

**Informational Meeting for
Wind Towers
May 16, 2011**

Supervisor Moore called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM.

Roll Call: Supervisor Moore, Councilwoman Robinson, Councilwoman Tremper, Councilman Cook, Town Clerk Maguire

Absent: Councilman Votra

Others Present: Kay Bartlett, Ann Britton, Jack Kelley, Harold and Donna Exware, Lois Wickwire, Tammi Thompson, Tom Whitesell, Elbridge E. Randall, Brian Hayden (Courier Observer), Jeff Demo, Lew Fertig, Yvonne Cook, Rick Perkins, Brian Hayes, Evan Harper Jr., Connie Harper, Betty Beha, Timothy Martin, Luke Martin, Jenny Burke (Iberdrola)

Supervisor opened the meeting for public comments and questions and asked everyone to address the board, not each other and to be respectful. He assured that everyone would be heard and then he would have Jenny Burke, the Iberdrola representative answer the questions after they had all been asked.

The questions and comments that were offered were:

1. Will the wind towers affect TV or cell phone reception?
2. How will the wind towers affect property assessments?
3. What happens after the 20 year land leases expires?
4. What happens if Iberdrola becomes bankrupt or ceases to exist?
5. What happens with the PILOT (payment in lieu of taxes) after the 20 year lease?
6. What will be the benefit for everyone in town, not just the landowners involved?
7. How much of a tax break will the residents see?
8. How will a wind tower affect the neighboring land owner's assessment?
9. How will the wild life be affected?
10. What is the position of the DEC, County Planning Board and Adirondack Council?
11. How much money will be reimbursed to the wind tower companies by the Federal and State Government?
12. What is the possibility of a local law to require reimbursement to land owners if their assessment is lowered?
13. Will the Town need rodent control in the event of loss of birds, bats and other wildlife?
14. Are there any studies to show the effects of electromagnetic fields on humans?
15. What kind of jobs will be created?
16. Will the Town know what the tax breaks will be before the Wind Tower Law is passed?

Jenny Burke, Project Developer/Manager for Iberdrola addressed the board and offered this information:

1. There are currently 2 test towers in this immediate area- 1 in Hopkinton and 1 in Parishville.

2. After the test phase of 1 year, the next step will be to work with the zoning restrictions in each town regarding noise levels and setbacks.
3. The power generated will go into the National Grid line which will result in the building of a substation and an interconnection study is being done to determine feasibility.
4. Leases are being sought now to prove that the company is serious about the proposed wind farm.
5. They are looking at a 50 wind turbine wind project with each turbine producing 2 megawatts each.
6. This is the early stage of the project and more people will be approached to sign leases as the project progresses.
7. A very large detailed Environmental Impact Statement will have to be prepared which will address a lot of the questions that were asked about shadow flicker, the effect on wildlife etc.
8. This whole process will take approximately 3 years. The first year is the setting up the test towers and public meetings such as this. The second and third years will be spent doing the Environmental Impact studies and the review processes of the Town Board and residents.
9. There have been no reported issues with phone reception but there have been problems with television reception in the past. These issues have been addressed and are 98% successful with correcting the problem.
10. The PILOT program is between the towns, the county and the schools. The reimbursement will be \$8,000 per megawatt which will be a proposed \$800,000 to be divided among the three entities at a ratio to be determined later in time.
11. A decommissioning fund is typically set up with the towns to remove the structures in the event of bankruptcy or other reasons they would need to be removed.
12. The biggest incentive for the entire community would be the revenue to the local governments.
13. They do have neighbor agreements with adjacent land owners which would not be discussed until specific sites were designated for each wind tower.
14. 90 % of the materials that will be used for the wind tower project are from the USA.
15. There will be local jobs created in various fields for the construction and maintenance of this project.
16. The investment tax credit available from the federal government will run out in 2012 so this project is not dependent on those dollars.
17. The height of the proposed towers is 500 ft.

Ms. Burke would like to see a joint meeting of the Parishville and Hopkinton Town Boards along with the expert engineers and attorneys that work with her at Iberdrola to address the questions and concerns that she doesn't feel qualified to answer.

There were numerous questions about the wind farm in Chateaugay. Ms. Burke informed the board that Iberdrola was not the company involved in that project.

Anne Britton from Brandon, NY spoke against the proposed wind farm project. She had many leaflets and publications that she passed out among the board and members of the audience. She feels the wind towers will be visible from her home because of the height proposed. She reported that she has worked for many years doing research and attending meetings statewide regarding wind towers. She said to take into consideration that there are 3 school districts that will share this promised revenue from the wind project. She said that other things to take into consideration are: decommissioning fund be sufficient to remove the towers if needed; comparison of noise levels when running on their own or from power supplied from the grid; shadow flicker that causes health problems; Iberdrola may not be the developer and the board should look at the financial statement of the LLC that will be involved; the effect on the real estate property values; bats and other birds that are affected and the individual leases should be scrutinized very carefully to prevent liens against the properties. The website to visit regarding this proposed wind farm is "parhopwind.com". Ms. Britton thanked the town board for having these meetings and having them at a convenient time of day.

Councilman Cook reported that he visited a few places in Chateaugay to ask about the wind towers in that area. It was a mixed review with some in favor and some against. The biggest complaint was using viable meadow land to get to the towers to maintain and repair them.

There was a discussion about what should be considered in the local law governing wind towers. This law is being worked on by the Planning Board and the Town Board with the Town Attorney. There was discussion about the neighbor clause that could be included and also avoiding croplands and open meadows for the towers.

Ms. Burke advised the board that if the wind farm did not come to be, the land owners that have signed leases and have received money will keep the money and will not have to reimburse it. A lease is available if anyone wants to see it.

Tim Whitesell from Potsdam read a paragraph aloud from NYSERDA regarding a study they did on wind power.

Councilwoman Tremper and Supervisor Moore said that the board is keeping an open mind and looking into all the facts and figures to make an educated decision. They welcome public input and want the townspeople to let them know how they feel.

Supervisor Moore thanked all that attended and invited everyone to attend the next meeting on this subject to be held on June 8, 2011 at 7:00 PM.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Robinson and seconded by Councilwoman Tremper close the meeting at 8:42 PM.

All in favor.

Meeting closed.