

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
ADJOURNED MEETING  
JANUARY 31, 2012**

At an adjourned meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Floyd County, Virginia, held on Tuesday, January 31, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the auditorium of the Floyd County High School, thereof;

PRESENT: Case C. Clinger, Chairman; Virgel H. Allen, Vice Chairman; J. Fred Gerald, Joe D. Turman, Lauren D. Yoder, Board Members; Daniel J. Campbell, County Administrator; Terri W. Morris, Assistant County Administrator; James E. Cornwell, County Attorney.

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the reading of the handicapping statement.

The Chairman called for the public hearing on the draft ordinance known as “An Ordinance Regulating and Prohibiting Construction of Tall Structures on Certain Protected Mountain Ridgelines in Floyd County, Virginia”.

The County Administrator read the call for the public hearing.

Mr. Cornwell, County Attorney provided the following information on the draft ordinance: You have before you tonight a public hearing on a draft ordinance “Regulating and Prohibiting Tall Structures on Certain Ridgelines in Floyd County, Virginia”. This ordinance is propounded pursuant to Section 15.2-2295.1 of the Code of Virginia, 1950 as amended. As you are aware, Virginia is a Dillon Rule State. In some states, a locality can adopt any ordinance on any subject unless the State legislature adopts a statute not allowing the locality the ability to regulate that issue. In Virginia, as a Dillon Rule State, a county, city or town can only adopt ordinances as permitted by the legislature or as necessarily implied from a grant of authority. The ordinance before you is specifically authorized pursuant to 15.2-2295.1 of the Code of Virginia and therefore grants to Floyd County the ability to regulate mountain ridge construction. As requested, I prepared the draft ordinance before you by taking the provisions of the Code of Virginia and placing them into the ordinance along with enforcement provisions – the definitions contained in the ordinance are the same as the statute and the provisions of the regulations are as follows. Some highlights that he outlined included: Definition of protected mountain ridge; definition of ridgeline or ridge; definition of tall buildings or structures; reference to protected mountain ridge map; prohibition of certain buildings or structures; building permit not to be issued; enforcement. Although the authority of the County is limited by the statutory provisions, should you determine after this public hearing to proceed to adopt a ridgeline protection ordinance with criteria derived from the comments tonight, I would be happy to work with staff to revise and modify this draft ordinance to reach the goals of this Board and as permitted by law to achieve an enforceable ordinance.

The Chairman called for comments from the audience.

Mr. Jim Woltz, Locust Grove District.

- Petition passed around County to ask Board to create buffer zone for wind turbines – the ordinance was totally different – several signers would not have signed it
- Delicate issue – whose right to decide among Floyd County taxpayers who has the superior right because of elevation – 2000’ encompasses about 95% of Floyd County – all affected – higher elevations have to accept development as they overlook it
- Ordinance does not address health, safety and welfare of Floyd County
- Solution is easy – do not need ordinance as copied from State Code
- Suggest to restrict height to 150’ or higher and exempt any structure that is currently allowed and used in residential, commercial or agricultural applications; better define a structure that would describe a windmill; omit words like protected mountain ridge, ridgeline, crest – these words will haunt you later – ambiguous, does not target Floyd County
- If buffer zone is created, don’t make mistake Roanoke County did – they did from nearest existing dwelling – suggest making it from the adjacent property boundary – landowner may want to build in future
- Property rights are fragile and becoming more so every day
- Ask for creation of a new ordinance – will be glad to assist in any way – to create a buffer zone as citizens requested; make a height restriction that will prevent windmills if that’s what you desire

Mr. Billy Weitzenfeld, Executive Director of Association of Energy Conservation Professionals.

- We promote energy efficiency, energy conservation and renewable energy – we support renewable energy because it is the future
- Have opportunity to produce and facilitate 30-40 megawatts of clean renewable energy
- Important issue that affects us all along with neighboring communities, region, entire State
- Is Wills Ridge an appropriate site for utility scale wind farms – I don’t know – suggest that no one knows the answer – that is the problem – need more information before a decision is made
- Applaud those who have given various opinions over the last several months to keep the issue public – important exercise of democracy
- Strongly recommend appointment of community task force to discuss issue in an environment or arena where effective, facilitated dialogue with expert opinions, good give/take that is reliant on fact based information on environmental impact, economic impact, noise, birds, etc.

