

Commissioner proposes wind energy moratorium changes

**(KNZA)--The Brown County Commission Monday delayed approval of a resolution that would implement a moratorium on commercial wind energy projects in the county after a commissioner proposed changes be made.**

**County Attorney Kevin Hill presented a proposed resolution to commissioners at their June 6th meeting, at the request of the commission. It would impose a \$1,000 per day fine for any company in violation and be in effect for 18 months, unless extended. The moratorium would allow time for a comprehensive plan to be developed, which is the first step toward implementing countywide zoning.**

**Commissioner Bill Pollock Monday presented Commissioners with revised resolution, which included a penalty of up to \$15,000 per day and not less than \$10,000 per day. Pollock's draft also stretched the moratorium to 24-months.**

**Hill noted the maximum fine allowed is set by state statute.**

**A motion by Pollock to have Wichita attorney Patrick Hughes, who specializes in wind energy projects, review both drafts died due to a lack of second.**

**Hill said he would review the changes proposed by Pollock and discuss it with commissioners when they meet Thursday, June 30.**

**Commissioner Rich Lehmkuhl said that continuing to argue over details was holding up getting anything in place, which could hurt the county in the long term,**

**Prior to the discussion, Bill Vonderschmidt with the Brown County Blade Watch Group presented a list of 124 names of Brown County residents opposed to wind energy development in the county. That's in addition to 243 names previously submitted.**

Many Signals Communications