

NOVEMBER 24, 2025

The Board of Supervisors of Clinton County, Iowa, met at the Northeast High School Auditorium, Goose Lake, IA. Present were Supervisors George, Irwin and Srp. Minutes and full video recording of meetings is available on the Clinton County website at www.clintoncounty-ia.gov/board_of_supervisors/meetings_minutes/.

5:00 P.M. Call to Order – Pledge of Allegiance

5:00 P.M. Public Hearing with Possible Action to Follow for the Proposed Text Amendment To The Clinton County Zoning Ordinance

Chairman George called to public hearing to order to solicit public comments for the purpose of soliciting public comment on a proposed text amendment to the Clinton County Zoning Ordinance. Present were Board of Supervisors, County Auditor, County Attorney, Outside Legal Counsel, the Planning and Zoning Director and Board, and the public and media.

Proof of publication was presented, accepted and returned for filing.

Loran Jacobson, a lifelong resident of Clinton County from Goose Lake, urges officials to update ordinances to stop Florida-based Next Era Energy from moving forward with a wind farm project that he believes would cause lasting damage. He warns that approving the project will lead to population decline, job losses, and the destruction of valuable farmland, which he considers irreplaceable. Highlighting that this decision will shape the officials' legacy, he asks them to protect his right to farm free of obstacles, citing an example of a 220-acre farm in another state whose value dropped from \$1.2 million to \$588,000 within two years after a wind farm started operating nearby.

Jenn Keutsch of Delmar, Iowa, shares her extensive efforts to educate herself and others, engage with experts, and advocate for strong, fair protective ordinances in Clinton County, even at personal cost. She argues that fear of litigation from developers should not influence county policy and warns that yielding to legal threats would turn local government into a tool of industry and make it clear that county laws are negotiable for those with enough lawyers. Emphasizing that government power comes from the consent of the governed, she asserts that officials have a duty to uphold the will and well-being of their constituents, even if legal battles are costly. Drawing on the principles of the Declaration of Independence, she calls on leaders and residents to stand firm, protect their community, and defend their integrity and sovereignty by defending their home and rights together.

Nolan Brotthauer, a third-generation farmer near Bryant, Iowa, criticizes the lack of visible involvement by NextEra-aligned landowners at public meetings, contrasting it with the strong, active turnout from those advocating for stricter wind turbine ordinances. He describes how many residents have invested time and personal money into research, site visits, and outreach to other affected communities. He recounts attending a Planning and Zoning Board meeting where a few landowners supporting lenient ordinances focused on compensation if stricter setbacks prevented turbines on their land, which he saw as driven primarily by money. Nolan also notes multiple bald eagles feeding near his fields, highlighting local wildlife at risk. He raises concerns about limited setbacks for non-participating property owners, including how future homebuilding plans on his own farm could be affected. He calls for stronger protections, including a 10-mile setback from the Mississippi River, larger setbacks from property lines, and zero shadow flicker on non-participating properties. He urges county supervisors to follow the will of the majority who seek to protect farmland and wildlife, emphasizing that outside corporations do not back these residents and stand to gain only the continued protection of what they already have.

Lee Jacobson, a resident of Clinton, Iowa, and a longtime manufacturing leader, explains that his role in recruiting technical and leadership talent partly depends on convincing candidates—especially those from outside the state—of the appeal of living in Clinton County. He notes that many prefer rural acreage or building homes in the countryside, and he says no one has ever expressed a desire to live near an industrial wind farm. Jacobson argues that if wind ordinances allow turbines to determine where future homes can be built—particularly by tying setbacks to existing dwellings rather than property lines—it will restrict rural housing options, hinder efforts to attract new residents, and accelerate the county's population decline. He urges supervisors and zoning officials to implement ordinances with substantial property-line setbacks to preserve current and future building opportunities, promote population growth, and assist local employers with recruitment. As a landowner, he also wants his property protected from neighboring turbine decisions and thanks officials for their time, stressing the importance of preserving the county for future generations.

Gwenn Rickertsen of Bryant argues that everyone in the community suffers from the disruption caused by a proposed wind project pushed by an out-of-state company that signed easements too close to the Mississippi River, in wildlife-rich, karst-riddled, prime agricultural land that is too densely populated for 600-foot turbines. She criticizes NextEra and its subsidiary, ESI, for prioritizing tax credits over environmental protection, citing their 2022 guilty plea under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act for killing more than 150 eagles and quoting Department of Justice findings that the company knowingly bypassed eagle permits and wildlife recommendations to gain a competitive advantage. Rickertsen condemns dismissive comments about eagle impacts from a NextEra expert and the company's leadership, stressing that Clinton County is part of the Driftless Area, known for high populations of

eagles, birds, and bats. She questions why a company on probation would target the river corridor. She concludes that tax credits again drive it, urging county officials to stand firm on substantial setbacks—notably the 10-mile buffer from the Mississippi—to protect rivers and wildlife, emphasizing that the community is united in this effort.

