

Commission considering retaining wind energy attorney

**(KNZA )--The Brown County Commission is considering whether to retain a Kansas City attorney to assist in negotiations if a developer decides to move forward with a wind energy project in the county.**

**County Attorney Kevin Hill on Monday presented commissioners with an engagement letter with James Neeld for their consideration.**

**Neeld, who has extensive experience in complex energy negotiations, was retained by Nemaha County to assist the county in their negotiations with NextEra Energy Resources for the Soldier Creek Wind farm.**

**At this point, the commission has not been contacted by a company wanting to develop a wind energy project in Brown County.**

**Hill said he's trying to be pro-active. He said the commission can retain Neeld, find their own wind energy expert or go without anyone to protect the county's interests.**

**He said the county can't legally ban all windmill development in the county, but can negotiate reasonable restrictions to protect property owners and the public.**

**Commissioner Bill Pollock said he would like to postpone approval of the engagement letter with Neeld until they receive public input and visit with Nemaha County.**

**The Commission voted to table a decision for two weeks, until their May 15 meeting.**

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