Mr. Jerry Boothe, Courthouse District:

- Do not like anything about this ordinance – believe in property rights – petition asked for windmill regulations, not banning outright
- Ordinance does not address blasting along ridge lines and impact on shallow aquifers – you could raise the elevations or building heights but nothing about that impact – may not have the authority to regulate
- Elevation does not bother me as much as building heights – there are a lot of structures taller (older farm houses with several stories for example, old style barns, silos). A

potential industry might need a 42' tall building, we wouldn't want to turn them away. Would recommend using the existing cell phone tower height, base it on something sound.

Mr. Russ Young, Courthouse District:

- Have small farm in an old neighborhood – am not concerned about whether we have windmills or not, but whether we have regulations on them – this ordinance does not do that
- When blasting was done for huge power lines, wells were affected, some have never come back – clean water is County's greatest asset, must guard it, need some type of proof that it will not be destroyed
- Two issues in ordinance: 1) wind farms; 2) structures over 40' that are on ridges – moved here from New Mexico, several ordinances in Counties there are trying to prevent mansions on ridges where they can be seen – they have not been successful; research the ones that have been successful if that is what you want to prevent
- Please consider very carefully

Mr. J. C. Holden, Locust Grove District:

- Not here about windmills, but about property rights. If a man has property and wants to put a windmill on it, and not bothering me, that's his business.
- Suggestions – do you need a lawyer to read the Constitution? When you have an ordinance that you need, decide what you want, take it to the school, have somebody in Civics class write it up for you, eliminate the lawyers. Started out with a windmill ordinance, now everything is in it and tied up.
- Do not need a lot of restrictions unless we get rid of EPA because they have so many regulations that will keep anybody from building anything – put it on the ballot so you'll know what the people want.

Mr. Jim Mackler:

- Moved here from New York, have seen what these types of things do – has destroyed Long Island.
- People do not come here to look at windmills, they are beautiful if you have hundreds in a field, not to look at a couple on Wills Ridge.
- Floyd is a beautiful small town, I want it to stay that way.
- Hope to get this ordinance passed to stop this.

Mr. Bill Modica, from Roanoke:

- Come to Floyd often for scenery, music events and recreation.
- Ordinance will create barrier in development of clean renewable wind energy installations that can serve to reduce some need of coal.
- Very concerned that coal companies are cutting off ridge tops to get to coal seams.
- Are not protecting ridge tops if you allow cell towers, TV and radio towers, high voltage electric lines but not wind turbines
- Read resolution from Sierra Club (as a member) supporting wind energy.

Mr. David Dixon, Courthouse District:

- Support ordinance that meets stated objectives with further evaluation on changing elevation from 2000' to 2800'.
- Property rights also need protecting for adjacent landowners to not put wells, springs and surface water in jeopardy and to not decrease property values.
- Planning Commission member stated that private property rights are essential in order to protect property, one person's right to uses must not have impacts on health, safety and welfare of another person/property.
- Another Planning Commission member stated that preserving flexibility of land owners is important, but freedoms must be balanced by responsibility to adjacent landowners and community at large. Unlimited development options have risk and costs, both now and later.
- Respectfully request that the Board review moving elevation height to 2800' to protect adjacent property owners and Floyd County at large.

Mr. Dan Vest, Locust Grove District:

- Why was this ordinance done so quickly, so severe and so restrictive? Very ambiguous.
- Will employ several lawyers in implementation and enforcement – huge burden on taxpayers to control
- Whether folks are for or against windmills – why not give them a chance like Blacksburg – have a test windmill and research over a longer period of time
- Do not take our property rights away just to get rid of windmills – wrong thing to do

Mr. Rick Wagener, Indian Valley District:

- Live on the crest of Wills Ridge, house is at 2800', windmills will be my neighbor;
- Work on generators all day, every day, wear ear protection – know what the generators sound like – never ending noise for my wife and I;
- Wind blowing through the trees is a joy, a wind turbine would not be a joy running 24/7/365;
- Not against better ways to improve/provide energy but there are better locations – places where scenery and wildlife would not be destroyed
- Please vote to restrict any structures over 40' tall except for the exceptions listed.

