

# \* Wind power proponents court council

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the Kansas Municipal Energy Agency, said Sunflower Electric Power Co. has been working on putting in another unit near Holcomb, but environmentalists have it stalled by challenging the permits.

Will that power cost more since the units have to burn cleaner? asked Dr. Anderson. Mr. Widener said there will be more money put into the new unit to make it cleaner.

Since Sunflower Wind will produce nearby, said Mr. Rasure, they can be competitive with costs. The power won't have to be moved.

Mr. Widener said the Sunflower Wind contract says the city has to cancel its current contracts. The city could pay huge penalties, he said.

Frankly, said City Administrator Gary Shike, he is surprised that Sunflower Wind is willing to offer a 20-year contract.

The financier requires long contracts, said Mr. Rasure, but the company pretty much knows its costs now. If the wind stops blowing in western Kansas, he said, there will be probably bigger problems.

Could the total power production from the wind farm be absorbed in this area? said Mr. Shike. Some will probably be moved to other areas, Mr. Rasure replied.

Is the infrastructure here to move that much power? asked Mr. Shike. With the projected size of the wind farm, yes, said Mr. Rasure.

Who owns the transmission line? asked Dr. Anderson. Sunflower Electric, said Mr. Widener.

Mayor Joe Stanley said the council would need some time to absorb the proposal.

Since Sunflower Wind wants to start construction next spring, said Mr. Rasure, they need to hear from the city within three weeks.

Are there penalties to get out of power contracts? asked Commissioner Stan McEvoy. It would be

hard to get out of a federal agreement, said Mr. Widener.

City Foreman Dan Castle said he doesn't want to lose the 3 cents per kilowatt power from the federal dams. It is very clean power generated from snow melt off the Rocky Mountains, said Mr. Widener.

If the city doesn't want to break the existing contracts, said Mr. Rasure, Sunflower Wind still wants to sell the city power, but the price would be higher.

He said that with the expansion of the airport, they will be bringing in customers on jets probably two to six times a month. Those people will stay and eat here.

"Whether you like it or not, wind is coming," he said.

Is there a transmission price on the federal power? asked Connie Grafel, city marketing and economic development director. It is

hard to break down those numbers, said Mr. Rasure, but it is built in. Depending on the time of day, he said, the price varies.

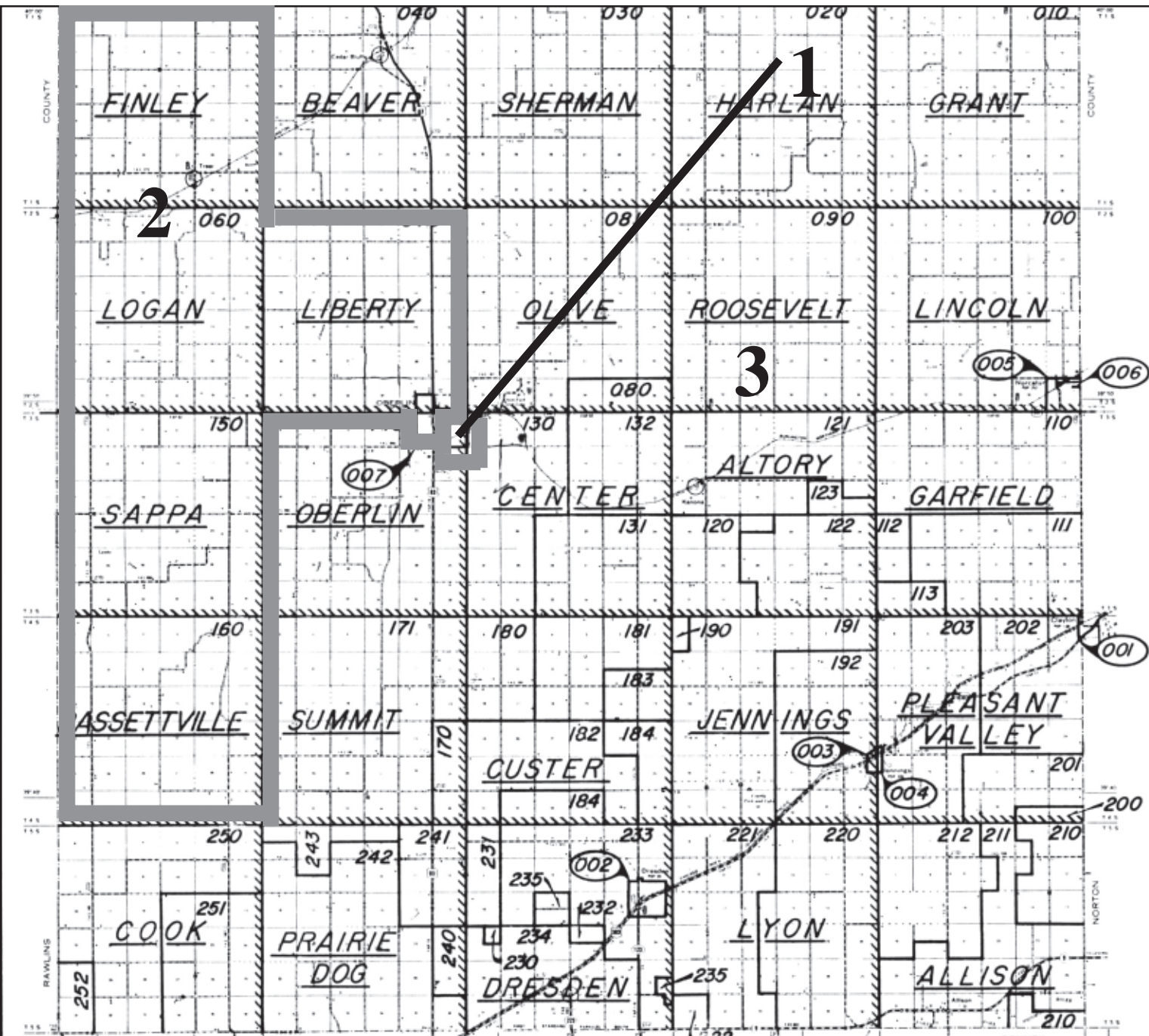
The wind turbines, said Mr. Rasure, will have 108-foot blades on towers 180 to 250 feet tall. Probably, he said, they will use towers of varying heights about half a mile apart.