Samantha Norris, an attorney from the Brown Winick Law Firm representing Clinton County Wind, briefly addresses the meeting to say that, because of the large public turnout and the ongoing process, she will pass on her chance to speak to give more time for other community members to comment.

Joel Carstensen, a landowner in Clinton County who works in electric distribution, recognizes the growing need for additional energy production and believes the county could benefit from the tax revenue and landowner income a wind project would generate. However, he also supports reasonable restrictions to safeguard all residents and criticizes many of the proposed ordinance provisions as emotionally driven and too restrictive. He argues that wildlife setbacks far exceed expert recommendations, questions the necessity of cemetery setbacks, opposes the two-mile town buffer as an unfair method for cities to control land without ownership, and notes that shadow flicker is typically managed elsewhere at a standard of 30 hours annually. Carstenson claims that the current ordinance appears designed to block the project and will likely lead to costly litigation for taxpayers. Stressing that society cannot oppose all forms of energy—solar, wind, nuclear, and gas—he urges officials to revise the ordinance to reach a compromise that protects landowners, attracts new businesses, generates county revenue, and avoids legal battles.

Anita Ilg of DeWitt Township emphasizes her Christian faith and gratitude, quoting Jeremiah 29:11 to express her belief that God has plans for the community's well-being, including appropriate protections from industrial wind turbines to safeguard residents' health and the land, water, and wildlife they are entrusted with. She praises Clinton County, noting citizens who have researched the turbines and the companies involved, and especially commends the volunteer Planning and Zoning Commission for their honorable and diligent work in creating wind ordinances she considers guided by the Holy Spirit and strongly protective. Ilg also thanks the county supervisors and attorney for their efforts and urges them to remember that God offers a spirit of power, love, and sound judgment, not fear. She prays that the supervisors will approve the ordinances recommended by the Planning and Zoning Commission, which she believes are sincere and truly protective.

Jerry Rickertsen of Bryant explains that his multi-generation farm family spends most of their time working across their property, not just in the house, so turbine setbacks should be measured from property lines rather than only from dwellings. With over 50 years of farming experience, he mentions recent combine fires during a dry fall and worries that a turbine-caused fire in dry corn stalks could spread quickly across fields, with liability unclear according to several insurance companies he contacted. He raises concerns about fire, fiberglass contamination, and potential well issues affecting his family and livestock, arguing that greater distances from property lines would help reduce catastrophic risks and preserve future building options on existing sites, even when a house is not present. Rickertsen also notes that a neighbor's turbine would increase his costs for aerial spraying and likely decrease his property value, emphasizing that

Kurt Boerm, a seventh-generation farmer from Tama County, Iowa, discusses his extensive involvement in developing a large wind farm project there, beginning in 2009. The project covers 32,000 acres with 60 turbines and includes plans for a second phase. He explains that while the initial development went smoothly, conflicts arose when another company started a separate project, and outside anti-wind groups became involved. Boerm, who served on a landowner negotiation committee and spent hundreds of hours researching and traveling, says the same arguments and tactics he heard back then are now appearing in Clinton County. They claim that organized anti-wind activists followed a "playbook," were coached by people from other states, and appeared to be funded by undisclosed sources. He warns that a vocal minority can heavily influence local politics, noting that in Tama County they even helped elect five supervisors who held more anti-development views, until broader public awareness led to strong pushback and a reversal of a ruling that ultimately allowed both phases of the wind farm to proceed. Boerm urges Clinton County officials to avoid picking "winners and losers" based on the loudest voices and to understand that wind development is not inherently negative, stressing the importance of fairly protecting all interests.

Evelyn Studemann, a multi-generation Clinton County farmer living next to land with active wind easement options, urges the supervisors to support local residents in protecting their land, water, and way of life. After closely following the issue for 18 months, she asks them to adopt the Planning and Zoning Commission's recommended ordinances, which she believes reflect the careful, responsible approach the community deserves, and she concludes by affirming that residents "fight together."

Bob Vokoun, a fourth- and fifth-generation farmer and former 37-year law enforcement officer who later served as Tama County's zoning administrator, urges Clinton County officials to carefully listen to and fact-check both sides of the wind turbine debate. Drawing on his experience, he notes that misinformation and exaggerated claims can turn neighbors against each other, but ultimately communities must still live and work together. He warns against adopting "non-permittable" ordinances with such extreme restrictions that nothing can realistically be built, and cautions that if local rules become too rigid, the state may eventually step in with far looser standards and preempt

county control, as he has seen with solar regulations. Emphasizing the need for a workable compromise that balances both landowners and developers, he encourages everyone to seek fact-based, balanced solutions and to maintain good relationships despite differing opinions.