Mr. James Conner, Courthouse District:

- I am the farmer referred to with the 80' silos – would hate to have restrictions if I need to build another one;
- Real estate taxes – cell phone tower at edge of town is on my property – the land on which it is sitting is assessed at \$22,000/acre compared to the rest of the cornfield at \$6000/acre – these different types of equipment make a big difference to the County and could possibly lower taxes for others.

Ms. Helen St. Clair, Indian Valley District:

- My house is on Wills Ridge with a beautiful view of the mountain;
- Not against people having property rights but am against people being able to do things to property that adjoins me that could adversely affect my quality of life;
- If wind energy is so appealing, why are people not standing in line to get it? Maybe they have heard all the negatives or companies halting wind energy expansion.

- We have an opportunity to see other peoples misfortunes with wind energy, so we need to wake up and take note;
- Some think the revenue from the turbines will take care of all of Floyd County's needs, I do not see the figures to support that;
- Industrial wind companies do not care about our mountains, water, quality of life – only profit;
- 2002 Comprehensive Plan states as an overall goal – to provide for the orderly and effective development of the County so as to protect the health, safety and general welfare of all citizens thereby providing a desirable living environment for this and future generations. The most recent Comprehensive Plan echoes the same goal – to be a creative, prosperous and resilient entity that respects its people, farms, forests and water for future generations. It is time to act on those principles and vote for a ridgeline ordinance.

Mr. Raymond St. Clair, Indian Valley District:

- Ask that you support an ordinance that would limit the height of things being built on the ridges of Floyd County.
- #1 goal of Comprehensive Plan is that farms and forests are protected.
- #2 goal is that water is valued and protected. County residents are dependent on groundwater because that is our only source of water. We are vulnerable to drought and contamination. We must act quickly to avoid contaminants in our water.
- Windmill construction cannot be done to stay in compliance with Comprehensive Plan.
- How can water be conserved when thousands of gallons are required to clean turbines?
- Your vote for ridgeline ordinance will ensure our safety from these things.

Mr. Charles Whiting, Indian Valley District:

- Not opposed to people's property rights being theirs – I'm in favor of that – there are limits such as things harmful to neighbors or illegal agriculture for instance;
- All for alternative energies but many things about towers are not well stated or proven – size is greater than Boeing 747 for instance and geared or non-turbined blades that can burst into flames;
- They are becoming dinosaurs already – 14,000 have already been abandoned in the US – most are short-lived up to five years – when subsidies run out, they go out quietly;
- Numbers are very high for bird kills, bat kills, eagles, owls, migratory birds, songbirds, other predator birds – 6-8 million birds are being accounted for in Spain that have died;
- Disrupt radar and other broadcasting areas;
- Studies show a 2.5% reduction in energy costs which is not much for such a costly endeavor;
- Blasting is required for pedestals and transmission towers which hurts the water and aquifers.

Ms. Kirsten Vest, Locust Grove District:

- Primary issue is property and individual rights – whether or not windmills would be beneficial to Floyd County is secondary;

- Board of Supervisors did a knee-jerk reaction to an issue after hearing from the tourism and real estate interests – a few signatures on a petition decided the course of action for the rest of citizens;
- Ordinance as written is much more restrictive than Tazewell County's where they allow permits to be applied for – this ordinance has no variances;
- Comprehensive Plan was mentioned earlier, but that plan also promotes sustainability – Floyd County is a member of the NRVPCD and is part of the Livability Institute which is based in Blacksburg, which promote green/clean energy of which wind energy is a part – which is it? Promote or restrict?
- Whichever opinion you have, this is not a decision to be made quickly, it needs more research, both thoroughly and objectively, make an informed decision which is what responsible government does and what we sorely need in Floyd County.

Mr. Wayne Boothe, Courthouse District:

- Have brought to Board over 700 signatures on a petition to support the ridgeline ordinance over the last several months (also asked the audience to raise their hands in support).