There was a question about whether Sunflower Electric would let the wind firm transmit power on its line. Mr. Rasure said federal law says that they have to give them access.

There are lots of operation issues that need to be flushed out, said Mr. Widener, and he would be happy to help.

Carolyn Burtis, owner of R.J. Metcalf Real Estate, said she thinks the council needs to consider and look at all ways of doing things. People are going to feel the pinch of recent increase in electric and sewer rates, she said.

Mayor Stanley said the council would "chew on this" and get back to Mr. Rasure.



DECATUR COUNTY has 25 townships allocated into three commission districts. The City of Oberlin is split in two.

## \* Shifts in population cause redistricting

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by the appraisers office. In July, the numbers were district No. 1 with 1,130, No. 2 with 1,076 and No. 3 with 871. Since last month, she said, No. 1 has gone up 15 people, No. 2 down 14 and No. 3 is down six.

Compared to the February fig-

ures, No. 1 is down 52 people, No. 2 down 66 people and No. 3 down 64 people.

The commissioners decided to make a few changes so that each district would have just a little over 1,000 people, moving Center, Olive and Roosevelt townships from No.

1 to No. 3 and Beaver Township from No. 2 to district No. 3. Bassettville Township goes from No. 3 to No. 2.

With the change, Mr. McEvoy's District No. 1 has 1,027 people, Mr. Unger's No. 2 has 1,041 and Mr. Brown's No. 3 has 1,032.

People who live in Center, Olive, Roosevelt, Beaver and Bassettville townships will still go to the same polling place, said County Clerk Marilyn Horn, but they will have a different commissioner. The next election is in the fall of 2008, she said.

## \* Council debates lowering area fee

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Oberlin want activities for their children, she said. Next year, there will be a family coming from Norton and one from McCook for classes.

When the parents here drove to Atwood, she said, they filled up gas tanks there, bought groceries and ate meals. Isn't it important to keep that business at home? she asked "Besides," said Mrs. Rouse, "what are we telling our kids, that they aren't worth investing in?"

Another issue was storage for the mats. She said they could store the mats in the corners of the walking track. The beam and one mat that rolls up would need to be stored in a corner of the arena, she said, but they could be moved out if necessary.

With the size of the arena, she added, they could possibly run two classes at once, which would take less time.

The gymnasts can pay rent, she said, but not as much as The Gateway charges. Currently The Gateway charges \$150 for use of the arena in the evening, said City Clerk Deanna Castle, and the civic center loses about \$100,000 a year.