Lisa Tapper, from a multigenerational farm family, describes how, for the past 18 months, her parents, siblings, neighbors, and many others across Clinton County have spent extensive time studying the real impacts of industrial wind turbines proposed near their homes and farms. She says what troubles her is not the community itself but the developer's dismissive, shifting, and pressuring responses, including labeling residents' concerns as emotional, misinformed, or anti-progress. Tapper emphasizes that these concerns—about health and safety issues such as shadow flicker, infrasound, and noise spikes—are rooted in data, science, and real-world experience. She argues that the proposed wind ordinances are reasonable, evidence-based, and protective, allowing development while respecting the people who live there. With her family having farmed the land for more than a century and hoping future generations can do the same, she urges supervisors to adopt the ordinances as written to safeguard property lines, homes, and the county's future.

TJ Burken, a Charlotte resident and volunteer firefighter, thanks county officials for their efforts and states that his priority is "reasonable" protections for residents, towns, and the land entrusted to them. He argues that setbacks should be based on property lines, not just dwellings, because property taxes cover entire parcels and turbine placement near a boundary could prevent neighbors from building homes, barns, or expanding operations—undermining true property rights. He also criticizes the 30-hour shadow flicker standard as arbitrary and driven by foreign policy rather than local values, insisting that knowingly subjecting a neighbor to intrusive flicker is an unacceptable nuisance. Citing conservationist Aldo Leopold, he concludes that decisions are right when they preserve the community's integrity, stability, and beauty, and wrong when they do otherwise, urging the board to protect public areas for everyone.

Lana Griswold, a fifth-generation farmer on her family's century farm, urges supervisors to adopt strong wind ordinances to protect the land and water her grandchildren someday may farm. She insists protections must start at property lines because her family works every acre, not just around the house, and emphasizes that Clinton County's karst terrain makes aquifer and well contamination a high and irreversible risk. Griswold states she does not want shadow flicker on her property and supports using waivers so only landowners who agree live with those impacts. She calls for strict noise limits based on peak levels, not averages, to protect children, the elderly, and families' sleep. Engaged since June 2024 and involved in requesting the first moratorium, she notes the public's consistent message: ordinances must reflect the county's population density, farms, rivers, sensitive geology, and eagle nests. She highlights that no permits have been issued, meaning the developer has no vested rights and any investments are speculative. Concluding that Planning and Zoning's recommendations are reasonable, responsible, and necessary, she asks the board to adopt them as proposed, asserting it is now the supervisors' turn to make the best decision for Clinton County, whose residents.

Otto Bruher, a Clinton County resident and co-owner of a small farm on 180th Street, explains that he and his brother previously operated a plumbing business in Miles and did extensive well work, which makes him especially concerned about groundwater impacts. His primary concern is the depth and width of the turbine footings, given the many old or improperly filled wells in the county and on his land. He says he has been unable to get a clear answer from the developer and emphasizes that this is his top concern.

Marvin Kane, a heavy equipment operator aiming to work on the Clinton County wind project, shares his experience from a wind repowering project in Bishop Hill, Illinois, where he oversaw site cleanup after new blades and motors were installed. He mentions talking to landowners with turbines, who were generally satisfied with how they were treated and paid, and spoke with at least one neighbor without turbines who wished he had allowed them on his land for the extra income. Marvin reports that, although he spent a lot of time driving a skid steer around 121 turbine sites, he never saw dead birds or animals and often observed deer, blackbirds, and geese using nearby habitat, leading him to believe there was minimal visible wildlife impact. He recommends that people ask Bishop Hill residents about their experiences and says he hopes to be involved in the Clinton County project as well.

Kelsey McCulloh, a multi-generational farmer near Clinton, urges supervisors to adopt the updated wind ordinances recommended by Planning and Zoning, with protections that begin at property lines and include setbacks of three times turbine height. She argues this standard is based on science and real-world data about noise, shadow flicker, and increasingly severe turbine failures, citing fires and debris fields in Iowa, Kansas, and New York that extended well beyond turbine height and threaten crops and farm livelihoods. As a mother and local educator, she emphasizes documented links between turbine noise, annoyance, and sleep disruption, which harm children's learning and emotional regulation. She insists noise limits must be firm caps, not averages, and that no shadow flicker should occur on a property without the owner's consent. She notes that the proposed ordinances are fair because they include waivers that allow neighbors to accept closer siting voluntarily, and asks the board to stand with families who have invested in the county for generations by approving the updated protections.

Joan Good, a Clinton County landowner whose family has farmed the same land since 1926, expresses her support for the Planning and Zoning Commission's recommended wind ordinances and urges the county supervisors to amend the current ordinance to include those recommendations, emphasizing that residents are united in fighting for Clinton County.

Karlee Williams, daughter of multi-generation farmers Brent and Lana Griswold, urges supervisors to adopt the updated ordinances proposed by the Planning and Zoning Commission, describing them as thoughtful rather than arbitrary. She states they reflect what makes Clinton County unique beyond farming, emphasizing the importance of protecting karst topography, conservation areas, and the birds and wildlife that depend on them. She advocates for measuring setbacks from property lines. She stresses that this effort is not about blocking a single developer but about preserving the entire county for all residents, ending with a call to support Planning and Zoning's recommendations and "fight together."