Mr. Frank Rudisill, Indian Valley District:

- This ordinance will not help the elderly or farmers in the County with their high electrical bills, especially in winter;
- Comprehensive Plan, page 167 of Chapter 10, future property use – goes to the highest bidder regardless of impact of neighbors, investors or County;
- Comprehensive Plan, Chapter 11, you want to protect the farms and forests – they have to sell out to pay taxes;
- Ten year plan promotes tourism – will help the livelihood of Floyd County – don't see widows or farmers getting tax breaks from tourism.
- People don't like wind turbines, I don't like solar panels, but you may be looking at close to 4000 acres of them coming if you pass this ordinance;
- Virginia Code Section 58.1-2606C. states that County can charge minimum real estate rate, which ours is \$0.50/\$100 and maximum personal property rate, which is \$2.95/\$100, that will range anywhere from \$15,000/year/turbine to \$88,000/year/turbine – that's a lot of money. County would almost double their money in tax revenue. This would help with first responders costs, farmers, elderly and those retired.

Ms. Cecilia Rudisill, Indian Valley District:

- Once again, asking you to think about the wind turbines and change with the times, and look at other forms of energy;
- This is a rural area, not Montgomery County, we do not need people telling us when to put our trash out and all the other rules, rules could be in the Town of Floyd, not the County – let people do what they want with their land as long as it is not destroying the land or water;
- I would like to see wind turbines before solar panels – they will come if wind turbines are outlawed;
- Landowners should pull together because this issue has been blown out of proportion;

- My husband and I want to use any money we might receive to help others such as the elderly and schools.

Mr. Gary Ytema, Burks Fork District:

- My wife and I are right in the path of the wind turbines if you allow them, about 1500-2000' from my backyard – very concerned about the noise pollution;
- Noise is converted to sound pressure and an audible low frequency which has caused a lot of problems for people;
- 180 action groups have sprung up in reaction to the turbines, just East of the Mississippi – majority of them formed after the turbines went in because people had an expectation that didn't happen – their primary motivation is not to sue but to get the word out to others to not let this happen in your community;
- My wife and I are not against green energy or anything that would create jobs in the County but the noise pollution is what we have to look forward to. NASA research even proves the noise level pollution.

Ms. Yvonne Hodgkins, live at bottom of Wills Ridge:

- Rarely any noise where I live except the sound of nature, water is pure, surrounded by beautiful scenery – would not make the same decision to purchase this property if the possibility of wind turbines were there;
- In favor of renewable energy sources;
- Definition needs to be understood by people – these are not windmills, they are small, these are huge industrial wind turbines;
- Industrial wind turbine installations do not belong in a populated residential area – residents near turbines regret the installations due to noise, damage to roads not repaired as promised and environment and even ground vibrations;
- Turbines are not benign structures, blades have been known to break and hurt people;
- Trees on top of ridgeline hold our water, water is a precious resource, no turning back to fix it;
- Ask that Board of Supervisors enact ordinance so you can make decisions that affect our ridgelines.

Mr. Bo Spessard, property on Wills Ridge, lives in Nashville, Tennessee:

- Own 25 acres on Wills Ridge, built cabin there several years ago because of the beauty of the area;
- Grew up in Roanoke but visited Floyd often and brought friends here from all over the country, all think it is an awesome place – what Floyd County has is based on the beauty;
- Would not have purchased property if there were huge wind turbines on the ridge;
- Drove 500 miles to be here for public hearing to give you an outside perspective, that what Floyd County has is spectacular, turbines would degrade the natural beauty;
- I am a businessman and understand the need for jobs but would argue that wind turbines are not the way Floyd County needs to go;
- In favor of some sort of limitation for ridgeline development – attorney by trade so I understand that we need limitations.

Mr. Paul Hill, live around Wills Ridge:

- I am against towers and also against people telling me what I can and can't do with my own land that I pay taxes on. If people are going to tell me what to do with my land, I shouldn't have to pay the taxes on it;
- Telephone towers are fine, not that tall, but these 500' towers will hurt the beauty;
- You start telling me what to do with my land, zoning comes next, people need to speak up.

Mr. Rigel Morgan, Burks Fork District – had already left the meeting.

Mr. Peter Jackson, Indian Valley District:

- Necessary for you to examine this situation more carefully, so many opinions, no one knows fact from fiction;
- Suggest you table decision until you know economic effects and environmental hazards that this may or may not provide.

Mr. Kenneth Sewell, had already left the meeting.

Mr. Ralph Harucki, had already left the meeting.

