

Town of Lincoln Wind Energy Facility Licensing Ordinance
Ordinance Number: 2021-22

Be it enacted by the Town Board of the Town of Lincoln as follows:

Section 1. Title.

This Local Ordinance may be cited as the Town of Lincoln Wind Energy Facilities Ordinance.

The Town of Lincoln, Eau Claire County, State of Wisconsin ordains as follows:

Section 2. Findings.

Under state law, electric generating systems of less than 100 megawatts (MIN) are subject to regulations enacted by counties and local units of government. The Town of Lincoln is under the Eau Claire County Code section 18.30.260 containing regulations for wind energy facilities. This code has insufficient standards to protect the public health, safety, and welfare of the residents and property owners of the Town of Lincoln. Therefore, this Town of Lincoln licensing ordinance has been adopted under Wis. Stat. 66.0401. The Town finds that all wind energy facilities (WEFs) which may be constructed and operated in the Town require special licensing by the Town, in addition to any restrictions that may be imposed by Eau Claire County, in order to protect the public health and safety of Town residents and property owners. In this regard, the Town finds that the report issued by the National Research Council entitled "Impacts of Wind-Energy Projects," May 2007 (2007 NRC Report) addresses several important public health and safety issues relative to wind energy facilities that require regulation by the Town. The Town further finds that the provisions of the "Draft Model Wind Ordinance" for Wisconsin, as promoted by the State of Wisconsin's Department of Administration, are inadequate to reasonably protect public health and safety. The Town also finds the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin's delay of the Wind Siting Council's 2019 report of special concern. The Wind Siting Council is expected to meet every five years. These concerns are regarding the expectations of more recent studies possibly having been done in this five-year period that may bring to light more definitive conclusions regarding the health, safety, and welfare of our community. With these concerns in mind, the Town Board of the Town of Lincoln finds and declares that:

2-1 The Wisconsin State Constitution legally obligates government officials to protect the health, safety, and welfare of their community.

2-2 Shortsighted planning has often resulted in the creation of problem industries that adversely affect public health and quality of life, compromise aesthetics, and degrade community character. Industrial WEFs are not exempt from those problems and careful siting and protections are of paramount importance. This ordinance will contribute to this effort.

2-3 Regulation of the siting and installation of wind turbines is necessary for protection of the health, safety, and welfare of neighboring property owners, the general public, the local economy, and local ecosystems.

2-4 The findings set forth in this section are cumulative and interactive, and they shall be liberally interpreted in conjunction with one another.

2-5 Industrial WEFs have increased significantly in number and can potentially be sited without sufficient regard to their impact on the health, welfare, and safety of residents, especially in small rural communities such as the Town of Lincoln.

2-6 While wind energy is a semi-renewable energy resource of electricity generation, and under some circumstances it may reduce the use of nonrenewable energy sources, the possible benefits must be balanced against potential negative impacts to local citizens, local economy, and local ecosystems.

2-7 The Town of Lincoln concludes that a) the sound pressure level (SPL) of 50 dBA set forth in the State of Wisconsin 2007 Draft Model Wind Ordinance does not adequately protect town residents from the adverse health effects associated with large wind turbine noise; and b) a maximum outside audible SPL of 35 dBA or 5 dBA over ambient, whichever is lower, in the Town of Lincoln is necessary to protect residents from the adverse health effects associated with large wind turbine noise, based on the following findings:

1. Large wind turbines are significant sources of noise, which, if improperly sited, can negatively impact the health of residents, particularly in areas of low ambient noise levels.
2. Large wind turbines emit two types of noise -- 1) Aerodynamic noise from the blades passing through the air, which can generate broadband noise, tonal noise and low frequency noise; and 2) Mechanical noise from the interaction of the turbine components. A dBA scale is commonly used to measure audible wind turbine noise. Low frequency noise from large wind turbines is not adequately measured with a dBA weighting. For a better assessment of the health effects from low frequency noise, the World Health Organization (WHO) suggests using a dBC weighting. (See Rogers 1/2006; Alberts 11/20/2005; WHO 1999)
3. Noise is an annoyance that can negatively impact health, producing negative effects such as sleep disturbance and deprivation, stress, anxiety and fatigue. WHO defined annoyance as a feeling of displeasure associated with any agent or condition believed by an individual to adversely affect him or her. According to WHO, health should be regarded as a state of complete physical, mental, and social wellbeing, and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity. Under this definition, noise has a significant impact on the quality of life and noise annoyance is an adverse health effect. (See WHO 1999, Ch. 3.7; Dr. Harry

2/2007; Pedersen & Wayne 2/27/08)

4. Large wind turbines create a noise annoyance that can hinder physical and mental healing and can cause adverse health effects associated with sleep disturbance and deprivation, psychological distress, stress, anxiety, depression, headaches, fatigue, tinnitus and hypertension. Wind turbine noise can affect each person differently. Some people are unaffected by wind turbine noise, while others may develop adverse health effects from the same noise. At low frequencies, wind turbine noise may not be heard but rather is felt as a vibration. Medical research reported complaints from people who felt the noise from large wind turbines, similar to symptoms that can be associated with vibroacoustic disease. (See Pedersen et al 3/1/2007, 8/2003, 1/11/2008 and 6/3/2008; Pedersen 2007; Mariana Alves-Pereira and Nuno Castelo Branco 9/20/2007; WHO 1999; Kampennan & James; reports by Dr. Pierpont, Dr. Harry and Dr. Leventhal)
5. The risk for adverse health effects resulting from noise annoyance such as headaches, stress, anxiety, fatigue, depression, pain and stiffness, and decreased cognitive ability associated with sleep deprivation from wind turbine noise increases with increasing A-weighted sound pressure levels. According to wind turbine noise studies, few respondents were disturbed in their sleep by wind turbine noise at SPL less than 35 dBA; however, at SPL greater than 35 dBA respondents were increasingly disturbed in their sleep by wind turbine noise. (See Pedersen et al 6/3/2008 and 8/2003)
6. Wind turbine noise greater than 5 dB over ambient increases the risk for adverse health effects because a change of 5 dB is clearly noticeable. (See Kamperman and James)
7. Studies show that prolonged exposure to wind turbine noise resulted in adverse health effects at SPLs below those from other sources of community noise, such as road traffic noise. Sound generated by wind turbines has particular characteristics and creates a different type of noise having different health impacts than compared to urban, industrial or commercial noise (See Pedersen et al 6/3/2008 and 8/2003; Soysal 2007)
8. Living in a rural environment, in comparison with a suburban area, increases the risk of residents being impacted by noise from nearby large wind turbines because of the low ambient SPL in rural environments. (See Pedersen and Wayne, 3/1/2007, p. 485)
9. The International Standards Organization recommended community noise limits for rural areas be set at a SPL of 35 dBA during the day, 30 dBA during the evening and 25 dBA at night. (See Table 9: ISO 1996-1971 Recommendations for Community Noise Limits as cited by Acoustic Ecology Institute and Daniel Alberts of Lawrence Technological University)
10. In order to reduce the risk of negative health impacts from large wind turbine noise, acoustical engineers George Kamperman and Richard James recommend a) audible sound limits based on pre-existing background sound levels plus a 5dB allowance for wind turbine noise or b) SPL not to exceed 35 dBA within 100 feet of any occupied structure, whichever is lower; and c) a dBC

limit not to exceed 20 dB above ambient background levels. These sound levels are in line with numerous published guidelines such as the sound limits proposed by the United Kingdom Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Department, which suggest for quiet, rural areas and low noise environments, the outside levels of the L 490, 10 min. of wind farm noise should be limited to an absolute level of 35 - 40 dBA. (See Kamperlnan & James; United Kingdom Business Enterprise & Regulatory Reform Department document "Onshore Wind: Noise" 7/17/2008).