Lee Good, a 60-year resident of Charlotte, argues that setbacks for non-participating landowners must be measured at property lines to prevent granting developers an uncompensated nuisance or safety easement over neighbors' land. He notes that participating landowners explicitly grant easements for impacts such as sound, noise, visual changes, light flicker, shadow, vibration, turbulence, and electromagnetic or radio-frequency interference, all of which are known to the wind company. If setbacks are measured only to a residence, he says, all the land between the property line and the home is effectively exposed to those turbine effects without compensation, amounting to "trespass zoning." He strongly supports the Planning and Zoning Committee.

Doug Palmer of Winnebago County explains that he and his three brothers receive annual income from two 2.5-megawatt turbines located on their farm near Forest City, Iowa, and that their family has been contracted with NextEra since 2006. He says the area is very windy, the turbines operate actively, and their experience with NextEra has been positive, with the company responsive to issues and needs. Palmer notes that in his county, residents generally welcomed the wind project, and he is not aware of dissatisfied landowners involved with the Buffalo Center / Thompson / Crystal Lake (Lake 2) projects. While acknowledging that Clinton County residents have concerns to weigh, he offers a contrasting perspective, emphasizing that in his community, the turbines have supported local taxes and farm businesses and continue to provide economic benefits. Thank you.

Ali Kilburg of Elwood speaks as a parent and Clinton County resident in support of the proposed wind ordinances, emphasizing protection for families—especially children. She argues setbacks must be measured from property lines because families live, work, and play across their entire property, not just inside the house, and notes that dwelling-only setbacks could prevent her and other heirs from safely building on family land, undermining the wishes of past generations. Kilburg expresses deep concern about noise and infrasound, saying a three-times-height setback and a 47 dBA average limit do not adequately protect children from sleep disruption, stress, and potential developmental and learning issues documented in growing research. She criticizes developers for dismissing these risks and insists that when children's health is at stake, the county cannot gamble. Stressing that the ordinances are not a ban but allow development where neighbors willingly agree, she urges supervisors to keep setbacks at property lines, treat sound limits as firm caps rather than averages, and prioritize the long-term safety and well-being of children who cannot yet speak for themselves but will live with the consequences.

Tim Sheehan, a long-time landowner in Jackson County with family roots dating back to the 1850s and land interests north of Delmar in Clinton County, argues that large wind projects threaten public welfare and neighboring property rights. Citing James Madison's Federalist No. 10, he warns against powerful factions pursuing gain at others' expense, comparing turbines to hog or beef confinements that cannot legally be placed where they unduly harm neighbors' use and enjoyment of their land. He emphasizes that decades-long wind easements cannot override local zoning when public welfare is at risk and highlights the serious, irreversible dangers to Clinton County's extensive karst topography and groundwater: turbine foundations and construction could fracture the karst, spread contamination, and permanently damage water supplies—damage that cannot be undone even if turbines are later removed. Sheehan notes that modern turbines—around 650 feet tall and placed close to property lines—often benefit absentee or investor landowners while imposing long-term costs and risks on surrounding residents who cherish their rural homes and seek to preserve them, urging people to "fight together" to protect the landscape.

Leslie Raya, a landowner on 190th Street in Clinton, defends the proposed wind ordinances as reasonable, evidence-based, and thoroughly revised rather than arbitrary. She notes that since June, the county has refined language, reduced setbacks, removed height limits, raised and averaged sound limits, revised underground line depth, and adjusted decommissioning terms—showing responsiveness and balance—while the developer has resisted every change and insisted on its own terms. Citing Iowa Code authority, over 1,700 resident petitions, safety manuals like Nordex's 1 km evacuation guidance, documented turbine failures, and medical and sound studies, she argues the ordinances are solidly grounded.

Teresa Grimm thanks the Board of Supervisors and the Planning and Zoning Commission for their extensive work updating the 2008 wind turbine ordinance and praises explicitly the commissioners' integrity at the November 17

meeting for bringing forward necessary amendments, which they fully support. Responding to letters to the editor that describe their group as a “well-funded group of resistance” that uses fear and misinformation, the speaker rejects that characterization, stating that the information and experts they have presented are credible. If their efforts have caused fear or concern, they argue, it is because they have successfully opened the public’s eyes to what is happening in rural Clinton County regarding proposed wind turbines.

Mike Carberry of Johnson County, with 20 years of experience in wind and solar policy, notes that Iowa already generates about 65% of its electricity from wind and that, in one-third of Iowa’s counties, a wind project is the largest source of tax revenue. At the same time, 68 counties are losing population while the state population remains stable, pushing people into urban areas and leaving rural counties with the same roads, bridges, jails, and courthouses to support with fewer taxpayers.

