

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF PROVOST NO. 52
PUBLIC HEARING, THURSDAY, JANUARY 12, 2023

A Public Hearing was held in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Administration Building, 4504 – 53 Avenue, Provost, Alberta on Thursday, January 12, 2023 and was called to order by Reeve Murray at 10:01 a.m.

TO ORDER AT
10:01 A.M.

PRESENT

Present: Councillors L. Almborg, M.R. Angelqvist, L. D. Kozlinski, D.L. Motley, A.G. Murray, B.N. Olson and G. Vetter.

PRESENT

Also Present: Administrator Tyler Lawrason

ALSO PRESENT

- Lauren Grosky-Ford, Director of Legislative Services
- Julianna Lakevold, Executive Assistant to the CAO
- Wendy Trenerry, Finance Officer
- Bob Hawriliuk, Assistant Development Officer
- Andy Guilbault, Assessor
- Dave Berrade, ABO Wind Canada Ltd.
- Najee Elbaroudi, ABO Wind Canada Ltd.
- Dave Nelson
- Darren Kvigstad
- Johnathan McGillivray
- Kevin McGillivray
- Hilson Maul
- Casey Lawes
- Dean Kemper
- Joy Kemper
- Denise Torpe

The purpose of the Public Hearing was in the matter of Bylaw No. 2314 which would amend Bylaw No. 2157, known as the Land Use Bylaw to rezone the following proposed parcels from Agricultural District (AD) to Commercial Wind Energy District (CWED):

- NE 13-41-4-W4M
- NE 17-41-3-W4M
- NE 18-41-3-W4M
- NE 19-41-3-W4M
- NE 20-41-3-W4M
- NW 16-41-3-W4M
- NW 17-41-3-W4M
- NW 20-41-3-W4M
- NW 21-41-3-W4M
- SE 18-41-3-W4M
- SE 19-41-3-W4M
- SE 20-41-3-W4M
- SW 17-41-3-W4M
- SW 19-41-3-W4M
- SW 20-41-3-W4M
- SW 21-41-3-W4M

PRESENTATIONS

Dave Berrade and Najee Elbaroudi with ABO Wind Canada Ltd. gave a presentation on the Fox Meadows Wind Project and the proposed land use of the affected parcels.



Dave Nelson gave a presentation in opposition to the Fox Meadows Wind Project.

Hilson Maull posed a question to the representatives from ABO Wind Canada Ltd. Cr. Murray then advised Mr. Maull that questions should be held until the Rebuttals portion of the agenda.

Casey Lawes gave a presentation in opposition to the Fox Meadows Wind Project.

Darren Kvigstad posed a question to the representatives from ABO Wind Canada Ltd. Cr. Murray also reminded Mr. Kvigstad to keep questions until the Rebuttals portion.

Joy Kemper gave a presentation in opposition to the Fox Meadows Wind Project.

Dean Kemper gave a presentation in opposition to the Fox Meadows Wind Project.

Tyler Lawrason spoke to some of the questions posed during the initial presentations describing the municipal development process for wind turbines versus the provincial development process for wind turbines through the Alberta Utilities Commission.

Jill Sherring, Provost News present.

PRESENT
10:30 A.M.

Moved by Cr. Murray to recess the Public Hearing for Bylaw No. 2314 in order to commence the Public Hearing for Bylaw No. 2315 known as the Advertising Bylaw. (Carried)

RECESS PUBLIC HEARING
10:30 A.M.

The Public Hearing for Bylaw No. 2314 resumed.

RESUME
10:40 A.M.

REBUTTALS

Dave Berrade and Najee Elbaroudi with ABO Wind Canada Ltd. answered questions regarding the consultation process, purchasing the land for the project versus leasing the land, hiring local workers as much as possible, the carbon footprint of the turbines, reclamation, and decommissioning processes.

Dave Nelson posed a question regarding reclamation.

A general discussion ensued regarding the difference between orphan wells and the reclamation and decommissioning of wind turbines in case a company goes bankrupt. ABO Wind Canada Ltd. advised that other renewable energy companies can take over the infrastructural assets and make an income as the resource of wind is free. Attendees requested that ABO Wind Canada Ltd. advise as to what percentage of funds or amount of money is set aside at the beginning of projects for reclamation. ABO Wind Canada Ltd. agreed to provide the information.

A question was asked regarding the criteria for wind turbine sites, preferential conditions, and whether population density is taken into account. ABO Wind Canada Ltd. advised that population density can affect the suitability of a proposed site.

ABSENT
11:01 A.M.

Tyler Lawrason absent

PRESENT
11:03 A.M.

Tyler Lawrason present.

A question regarding the effect of wind turbines on land valuation and resale value of houses was asked. ABO Wind Canada Ltd. advised that



wind turbines do not affect the valuation of residences or the price of farmland due to compliance with setback requirements.

Reeve Murray asked ABO Wind Canada Ltd. if it was committed to adhering to the M.D. of Provost's setbacks as defined in the Land Use Bylaw. ABO Wind Canada Ltd. indicated the commitment would stand regardless of development consideration outcome.

Cr. Vetter asked a question regarding the lifespan of wind turbines. ABO Wind Canada Ltd. responded that wind turbines have a lifespan of 30 years.