- 2-8** WEFs represent significant potential negative aesthetic and environmental impacts because of their enormous size, lighting, and shadow flicker effects.
- 2-9** WEFs are industrial by their nature and are not compatible with pastoral communities due to their disruption of views and skylines, especially in rural communities (like this) without many high, unnatural structures.
- 2-10** This community has many scenic viewsheds and some of these would be negatively impacted by industrial WEFs.
- 2-11** This community is surrounded by other communities that share our agricultural and rural residential character.
- 2-12** Construction of WEFs can create traffic problems and damage local roads.
- 2-13** Portions of land within our community are designated as State-regulated wetlands
- 2-14** This community's geology includes erodible soils and high-water tables. This community's geology appears incompatible with industrial development. Risks include aquifer and well water contamination via soil overburden infilling on shallow bedrock.
- 2-15** If not properly regulated, installation of WEFs in areas with similar geology have the potential to create numerous additional drainage paths which might allow contaminated ground water to directly enter into the aquifer below. For instance, construction of miles of wide gravel access roads increases the number of drainage paths for the contaminated water to contaminate drinking water for our and other nearby communities.
- 2-16** Installation of WEFs can create drainage problems through erosion and lack of sediment control of facilities and access road sites and harm farmlands through construction methods utilized.
- 2-17** Independent experts have concluded that industrial wind energy turbines can adversely affect meteorology up to fifteen (15) miles away. The resulting changes like lower humidity levels can result in reduced regional agriculture yields. (Miller and Keith, 2018)
- 2-18** A WEF may be a significant source of noise and vibration for the community. These can have negative health impacts on nearby residents, particularly in quiet rural areas. These can also negatively affect the quiet enjoyment of the area, properties, and

quality of life of residents. According to various medical experts and the World Health Organization, the infrasound component of such noise can be the most problematic.

2-19 The WEF's noise and vibration may also negatively affect wildlife. Some noise and vibration impact on wildlife relate to predator-prey behaviors, mating opportunity, and other behaviors that can adversely impact wildlife populations and diversity.

2-20 Our community is located on a major migration route for many species of birds and is a habitat for many species of wildlife, both year-round and seasonal.

2-21 Independent experts (e.g., ornithologists) have concluded that Industrial Wind Turbines/ ("IWTs") kill large quantities of birds. Especially troublesome are the raptors that are destroyed.

2-22 Independent experts (e.g., chiropterologists) have concluded that bats killed by IWTs can result in an appreciable reduction in regional agricultural yields. Estimates have been done for every U.S. County, and these experts have projected that this could adversely affect our local economy by more than 1.2 million dollars a year.

2-23 WEFs can cause danger to humans, animals and ecosystems, resulting from ice throw, turbine collapse, oil contamination, and annoyance.

2-24 In certain circumstances, WEFs can cause electromagnetic interference with various types of communications, including cell phones, radios, and televisions.

2-25 Independent experts have concluded that WEFs can have other adverse health effects on wildlife, livestock, and domestic animals.

2-26 WEFs, without proper setbacks, can adversely affect property values, which can cause economic hardship to property owners. Reductions in property values could reduce our community's tax base, resulting in a tax rate increase on all community property owners.

2-27 Review of professional and legal literature demonstrates there can be serious legal and economic downsides for landowners entering into complicated and one-sided lease/easement contracts written by WEF developers not available for public review and discussion.

2-28 WEFs have the potential to adversely interfere with orderly development of our community including single-family residences and small subdivisions by making such development unappealing.

2-29 WEFs need to be regulated for proper removal when no longer in operation.

2-30 The community and its citizens desire to maintain the pastoral, rural nature of this region. An independent survey sent to households in the Town of Lincoln resulted with 168 not in favor of wind turbines and 6 in favor of wind turbines.

