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## Walnut Board to review wind turbine ordinance

Village Attorney Rob LeSage was in attendance at the August 15 meeting of the Walnut Village Board to review the proposed wind farm ordinance.

LeSage began by explaining the general framework of the ordinance designed to focus on regulation commercial wind turbines within 1.5 miles of the existing village limits.

No turbines would be allowed within the village limits. Within the 1.5 mile border, there presently would be two designated areas where the turbines could be permitted. A conditional use would need to be obtained for these areas.

Under present law, the village has the power to regulate, and the wind farm developers would have to apply for a conditional use. At that point the planning commission would review the plan, including a decommissioning plan, and a performance bond.

Following the planning commission study and hearings, the commission would then present a recommendation to the village board. The

board could then accept or reject the commission's recommendation.

LeSage stressed that the process is an open meeting process. And that a conditional use must meet the guidelines of the ordinance, including consideration of health and safety; must not diminish other residents' property use or value; must not affect drainage; and entry to residents' property, among other items.

Throughout the process, LeSage stressed that the ordinance is a vehicle to regulate, not prohibit turbines.

LeSage suggested that the board recall the ordinance presently before the plan commission, which would in effect cancel the September 17 meeting of that group.

In addition the attorney suggested that the full board schedule one or possibly two meetings with the attorney to review the ordinance and then send a clear ordinance to the commission. He explained that the full village board needs to go through the ordinance, paragraph-by-paragraph.

When the ordinance is

forwarded to the plan commission, it needs to be an ordinance that the board believes in, and is in accordance with existing laws.

President Brasen reminded the board that Walnut Ridge has signed an agreement not act on their permits within the 1.5 mile radius of Walnut.

Trustee Lee Sarver agreed that he thinks the ordinance needs to be reviewed by the entire board, and entered a motion to rescind the present ordinance in front of the plan commission. Trustee Debbie Quinn seconded the motion, and all trustees present approved the motion. Trustee Glaudel was absent.

President Brasen and Trustee Quinn volunteered to attend the Bureau County Board of Appeals meeting on August 18.

The board will send a fifth request to the county board to honor the 1.5 mile setback issue.

Monday, August 29th was set as the first of two possible meetings to begin the ordinance review.

Sarver commented that he is not for or against the

trubines, but said, "Our job as a board it to protect the town from being boxed in by wind turbines.

Police Chief Ptasnik presented the July police report.

The board discussed an ongoing problem at the trailer park. Although the manager thought the problem had been solved, neighbors are continuing to have the problem.

Plastic bags filled with dog feces are being thrown over the fence into the adjacent yard. The board discussed possible remedies, including fining violators, and also the possibility of an ordinance that would make the trailer park owner responsible for tennants that can't seem to be good neighbors.

The board received a complaint about unnecessary burning.

President Brasen reported that a certified letter has been sent to Tom Black setting September 6th at 7 p.m. for Black to report the plan for restoration of his buildings, and a date of November 30th for completion of the project.