Cr. Motley asked a series of questions, most notably what the total height of the wind turbines is proposed to be. ABO Wind Canada Ltd. responded that the wind turbines are proposed to be 115 metres from the ground to the hub and 200 metres from the ground to the tip of the turbine blade.

Wendy Trenerry absent.

ABSENT
11:11 A.M.

Denise Torpe asked why the turbines could not be constructed around a large city centre instead of in the M.D. of Provost. ABO Wind Canada Ltd. responded that it is required to adhere to proximity setbacks which are more difficult to achieve around densely populated areas such as cities.

Cr. Almborg asked a question regarding the radius in which consultation with landowners is mandated. ABO Wind Canada Ltd. responded that developers are required to consult with landowners within a radius of 1.5 kilometres.

Cr. Angeltvedt asked which percentage of projects go to hearings with the Alberta Utilities Commission and whether the AUC's decisions are ever overturned. ABO Wind Canada Ltd. responded that a large portion of projects go to hearing with the Alberta Utilities Commission and that most projects are not overturned.

Casey Lawes asked a question regarding fire suppression measures and whether ABO Wind Canada Ltd. had conducted research regarding the local fire department's capacity for fighting fire on wind turbines. Tyler Lawrason advised that the fire departments with the M.D. of Provost do not have the equipment to fight a wind turbine fire and that it would most likely resort to fire containment rather than suppression.

Dave Nelson commented on the perceived lack of longevity and efficacy of wind turbines.

Joy Kemper asked a question regarding how the power grid would be affected during times of extreme cold and whether the turbines would draw a large amount of power from the grid. ABO Wind Canada Ltd. responded that the turbines would not run during times of extreme cold due to safety constraints. However, Najee Elbaroudi did advise that some power is taken to ensure that the turbine does not seize.

Cr. Motley posed a question regarding the size of ABO Wind Canada Ltd. ABO Wind Canada Ltd. responded that its parent company (ABO Wind) is headquartered in Germany and that it operates in 16 countries. Moreover, they noted that ABO Wind has only had operations in Canada for 5 years and that no projects under ABO Wind have been constructed in Canada at the time of this meeting.




Denise Torpe asked a question regarding the contribution of wind turbines to the grid. ABO Wind Canada Ltd. responded that the power the turbines generate will be added to the grid for consumers.

Cr. Olson posed a question regarding the previous workplaces of both Mr. Berrade and Mr. Elbaroudi and whether those companies had ever gone bankrupt. Both responded they hadn't worked for a company that had gone bankrupt and Mr. Berrade added that he had previously worked in the oil and gas and hydroelectricity industries as a land consultant prior to working for ABO.

Cr. Kozlinski asked a question regarding maintenance intervals and investment. ABO Wind Canada Ltd. replied that, although the lifespan of the turbines is expected to be 30 years, turbine blades must be replaced more frequently.

Cr. Vetter asked a question regarding the anticipated staffing for the project. ABO Wind Canada Ltd. responded that the construction phase would take 12 to 18 months and the staff levels would be representative of the maintenance period. For turbine maintenance, ABO anticipates having 2 full-time staff dedicated to the project.

Tyler Lawrason clarified the setback requirements for the project in terms of the municipal requirements versus the requirements as defined by the Alberta Utilities Commission. For clarity, the M.D. of Provost requires a minimum 1,000 metre setback from any residence while the Alberta Utilities Commission requires no more than 40 dBa L_{eq} nighttime. ABO Wind Canada Ltd. advised that the modelled setback as per the AUC regulation is normally achieved at 800 to 850 metres.

Darren Kvigstad asked a question regarding the work area for staff employed by ABO Wind. ABO Wind Canada Ltd. responded that there will be a staff member within close proximity at all times who would be dedicated to the project. Moreover, ABO added that it would be too high of a risk to have an employee outside of a reasonable radius of the project should an issue arise. Therefore, employees would not be moved between projects for that reason.

Joy Kemper asked a question regarding snow removal protocol during times of inclement weather. ABO Wind Canada Ltd. responded that they would most likely hire a private company to undertake snow removal services in order to ensure that there is access maintained to the project. Tyler Lawrason then provided clarification regarding the responsibility of the applicant to undertake snow removal and that the M.D. would not be responsible for snow removal if the road was privately owned/developed.

ABO Wind Canada Ltd. advised that it is still in the consultation period of the project and that they would be happy to share information with Public Hearing participants should they request it.

Dave Nelson asked a question regarding the tax revenue the M.D. would receive from power lines. Tyler Lawrason advised that power lines are defined as Designated Industrial Property and are assessed by the Government of Alberta. Moreover, he advised that tax revenue from power lines would depend on a variety of factors.

Reeve Murray thanked all attendees for participating, specifically noting that the M.D. of Provost was a leader in instituting its 1-kilometre setback for commercial wind energy projects and also the significance of ABO Wind's commitment to honouring same, regardless of outcome.

**CLOSING
STATEMENTS**



JANUARY 12, 2023

ADJOURN
10:55 A.M.

Moved by Cr. Murray to adjourn.

(Carried)


REEVE


ADMINISTRATOR