Tate Wilson, a third-generation farmer in Clinton County, thanks officials for their work on ordinance updates and criticizes what he calls NextEra’s “playbook” of quiet easement signing with absentee landowners, pressure on locals, and intimidation through lawsuit threats. He argues that non-participating neighbors who live in the area will bear the noise, shadow flicker, reduced property value, and safety risks. At the same time, the company pushes a narrative that counties can’t prevail in court. Wilson notes that many legal examples cited by NextEra involved counties that had already issued permits—unlike Clinton County, which has issued none and therefore granted no vested rights—and points to Clinton County, Missouri, where NextEra dropped a threatened lawsuit before trial.

Chad Rickertsen, a lifelong resident of Clinton County now living on 170th Street, describes the shock of discovering that a neighbor had signed for a 614-foot turbine that could sit almost at his front door. This would surround his home with turbines and likely decrease the value of the land he recently purchased. He notes that discussions of “property rights” often overlook his own rights as a non-participating landowner, including the ability to build elsewhere on his family farm if setbacks are only based on dwellings rather than property lines.

Maria Darnell, who lives on a family farm between Goose Lake and Elvira, warns of serious turbine failures, citing three documented NextEra cases from the past two years. She cites a 2024 blade failure in Osceola County, Iowa, where 23-foot fragments were thrown 960 feet, causing a public road to close; a 2023 fire at the Eight Point Wind farm in New York, where burning fiberglass and debris rained over a mile onto fields and farms, destroying a premium hay crop and leaving “tens of thousands of pounds” of debris; and a 2023 blade failure at Irish Creek Wind Farm in Kansas, where debris reached 2,700 feet, and smaller shards contaminated hayfields 1.5 miles away.

Beth Petersen, a lifelong Goose Lake farmer, supports the Planning and Zoning Commission’s proposed ordinances and urges the Board of Supervisors to adopt them. She emphasizes that wind development must not come at the expense of human health or quality of life. She highlights shadow flicker as a serious issue, citing reports of headaches, sleep disturbances, stress, and especially risks to people with epilepsy or migraines. She argues that residents’ right to a safe, comfortable home should not be compromised. Shadow flicker, she says, also harms property values and rural tranquility, fueling division in communities where people moved for peace and quiet.

Carol Crigger, a lifelong resident of Clinton County now living on 185th Street, strongly supports the wind ordinance recommended by the Planning and Zoning Board and urges the Board of Supervisors to adopt it. She emphasizes that these changes are crucial for keeping citizens safe, protecting water, preserving the county landscape and the Mississippi River, safeguarding wildlife, and defending the rights of landowners who choose not to participate.

Jill Seed, Environmental Project Manager with NextEra Energy, explains that NextEra employs over 100 scientists—including biologists, archaeologists, hydrologists, and cultural specialists—who are involved throughout project planning to ensure environmental compliance. Regarding eagle concerns, she shows a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service map (not created by NextEra) indicating “Eagle General Permit Areas” for wind projects, where the risk to eagles is considered predictably low, and projects can operate under a self-certifying general permit rather than a more restrictive, customized permit. She notes that roughly 90% of Clinton County falls within this green general-permit zone, which Fish and Wildlife has identified as having a low likelihood of cumulative impacts to eagles. She states that when NextEra’s projects are within these zones, they self-certify compliance with the permit’s conditions and mitigation requirements.

Mary Lou Finnicum, a landowner in Clinton County living near the proposed turbines, strongly supports the Planning and Zoning Board’s recommended ordinances and urges supervisors to stand firm. He insists setbacks must be measured from property lines and that there should be no shadow flicker on his land,

Michelle Broswell, who lives outside Charlotte and has attended 43 wind turbine meetings in Clinton County, says the current draft ordinance terrifies her. She objects that requiring only three times turbine height to an occupied structure and allowing waivers down to 1.1 times height from the property line is far too lenient, especially given what she’s seen in non-participating neighbor agreements for solar, where landowners waive jury trials, accept loss of property value, and are barred from discussing what they signed. Her neighbor, a participating landowner,

surrounds her family's property on three sides, and she fears her young children will grow up doing homework under constant shadow flicker, which she calls plainly wrong.

Mary Therse Roling, who inherited her mother's cherished farmland in Clinton County and lives with multiple serious health problems, strongly opposes wind turbines near her property. She fears that turbine noise and shadow flicker would cause severe migraines and further diminish her quality of life. She also believes turbines would negatively impact the value and marketability of her land. She concludes by thanking the board and stating, "We fight together."

Jane Seyller, a sixth-generation farmland owner with a new home. She argues that if Nordex safety manuals require over 3,200 feet of setback to protect workers during storms, then homes and cemeteries—where families mourn and remember—deserve at least that level of protection, not minimal half-mile or three-times-height setbacks. She calls for a cap on the number of turbines within a one-mile radius to prevent excessive concentration and constant infrasound, noise, and shadow flicker for non-participating neighbors. She stresses that turbine failures in severe storms can hurl blades as projectiles and highlights toxic risks, citing a Wisconsin court case showing each 652-foot turbine contained about 500 gallons of lubricating oils. She asks the board to honor ancestors' stewardship, defend non-participating farms, homes, and cemeteries from irreversible harm, and vote yes on Planning and Zoning's ordinance recommendations.