Mr. Jack Wall, Little River District:

- We all know that Floyd needs clean, local energy, jobs, tax revenue from a broader base, economic development to help our community manage challenging times ahead – can't rely on State government or energy sources from the Middle East;
- Coal is destructive, do not want uranium mining, power lines across the County – so what are the alternatives? Wind turbines are scary with size but reliable – but do need regulating;
- Floyd is a green community and we care about the environment – wind turbines could be an asset if constructed properly;
- Not in favor of this ordinance because I think we should promote our community with better energy sources.

Mr. Michael Kovick, Little River District:

- Property rights – we all have them – windmills make so much noise and commotion that in France, they are required to be 1.2 miles from any residence;
- You will disenfranchise everyone in the County with this ordinance and make everybody miserable, they will leave the County, tax revenue will be less;
- All for wind power, if it is off the coast, for these huge windmills. Small ones are ok if they don't disrupt the neighbors.

Mr. Stanley Davis, Little River District:

- Opposed to ordinance on many different levels – wife and I want to put small windmill on our property, this ordinance would ban us from having that – is County willing to pay my electric bill?
- Been to Indiana, have seen windmills, people talk about noise, I didn't hear anything – they are very slow moving, at 4 rpm;

- I've worked in a coal fired power plant, am aware of and have seen the pollution they put out – the contamination of air and water and lives of people that worked there;
- Understand the people that don't want these things in their backyard but I have the Doppler tower in my backyard, nobody asked me if I wanted it – it would be in violation of your ordinance;
- Do not think it is the purpose of this Board to tell people what they can and cannot do with their land – this Board should be enthusiastically behind any energy program that would come to this County, give them tax incentives.

Ms. Anne Armistead, Courthouse District:

- Am a Sierra Club member but very much at odds with the NRV Club right now because I do not think this is a good idea for Floyd County, but would be off of the Virginia coast;
- Floyd County is in a position to do some great renewable energy stuff that is clean, green and doesn't disturb the quality of life here;
- No one wants to be told what we can or cannot do with our land but I go to Richmond a lot and I know for a fact that if our local officials don't make the ordinances, Richmond will, it is much harder to change something in Richmond, we need them made locally.

Mr. Elmer Underwood, Indian Valley District:

- If I want a tower in my field, it is my business and not yours – if it is legal I should be able to do it.

Mr. John Cundiff, Little River District:

- I am a supporter of global energy and will take a different route – I wish the State of Virginia would come up with an energy plan to help localities develop energy resources that you can within your County, then that would avoid the situations of people saying that they want renewable energy, but generated somewhere else – everybody has that viewpoint but no one has an answer. If the plan is for every community to generate global energy within their boundaries, using the best option they can, then everybody would benefit. When you do a local energy source like bioenergy or wind energy, then those dollars stay within your community. All of Floyd County's energy dollars are going somewhere else.

Dr. Jonathan Miles, Director of Wind Energy Center at James Madison University:

- Not a stockholder in a wind energy company, not a consultant to the wind industry, work that I do is strictly funded by the State and Federal governments – we provide resources and tools to communities such as yourself and we promote wind energy across the State;
- Have listened very closely tonight to opinions and some facts about wind energy – there has been talk about permitting power lines, cell towers and the like and outlawing wind energy.
- Wind energy is not a black and white issue but the ordinance would treat it as such, it would prohibit it. Recommend researching the issue very carefully. Siting is a difficult issue and requires a lot of research and understanding. I promote wind energy in addition to all other kinds of renewable energy. Every energy source has its risks and impacts.
- You have opportunity to write an ordinance that promotes various energy sources while protecting your health and safety, protects economic interests of the community, and

promotes a technology that is ready for prime time and performs remarkably well and reliably. Research thoroughly and objectively. Invite people from the wind companies and from the communities that have turbines – hear the good and the bad. We at the Institute would be glad to help you, make technical presentations and the like.

Ms. Kathleen Ingoldsby, Courthouse District:

- Very impressed with the Floyd County people tonight, we all love the County;
- Small wind in Virginia has been shown to not be productive nor profitable;
- In support of ordinance as written;
- Complex issues to be looked at here – shifts in bedrock, fractures, water, wells, springs – fracture zones are all interconnected, impossible to predict or chart possible incidents;
- Tall structure ordinance to protect our resources is needed.

