access to
- 14 electrical supply today, you know. That could
- change, but today we are well supplied. So, no in
- 16 regards to that.
- But in the bigger picture, I think that,
- 18 yes, a lot of conflicting comments from the
- 19 public -- right? -- for and against, all of them I
- 20 take in due consideration and say, hey, that is
- 21 respectable.
- But I would also agree with Will that it
- 23 would appear there is some maybe not so -- there is
- 24 more than just financial effects here, is what I am

- 1 driving at. I think the school revenue is
- 2 important. I think tax revenue is important. But
- 3 we also have to say, hey, would I want to live with
- 4 one of these? Would I want that? So, you know,
- 5 that is consideration that we have to take into that
- 6 conversation.
- 7 MR. WAX: Right.
- 8 MR. HARRINGTON: So, good job. Good job,
- 9 Will.
- 10 MR. WAX: I think both of you have made
- some excellent points here in covering a whole
- 12 aspect.
- There is no question Apex has made an
- 14 enormous effort here in terms of providing financial
- 15 support.
- And let me compliment you on that, but we
- 17 have to balance that against the quality of life in
- 18 the environment and how people feel about this.
- So, with that said, is that in general
- agreement with where you're hearing, Dan and Kyle?
- MR. LARSON: Yeah. I think there is
- 22 benefits. I think there is benefits, but I don't
- 23 think there is a necessity, basically.
- MR. WAX: That's sort of my feeling as

- 1 well.
- 2 Are you ready for a rollcall?
- 3 MR. HARRINGTON: I am ready.
- 4 MR. WAX: Please.
- 5 MS. NUSBAUM: Mr. Chambers?
- 6 MR. CHAMBERS: No.
- 7 MS. NUSBAUM: Mr. Lovin?
- 8 MR. LOVIN: No.
- 9 MS. NUSBAUM: Mr. Harrington?
- MR. HARRINGTON: No.
- MS. NUSBAUM: Mr. Larson?
- MR. LARSON: No.
- MS. NUSBAUM: Mr. Wax?
- MR. WAX: No.
- MR. KEYT: Okay. That concludes the
- 16 discussion of the specific factors.
- 17 Last task for the board to take is whether
- 18 to recommend or determining what their
- 19 recommendation to the county board will be.
- 20 For clarification, the factors that you
- 21 are considering here and the evidence therein are
- 22 not an all-or-nothing proposition. Those factors
- 23 are a balancing test for you.
- You could determine that the applicant

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only met four of the factors, by example, and still

- 2 vote for a recommendation of approval.
- 3 Conversely, you could find that the
- 4 applicant met six of the seven factors and still
- 5 recommend a denial because of a major issue that
- 6 might be lurking there.
- 7 So, with that being said, you also have
- 8 conditions that you are going to recommend or have
- 9 recommended to the county board in the event of an
- 10 approval.
- There is a provision in your zoning code
- 12 that discusses that aspect which states that before
- 13 recommending the issuance of a special use permit,
- the board may prescribe such conditions as the will
- of the board's judgment to ensure that the factors
- 16 that you just went through are satisfied.
- But with that being said, I think you are
- 18 at the time in this hearing process for you, the
- board, to make your recommendation to the county
- 20 board.
- There are essentially three options for
- 22 the zoning boards to take. Those options are to
- recommend an approval, recommend an approval subject
- 24 to conditions, or recommend a denial. So, those are

- 1 the options that are before the board.
- 2 MR. CHAMBERS: So as I understand it, we
- 3 will be under the same rules as before with not
- 4 having a negative motion and whatever motion we
- 5 would want to send to the county board should
- 6 include the conditions.
- 7 So, in that case, I would make the motion
- 8 for approval subject to the conditions which we have
- 9 drafted to the county board.
- MR. HARRINGTON: I would second that.
- MR. WAX: Got a motion to second.
- 12 Discussion?
- We've covered about everything to be
- 14 covered. Are you okay with rollcall?
- MR. HARRINGTON: Yes, sir.
- MR. LARSON: (Nodding.)
- MS. NUSBAUM: Mr. Larson?
- MR. LARSON: No.
- MS. NUSBAUM: Mr. Lovin?
- MR. LOVIN: No.
- MS. NUSBAUM: Mr. Harrington?
- MR. HARRINGTON: No.
- MS. NUSBAUM: Mr. Chambers?
- MR. CHAMBERS: No.

- 1 MS. NUSBAUM: Mr. Wax?
- 2 MR. WAX: No.
- 3 THE COURT: All right, folks. Please be
- 4 advised that this is a recommendation from the Piatt
- 5 County Zoning Board of Appeals. The final say goes
- 6 to the folks on the Piatt County Board, many of whom
- 7 are in the room tonight.
- 8 You would need to check with the county
- 9 board office or administrator for the county to
- determine when the county board will take up the
- 11 issue. That hasn't been decided. It's not on an
- 12 agenda for any upcoming meeting that I am aware of,
- but this is the recommendation.
- So, the next step will be for the full
- 15 county board to consider this zoning board's
- 16 recommendation.
- Now, Mr. Chairman, I think there is just
- 18 one thing left.
- 19 MR. WAX: I would like a motion to
- 20 adjourn.
- 21 MR. HARRINGTON: I'm make a motion.
- MR. LARSON: Second.
- MR. WAX: All in favor say aye.
- MR. CHAMBERS: Aye.

1	MR. WAX: Aye.
2	MR. HARRINGTON: Aye
3	MR. LARSON: Aye.
4	MR. LOVIN: Aye.
5	(HEARING ADJOURNED.)
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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

I, Holly Wingstrom, CSR #84-003888, reported in machine shorthand the proceedings had in the above-entitled cause and transcribed the same by computer-aided transcription, which I hereby certify to be a true and accurate transcript of the proceedings had.

Holly Wingstrom, CSR #84-003888 Official Court Reporter

Dated: 2/13/2023

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