Mary Beth Butt, a landowner in Clinton County, describes driving for miles through a wind farm in southern Illinois, seeing only red blinking lights, and says it was "absolutely awful," something she cannot imagine becoming part of Clinton County's landscape. A Butt supports Planning and Zoning's recommendations, and she ends by affirming that they "fight together."

Carlton Holmes, an environmental specialist with NextEra, argues against the proposed one-mile setbacks from wetlands and riparian corridors, claiming the best available science does not support them. He points out that neighboring states use much smaller, science-based recommended buffers—generally ranging from 35 to 1,640 feet depending on the resource and state—and emphasizes that even these are guidelines, not strict rules. He urges the board to adopt science-based standards that are more aligned with regional and national practices.

Marty Seyller, Bryant, thanks county leaders for their extensive work on wind regulations and urges them to adopt the revised commercial wind ordinance recommended by the Planning and Zoning Commission after more than two years of public input. He argues that the ordinance is not extreme, provides appropriate protections, and keeps siting decisions for 600-foot turbines in local hands rather than with a Florida-based corporation. He points out that other Iowa counties have adopted similarly strict or stricter ordinances and defended them successfully. He concludes that taxpayers would rather fund the defense of a strong ordinance they believe in than live with the consequences of a weak one passed out of fear, and he calls on the board to stand with constituents, protect local control, and stand up to NextEra's threats.

Ryan Drew, a business representative for Operating Engineers Local 150 who lives in Des Moines County and represents Clinton County, urges people to consider the broader energy picture behind the wind debate. He says the country needs to add about 50% more power generation capacity over the next few years to keep electricity prices stable, while major users like Google and Meta are expanding and will compete with residents for power. Drew points out that communities often reject every option—wind, gas plants, pipelines—leaving no realistic way to meet demand, which will hurt farmers and local businesses that can't afford massive increases in electric bills or stalled economic growth. He also warns that if counties make their rules too strict, they risk inviting the state to impose a single, more lenient statewide standard that erodes local control.

Amanda Rickertsen of Bryant, Iowa, a livestock and crop farmer, urges supervisors to require turbine setbacks from property lines rather than just homes because her family spends most of its time working across the farm, not inside the house, and because turbine fires, fiberglass debris, thrown blades, and ice pose risks to fields, buildings, and livestock.. Rickertsen also asks that strong protections for wildlife and conservation areas be maintained, considering the impacts on bats, which are vital for insect control and pollination, are essential to agriculture. Citing studies estimating bats save Clinton County agriculture over \$24 million per year by controlling pests, she points out that turbines already kill many bats, including endangered species, and that increased insect populations lead to more spraying—made harder and costlier by turbines that complicate aerial application. "We fight together."

Arlen Van Zee of Camanche, who owns only a small residential lot, supports adopting the Planning and Zoning Commission's restrictive ordinance because he believes Clinton County's location on a major Mississippi River migratory flyway is a unique "trump card" that must be protected. Calling the flyway a natural treasure that makes the county truly special, he urges preserving it.

Devon Eberhart of Delmar, a landowner and taxpayer, cites Theodore Roosevelt to argue that this generation must not waste resources or harm future ones, and urges supervisors to follow Planning and Zoning's recommendations for property line setbacks and zero shadow flicker on non-participating properties.

Dustin Johnson, Clinton County resident, thanks the Board of Supervisors and Planning and Zoning members for their extensive work on the wind ordinance. He argues that large industrial turbines pose risks that outweigh benefits in Clinton County. He also states that turbines negatively affect nearby residents' quality of life through noise pollution, which is associated with sleep issues and chronic stress, citing Mechanicsville as an example of impacts that go "deeper than surface contamination."

Anna Lorenzen of Bryant, Iowa, urges that wind turbine setbacks be measured from property lines. She argues that Clinton County is too densely populated for 614-foot turbines and fears a significant loss of property value without a price guarantee, especially since she built her home herself in 1995 and has invested heavily in it.

Tom Traharne, a land-use planner with 30 years of experience, urges the board to revise the proposed 2-mile setback for wind energy systems in Clinton County. He suggests a tiered approach: 1.5 miles for communities with over 5,000 residents and 1 mile for smaller communities, arguing this maintains protection for public health, safety, and future growth while allowing feasible project development.

Aaron Marks, a lifelong resident of Clinton County, urges protecting areas within 10 miles of the Mississippi River due to wildlife concerns. He also expresses concerns about the widespread karst geology in the region, suggesting increased environmental sensitivity and

Sue Dikeman, a property owner in Elk River Township, values the local wildlife—turkeys, deer, eagles—and opposes wind turbines near her home. She believes most public feedback is against turbines, thanks the board for its work, and urges support for the zoning committee's recommendation.