Mr. Joe Lucas, representing Daniel Lucas, Locust Grove District:

- On the commercial side of wind turbines, they are designed inefficiently, they work at about 45% efficiency – are being abandoned because of expense and high maintenance;
- Have connections with General Electric, they have quit producing them until they are re-designed;
- All about wind energy for our country and Floyd County but commercialization may not be where it is at, should be on an individual basis – folks should be entitled to have their own small turbine if they so desire;
- Father has received patent after nine years of work for this technology, in negotiation with a company for production;
- Any wind farm that has been set up with the government subsidies has defaulted, none are self-sufficient;
- This area of Southwest Virginia is called a “bad wind location”, we are not in an area for consistent flow and high rate of speed – other people in this room may contradict that with other information;
- Seriously consider before you commit to anything – have companies bring you facts and track records of their success – I don’t think you will be impressed.

Mr. Rusty Bambarger, Indian Valley District:

- Project would be in my front yard;
- Work for Virginia OSHA – we put out monthly tabulated data on the health issues around wind turbines for local people exposed on daily basis;
- Noise at 85 decibels is considered an action level for us, 90 decibels we don’t allow people to work in that – we do not want people to be exposed to this noise daily. Information is from their tabulated data, not OSHA’s. It is not in the range that we would allow people to work in but we’d let our children play there – we need to protect our community;
- Safety concerns – construction and maintenance on turbines are within the top three hazards on our list with high levels and falls – you’ll see me more;
- Water is a big concern for me and my neighbors – once we lose our water or disturb our water by blasting, when we’re out of water we’re out of people;
- What are we really buying? They are coming right beside our homes but what are we guaranteed? They will not sign anything or promise anything concrete;

- Not sure that ordinance is the way to go but it is the best thing we have right now. I would vote for the ordinance.

Mr. Joel Vanditty, live below Wills Ridge on Ridgeview Road:

- Please do not let this happen, it is a full-scale industrial wind farm with turbines 500' tall. The spine of ridge is narrow, will require blasting, quality of life will be ruined;
- Creek forms on my property that feeds Beaver Creek, the watershed is right there;
- One of the companies is from Germany and the profits will go there. The electricity will not stay in Floyd County so our rates will not go down.
- People say they are for it but they don't live where I do – so I am saying, not in my back yard – maybe raise that limit to 100' so people can build their silos or have small windmills for personal use on their property. Another way to look at it would be with a buffer zone on wattage and output, the bigger the turbine, the further it has to be away from people.
- This site affects everybody in the County because it could be seen so widespread, the noise, lights and just the size will be a nightmare.

Ms. Lynn Gregory, Courthouse District:

- I have not made a decision, I don't think we've done enough research and have enough information – Floyd County may or may not be the place for the windmills;
- Grew up in a rural area smaller than Floyd, our area kept the Army from building a bombing range there because the research was done – the farmers, environment, everyone was going to lose. Ordinances were put into place but they were specific, measurable and attainable – our ordinance as written right now is not. I am for ordinances that are well thought out, enforceable and not ambiguous.

Ms. Becky Farnham, Little River District:

- As my husband spoke earlier, we have the wonderful Doppler tower, it was quite a surprise to us, people have no clue what it is;
- Maybe Wills Ridge is not the right place to put a windmill farm but I sure hope that you don't make it so we can never have windmills in this County. Floyd County is looked at for our traditional lifestyles, our music, our arts and for our alternative community, it is all good, we work together;
- With the 40' height restriction, we could not even put a little windmill up, we would love to have one;
- Don't make it so we can't have alternative energy in this County.

Mr. Randy Saul, Indian Valley District:

- Trucker who has leased my trucks to company called Daly, specialize in energy projects, I haul 90% wind. Have hauled to Kiser, WV, Texas, California, involved in all types of energy projects;
- Individual windmills – yes, big projects – no;
- Live on Wills Ridge with about 1.5 miles of mountain ridge, 360 degree view, pay my taxes with Social Security to keep property the way it is;
- Would be glad to take the Board to any of the sites or introduce you to the Director of the Department of Energy, you can see the problems;

- To get to the top of Wills Ridge, cutting roads, etc., about one acre of land will have to be leveled;
- Jobs for County folks will not come – they have their own maintenance crews come in to do the work several times a year;
- An energy co-op might work, sell the energy to Floyd County residents with green credits to AEP.