2-31 WEFs are in conflict with the culture and character of this community. (Town of Lincoln, Eau Claire County, Comprehensive Plan 2015-2035)

“The vision statement below describes an image of what the Town of Lincoln should look like in the future, and how the Town intends to meet the future needs of its citizens. The vision statement incorporates a shared understanding of the nature and purpose of the Town and uses this understanding to move towards a greater purpose together. The statement, written in present tense, describes an ideal future condition.

The Town of Lincoln is a community composed of active farms, rural housing, open spaces, streams, and woodlands set among rolling hillsides. It is a community of residents committed to the preservation of the Town’s significant agricultural heritage and economy while providing opportunities for sustainable, environmentally sensitive development. Non-farm residential development is carefully managed, and commercial development is directed to locate in appropriate locations near and within the Village of Fall Creek. Industrial and mining activities are strictly regulated to preserve agriculturally productive lands and maintain the rural character and environmental integrity of the community. Rural roads are well maintained to support safe and efficient local travel and the movement of agricultural goods. Local leaders continue to work with adjacent municipalities to manage development and the delivery of basic services for the betterment of the Town, Eau Claire County, and region.”

2-32 WEFs are in conflict with Eau Claire County’s Farmland Preservation Program. (See attachment A.)

2-33 Due to the unusually broad array of potentially problematic findings and the lack of scientifically proven net benefits, the Precautionary Principle dictates that our community be particularly conservative and cautionary in its regulation of industrial wind energy and its granting of a license.

2-34 In formulation of the Ordinance many studies, not otherwise cited herein, have been reviewed and taken into consideration. Many wind energy ordinances through the U.S. have been analyzed. Experiences of other communities with industrial wind energy have been studied.

Section 3. Purposes and Intent.

The purpose and intent of this Ordinance is to protect the public health, safety and welfare of the residents and property owners of the Town of Lincoln who may be affected by the development and operation of WEFs. Such purposes and intent shall be accomplished by regulating noise, protecting emergency communications, regulating shadow flicker, ensuring adequate fire protection, establishing adequate setbacks, protecting water quality, preventing soil erosion, regulating visual obstructions preventing conflicts between

incompatible land uses, ensuring proper installation of WEFs, and ensuring safe and complete decommissioning of WEFs.

Section 4. Definitions.

As used in this chapter, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated. Words not defined in this Ordinance shall be given their ordinary and common meaning:

Accessory building: A building that is located on the Wind Energy Facility ("WEF") property.

Accessory Equipment: Any equipment serving or being used in conjunction with a Large Wind Energy Facility ("LWEF"). The term includes utility or transmission equipment, power supplies, generators, batteries, equipment buildings, and storage sheds, shelters or similar structures.

Administrative Approval: The Town of Lincoln has the right to review applications and the right to approve or disapprove applications submitted by the Wind Energy Facility.

Aerodynamic Sound means a noise that is caused by the flow of air over and past the blades of a WES.

Ambient Sound: Ambient noise encompasses all sound present in a given environment, being usually a composite of sounds from many sources near and far. It includes intermittent noise events, such as, from aircraft flying over, dogs barking, wind gusts, mobile farm or construction machinery, and the occasional vehicle traveling along a nearby road. The ambient also includes insect and other nearby sounds from birds and animals or people. The near-by and transient events are all part of the ambient sound environment but are not to be considered part of the background sound. If present, a different time or location should be selected for determining the L90 background sound levels.

Anemometer means a device for measuring the speed and direction of the wind.

Applicant means the individual or business entity that seeks to secure a license under this Ordinance.

Background Sound (L90) refers to the sounds that would normally be present at least 90% of the time. Background sounds are those heard during lulls in the ambient sound environment. That is, when transient sounds from flora, fauna, and wind are not present. Background sound levels vary during different times of the day and night. Because a WES operates 24/7, the background sound levels of interest are those during the quieter periods which are often the evening and night. Sounds from near-by birds and animals or people must be excluded from the background sound test data.