Councilman Rob McFee said he

had been accosted about 11 times downtown by citizens wanting to talk about the request. He said he didn't hear any negative responses about the gymnasts using the arena. The question is whether the city is going to make The Gateway self-supporting or is it going to be about community involvement.

He said he isn't against the gymnasts using the arena. He asked if Creative Movements has its own insurance, and Mrs. Rouse said yes.

Mr. McFee said he knows the group can't pay the full rent, but this is about community involvement. "The benefit would far outweigh the disadvantage," he said.

Now through March, it looks like either Tuesday or Wednesdays would work best, said City Administrator Gary Shike. Does the council want to bump the gymnasts if someone wants to rent the arena? he asked.

What do you think?" Councilman Jay Anderson asked Mrs. Rouse. Wouldn't the city be contacted about use ahead of time? she asked, and Dr. Anderson said that's true.

Mrs. Rouse said the club would need the arena from 5 to 7:30 p.m.

In the past, she said, they paid \$400 a year to use the Bohemian Hall. She said they could maybe go a little higher than that but she would need to go through her board.

Classes run September through April, she said. When the kids aren't in school, they don't have classes.

Will the city have to have someone at the arena while the gymnasts are there? asked Mr. McFee. Yes, said City Clerk Deanna Castle, but in the winter, the building is open until 7 p.m.

That ups the cost if the city has to have someone at the building, said Dr. Anderson.

Do employees work flex time? asked Susan May, a mother and coach, suggesting that someone could come in a little later on Tuesdays and then stay later.

What if they gymnasts could be out by 7 p.m.? asked Mrs. Rouse.

Mrs. Lohofener made a motion to allow the gymnasts to use the arena on Tuesdays or Wednesdays, being out by 7 p.m.

County Commissioner Stan McEvoy, a former city councilman who was in the audience, asked if the council allows the gymnasts to have

a discounted rate, will they allow other groups one too?

"Is there anyone here who thinks this building will ever be self supporting?" asked Mr. McFee. No one raised their hand.

"Do we try to work towards that or do we work on behalf of the good of the people who live here?" he asked.

Mr. McFee said he has lived in Oberlin for 24 years and there have been lots of good and lots of bad things happen in that time.

This group is one of the good things, he said, so shouldn't it be supported?

As far as Commissioner McEvoy's question goes, said Mr. McFee, there isn't any group he knows of that works with kids who could pay the full price.

Without a price in the motion, it was rescinded and tabled for two weeks. Mayor Stanley said in that time, the city could maybe set up some guidelines, making the group responsible for setting up any tables and chairs that they take down.

The next council meeting will be at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 23, at The Gateway.

## Less than a week left to register for \$1,000 prize

The last day to register for the Oberlin merchants' annual \$1,000 Shopping Spree is Tuesday, just in time for the drawing next Wednesday evening.

Shoppers 18 and older have until 5 p.m. Tuesday to fill out a registration slip and put it in one of the boxes

at a sponsoring businesses.

At the annual Potluck Back-to-School Picnic, which starts at 6:30 p.m. next Wednesday, a winner will be drawn to receive \$1,000 in scrip money. There is no purchase required, but the winner must be present and names will be drawn

until a winner is found.

In case of bad weather, the drawing will be moved into the high school cafeteria.

Sponsors include Prairie Petals, the LandMark Inn, Flowers by Lee,

Stanley Hardware, Raye's Grocery, Ward Drug, Culligan Water Conditioning Co., Addleman Drug Store, Dale's Fish 'N' Fun, Countryside Veterinary Clinic, R&M Service Center and *The Oberlin Herald*.

## Carnival needs volunteers

Anyone who wants to sign up to work a game at the Home-Owned Carnival still has time.

The schedule of the games and times open to work is on Page 3A

of this week's paper. People can sign up for a time by either calling Ray Jewelry at 475-3351 or stopping by the toy van at the fairgrounds.

**H&M Farms is Expanding!**

We have openings for full-time or part-time drivers to pull live bottom trailers in the Trenton, NE or Phillipsburg, KS areas. We are also looking for drivers to pull tanker in the Trenton area. *Check out our new pay rates and bonuses.* Home nightly. Must have Class A CDL with 2 years experience. Call 308-334-5152 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. for more information.

**34th Anniversary of the Carnival!**

**Decatur County Fair Days**  
August 7 - 11

There will be no talent show on Tuesday, August 7th at the Fair. This was an ad copy error.

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