

McPherson County Zoning and Variance Board of Adjustment
Meeting Minutes
April 29, 2021

The McPherson County Zoning board meeting was called to order by Chairman Jeff Neuharth at 9:02AM. Members present included Richard Kolb, George Hulscher and Alvin Kallas. Also present were Anthony Kunz, Kenny Shafer, Mark Lapka, Austin Hoffman, McPherson Co States Attorney and Brooke Graves and Lanette Butler from zoning administration.

George Hulscher made a motion to approve the April 8, 2021 minutes as published. Alvin Kallas made the 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

No conflict of interest was noted.

Motion to move into the board of adjustment was made by 1st by Alvin Kallas and 2nd by Richard Kolb. Variance 21-V-01 Kunz grain bins was discussed. The grain bins will be less than 150' from the center of the ROW. Grain bins will be put at the end of the existing grain bins on the north end on the west side of the road. Motion to approve variance 21-V-01 with the stipulation to have the landowner responsible for snow removal if the grain bins impact the road was made 1st by Richard Kolb and 2nd by George Hulscher. Motion passed unanimously. Motion to move out of the board of adjustment was made 1st by Alvin Kallas and 2nd by Richard Kolb. Motion passed unanimously.

At 9:10 AM a phone call with Todd Bailey of the Department of Revenue. Mr. Bailey administers the central assessment program. He explained the process of assessing wind turbines and the distribution of funds to the county, organized townships and school districts. Various questions were asked in regards to funding for the schools, growth in regards to centrally assessed and taxation of the land that the tower is on. A question was also asked on assessing wind turbines locally versus through central assessment. The call was finished at 9:30 AM.

Additional comments were taken from Kenny Shafer and Mark Lapka on wind energy. They had specific concerns with lease length, the wind company being able to use any portion of the land in the lease and dictating what can and can't happen on the piece, the location of powerlines and size of powerlines needed for wind energy and land being taken for the purpose of transmission. Setbacks requirements were also discussed. The board thanked both Mr. Shafer and Mr. Lapka for their time.

The board moved forward with addressing the punch list that Lanette Butler had generated. The Board was able to address the 1st page of punch list items. Discussion also took place on the length of time a moratorium can be in effect.

The next meeting will take place Thursday, June 3rd, 2021 at 9AM.

Motion to adjourn was 1st made by George Hulscher and 2nd by Alvin Kallas. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by
Lanette Butler