Dustin Ricketsen, a farmer from Bryan, Iowa, expresses deep concern about the impact of wind turbines on prime agricultural land. He emphasizes the importance of preserving farmland for future generations and criticizes wind projects as non-agricultural and disruptive to soil, tile lines, and farming operations. He urges county officials to increase the catastrophic event fund from 10% to 20% of the decommissioning budget and to ensure that financial guarantees for turbine removal are held locally.

Brad Burken, a lifelong resident and electrician in Clinton County, appreciates the zoning commission's efforts and urges careful consideration of the risks and rewards of wind energy projects. He raises concerns about long-term financial impacts, property values, and environmental hazards, including the proximity to the Maquoketa River.

Jake Dever, a resident of Clinton County, stresses the importance of considering local factors when discussing environmental effects, especially on waterfowl and wetlands. He uses a vivid analogy to show how wind turbines could block bird migration.

Ryan Purser, wind site manager for Hancock and Cerro Gordo Counties, explains the safety and environmental protocols of modern wind energy facilities. He emphasizes that turbine fires are rare due to built-in protections such as lightning systems, heat sensors, and automatic shutdowns. He clarifies that internal fire suppression systems are ineffective or unsuitable due to the turbine design.

Swati Dandekar, Bright Future Iowa, raises concerns about the proposed wind ordinance in Clinton County, pointing out that it includes arbitrary and overly restrictive buffer zones around cities, airports, and the Mississippi River that lack a scientific or engineering basis. She argues that the ordinance unfairly restricts landowners' rights and may prevent viable wind projects, resulting in lost economic opportunities and potential legal issues. The speaker calls on the county to adopt a more balanced approach, similar to the one used for solar energy, and highlights the need to protect property rights and ensure responsible governance.

Mary Colleen Bardo, a farm owner in Clinton County, urges the Board of Supervisors to fulfill their oath of office by safeguarding residents' health, safety, and property rights. She requests measures to mitigate the adverse effects of wind turbines—such as noise, shadow flicker, and vibrations—and supports the Planning and Zoning Commission's recommendations, including setting setbacks from property lines. She highlights that her taxes should cover her entire property.

Peggy Eickert, Bryant, expressed concerns about the impact of wind turbines on the aesthetics and value of her property and supported stricter setback and shadow flicker restrictions to safeguard non-participating landowners.

Jackie Sparks, Charlotte, attended a recent Planning and Zoning meeting, where concerns were raised about wildlife protection and setbacks for wind turbines. Farmers expressed their dedication to land preservation and questioned the relevance of outdated setback regulations.

Gabriel Wall, a local resident and volunteer at the National Mississippi River Museum, voices concern about the environmental and visual effects of wind turbines near his home. He stresses the need to protect local wildlife, scenery, and natural resources, and calls on the community to unite against actions that could cause lasting damage to the region.

Dawn Nelson, Delmer, supports the Planning and Zoning Commission's recommendations—especially the setback requirement from a non-participating landowner's property line rather than just their home. She emphasizes the

importance of equal property rights for all landowners, including those not participating in the wind project, and urges the Board of Supervisors to adopt the commission's recommendations.

Seth White, Bettendorf, discusses his concerns about how corporate agriculture impacts wildlife and family farms. He highlights that pesticides and aggressive economic practices threaten rural ecosystems, farmland, and local communities. Seth questions whether supporting pesticide-free, local farming aligns with claims to protect wildlife and rural livelihoods.

Ron Boesch, resident, expresses thanks to the Board of Supervisors, county staff, and the Planning and Zoning Commission for their dedication to the wind ordinance process. They emphasize the unique geography of eastern Iowa, particularly karst formations, which pose risks to groundwater and flood control. The speaker urges the protection of natural resources, wildlife habitats—especially bald eagle nests—and riparian areas. They advocate for setbacks from property lines rather than dwellings to promote fairness for smaller landowners and support health-related recommendations from the Board of Health.

MOTION by Supervisor Srp to suspend public comments for the Board to enter into a work session discussion with the Planning and Zoning Board.

Roll Call: Srp: Yes; Irwin: Yes; George: Yes.

Motion carried.

Planning & Zoning recommended measuring wind turbine setbacks from property lines, banning shadow flicker on non-participating properties, and adding definitions for riparian corridors and wetlands. Supervisors debated setbacks—pushing for the greater of 3x turbine height or 1,800 ft—while noting that property-line measurements could make development infeasible in much of the county. They weighed wildlife, migratory bird routes, airports, rivers, conservation areas, and mapping constraints against legal and financial risks, including potential multimillion-dollar liability and Iowa cases where restrictive ordinances were overturned. Counsel advised that protecting existing occupied homes is more defensible than future land uses under rational basis review. The board aims to balance the protection of residents and natural resources with allowing some feasible development to avoid litigation and fiscal harm.