Mr. Kenneth Nolen, Courthouse District:

- Live on Ridgeview Road, have land that borders the ridge – am against the wind turbines;
- Do not think you should be telling a man what he can do with his land when he goes out and works and pays for it – you shouldn't be able to tell him how high to build something on his land, like a silo or anything;
- The turbines will devalue my land if they come here;
- When the 765 power line came through, it was shoved through two pieces of my daddy's land and we get no benefit from it here in Floyd County – same thing with windmills, we'll get no benefit from it;
- I am saying no to the windmills.

Mr. Tony Morisco, Locust Grove District:

- Height requirements of ordinance – if I want to build a 50' silo on my property, which will affect no one else, I'd like to be able to do that;
- Windmills – better way to accomplish this – there is a lot to be learned and time to learn;
- View pollution, possibly noise pollution – I don't know;
- There are energy problems in this country – don't know if wind turbines are the way to solve it;
- The only people positive that wind energy is the solution to our problems are the ones selling it – there are pros and cons;
- What I would like to see happen, if we get wind turbines, make sure there is a bond written so they can be removed when they become non-functioning – so the County won't have to spend \$10 million to remove them in 10 years;
- There are five people on the Board of Supervisors – maybe this should be put on a ballot to let all vote on the situation, I wouldn't want this on my shoulders.

Ms. Diana Zorman, Associate at Virginia Center for Wind Energy at James Madison University:

- Wind turbines are highly efficient, more efficient than some base load power plants, 95% reliable, we know how the wind functions and we know when it will be windy;
- Oil and gas have been subsidized for over 100 years at over \$5 billion/year – renewables for only 15 years at \$500,000/year;
- The GE wind business is prospering, the electronics for wind manufacturing are in Salem, Virginia;
- Wind turbines also offer excellent health and water benefits – in the State there are several communities that offer great wind ordinances;
- More research definitely needs to be done – we at the Center would be more than willing to help you.

Ms. Donna Graham, have lived on Ridgeview Road for 62 years;

- My perspective is memories of my grandfather, sitting on his porch with his cup of coffee, looking at Wills Ridge;
- Water – from a spring on Wills Ridge at the tree line provides water for six families – wonderful pure water, I don't know what this would do;
- I don't like people being told what to do with their land but we do need regulations;
- I would rather pay \$5 extra to AEP to ensure pure water for me and my family;
- I am a realtor, I sell homes to people who come here for the beauty, Floyd County is special.

Ms. Becky Howell, Burks Fork District:

- I know nothing about the research at all, find it interesting that so many contradictory things have been mentioned here;
- Our country was founded on many principles, two of which are property rights and the free market system – I believe in property rights but I know that the Floyd County people who have been here for many years would not want to do anything to damage their neighbor's property. Free market system works when it is not interfered with by the government;
- If wind farms are so good, why are they being subsidized, that is our tax dollars;
- How will this energy get out of Floyd, will we use eminent domain to take the people's property over which it will pass, will they profit from it?
- Similarities between taxes and energy – I think instead of raising taxes more, we need to cut expenditures. Instead of demanding more energy, we need to be more efficient.

Mr. David Woodward, Burks Fork District:

- Different perspective – property rights – I am in favor of them;
- We need to have a broader vision, look beyond our children and grandchildren's futures;
- Native American tribes had two rules: 1) make decisions by consensus, solution that everyone is willing to accept; 2) consider the next seven generations;
- Five of you have a very difficult decision – consider that we never really own the land;
- Understand that people want to do what they want with their land, I want a windmill on my property – but the 40' limitation is onerous;
- Go back to the drawing board and do some deeper research;
- Your decision is very great, the weight on your shoulders is much larger than anyone has considered.

After no further comments, the Chairman declared the Public Hearing closed.

On a motion of Supervisor Yoder, seconded by Supervisor Allen, and unanimously carried, it was resolved to adjourn to Tuesday, February 14, 2012 at 8:30 a.m.

Supervisor Yoder – aye

Supervisor Turman – aye

Supervisor Gerald – aye

Supervisor Allen – aye

Supervisor Clinger – aye

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Daniel J. Campbell, County Administrator

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Case C. Clinger, Chairman, Board of  
Supervisors