Dr. Julie Garvin, Environmental Services Project Manager, NextEra Energy, discussed the 181 years of combined operation of 1400 Commercial wind turbines by NextEra in Iowa with only six bald eagle fatalities.

Ryan Schmidts, Manager of Eagle Valley Nature Preserve in southwest Wisconsin, has tracked satellite Tracks of Eagles in the Driftless Area and has tracked young eagles, noting that they often travel as far as 5 miles from the nest only to return the next morning.

Dr. Christopher Olson, NextEra Energy, Defensible setback, suggesting the board review setbacks in surrounding states in their statewide legislation.

Shelby Ridenour of NextEra Energy discussed the possibility of regulatory flexibility through waivers for applicants who demonstrate coordination with agencies such as Fish and Wildlife or DNR. She emphasized the need for local protections given recent changes at the federal and state levels.

9:14 P.M. The Board resumes public comment

Megan Murphy-Salyer, NextEra Energy, presents their analysis of the proposed ordinance setbacks for wind energy projects in Clinton County. She shares a detailed wind-suitability map that illustrates various setback zones, including landowner participation, public rights-of-way, riparian corridors, wetlands, wooded habitats, and conservation areas, with specific no-waiver rules for each. The presentation emphasizes the impact of these setbacks on land use and project feasibility.

Kimberly Dickey, NextEra Energy, continued the presentation of setback concerns, including a 5-mile setback from the Clinton Municipal Airport, as well as setbacks from Maquoketa Airport and private airstrips. She states that NextEra Energy is here to work with the county in good faith.

Bill Gerhard, Johnson County, spoke about the benefits offered to the trades by wind development companies and the benefits of increased tax revenue.

Kelly McDonald, Clinton County resident, spoke about the recent catastrophic wind turbine failures across the state.

Angela Jo Clays, Delmar, spoke to the board about having a Commercial Wind turbine as a neighbor.

Joe Swanton from Goose Lake thanks the supervisors and planning members for their efforts on zoning issues. He urges them to stand firm against pressure from large corporations and to adopt reasonable protections, emphasizing community input and proper setbacks to preserve natural flyways. He concludes by expressing unity in their fight to protect local interests.

Landon Rohrer from Clinton County expressed gratitude for the Planning and Zoning Commission's efforts on the Shadow Flicker amendment. He pointed out that eliminating shadow flicker for residents would be more reliable and

easier to control. He expressed his willingness to support an ordinance that allowed for a wavier for shadow flicker where residents agree to waive their rights.

Annette Eslick, county resident, expresses appreciation for everyone's time and effort in protecting our county. She asks: How will enforcement be handled if ordinances are violated? What safeguards exist to ensure enforcement? Are sufficient funds allocated to set aside resources? Additionally, I want to clarify whether the upcoming maps are based on a 600-foot height or the originally proposed height. .

Sandy Hart, Camanche, appreciates the efforts to update wind ordinances and emphasizes the importance of maintaining setbacks that protect wildlife, water sources, and communities in Clinton County. She supports specific protections for eagles, waterfowl, bats, and water supplies, and urges including setbacks from property lines to ensure safe construction and protect against hazards. She advocates for community safety and wildlife preservation through these regulations.

Matthew Nieman, resident of Clinton County, supports the proposed zoning changes, highlighting the importance of private airstrips and aerial application services at his family farm. He explains that these services, which have been in operation for over 15 years and handle about 750 landings annually, provide significant economic benefits to local farmers, with a return on investment of roughly \$37 per acre. Nieman expresses concern that siting turbines in certain areas could cut off access to these services, resulting in annual financial losses of approximately \$750,000. He also emphasizes the personal and community value of private airstrips, sharing how providing airplane rides to many people brings him fulfillment.

Wayne Shirc, County Resident, offers a fresh perspective as a recent county resident and . I support the proposed ordinance and believe the county should focus on helping local businesses compete against external corporate threats. It’s concerning when non-residents support certain decisions, while residents, especially young people like myself, wonder what the county will do to help us grow. Thank you.

JoAnne Blank, a senior scientist and lead consultant at Stantec Consulting, discussed shadow flicker studies for wind projects across the U.S. She recommended clarifying the proposed ordinance to specify that wind operators limit shadow flicker to no more than 30 hours annually on non-participating residences, a common industry standard. Blank emphasized that shadow flicker is not a health concern and that restrictions should apply to occupied homes or community buildings, not property lines, to avoid hindering development. She also supported the setback requirement of 2.5 times the turbine height as sufficient protection for non-participating homes.

MOTION by Supervisor Srp to agree the public hearing.

Roll Call: Srp: Yes; Irwin: Yes; George: Yes. Motion carried 9:51 p.m.

The Board of Supervisors adjourned to meet at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, December 1, 2025, at the Clinton County Administration Building, 1900 N 3rd St, Clinton, IA.

David Troester, County Auditor Erin George, Chairperson

-APPROVED-

County Auditor

Chairperson