Background sound level (dBA and dBC (as L90)) is the sound level present for at least 90% of the time during a period of observation that is representative of the quiet time for

the soundscape under evaluation and with duration of ten (10) continuous minutes. Several contiguous ten (10) minute tests may be performed in one hour to determine the statistical stability of the sound environment. Longer term tests, such as 24 hours or multiple days are not appropriate since the purpose is to define the quiet time background sound level. It is defined by the L90A and L90C descriptors. It may be considered to be the quietest one (1) minute during a ten (10) minute test. L90A results are valid only when L10A results are no more than 10 dBA above L90A for the same time period. L10C less L90C should not exceed 15 dBC to be valid. Measurement periods such as at dusk when bird and insect activity is high or the early morning hours when the 'dawn chorus' is present are not acceptable measurement times. Further, background L90 sound levels documenting the pre-construction baseline conditions should be determined when the ten-minute average wind speed is 2 meters per second (4.5 mph) or less at the ground level/microphone location.

Blade Glint: The intermittent reflection of the sun off the surface of the blades of one or more windturbines.

Board: This refers to the Town Board for the Town of Lincoln, Eau Claire County, State of Wisconsin.

Conservation Area: Such areas include natural areas protected by law, such as wetlands that meet the definition in the Clean Water Act 33 USC Sec. 1251 et seq.; shoreland areas; water bodies; riparian buffers; populations of endangered or threatened species or habitat for such species; archaeological sites, cemeteries, and burial grounds; important historic sites; other significant natural features and scenic viewsheds; and existing trails or corridors that connect the tract to neighboring areas.

dBA: A-weighted decibels, abbreviated dBA (or dBa or dB(a)], is an expression of the relative loudness of sounds in air as perceived by the human ear. With A-weighting, the decibel levels of low frequencies are reduced compared to the middle and high frequencies (A-weighted energy equivalent sound level). Unless specified otherwise, in this law dBA means LAeq (energy equivalent sound level).

C-Weighted Sound Level (dBC). Similar in concept to the A-Weighted sound Level (dBA) but C-weighting does not de-emphasize the frequencies below 1k Hz as A-weighting does. It is used for measurements that must include the contribution of low frequencies in a single number representing the entire frequency spectrum. Sound level meters have a C-weighting network for measuring C-weighted sound levels (dBC) meeting the characteristics and weighting specified in ANSI S1.43-1997 Specifications for Integrating Averaging Sound Level Meters for Type 1 instruments.

Electrical Transmission Tower: An electrical transmission structure used to support high-voltage overhead power lines. The term shall not include any utility pole.

FAA: The Federal Aviation Administration or successor agency.

Infrasound: Low frequency sounds that are not ordinarily hearable by humans. All sounds are energy waves, so humans can be affected by infrasound despite not being aware of its presence. The World Health Organization has concluded that health effects due to low frequency components in noise are estimated to be more severe than for community noise in general.

LWEF (Large Wind Energy Facility): A WEF that has a rated capacity of 100 kW or more.

Maintenance: The cleaning, painting, repair, or replacement of defective parts (including plumbing, electrical, or mechanical work that might require a building permit) in a manner that does not alter the basic design or composition of a structure, such as a wind turbine.

Meteorological Measuring Device: An instrument, such as an anemometer, that measures windspeed. This is often on a tower, typically located at hub-height of the anticipated turbines.

Modification or Modify: Any change, addition, removal, swap-out, exchange, and the like that does not qualify as "Repairs and/or Maintenance" as defined herein is a Modification. Also included is any change, addition, swap-out, exchange, and the like that requires or results in changes and/or upgrades to the structural integrity of a turbine.

Necessary: What is technologically required for the equipment to function as designed by the manufacturer. Anything less will restrict or inhibit the provision of service as intended and described in the Application. Necessary does not mean what may be desired or preferred technically.

Ordinary Maintenance: Actions that ensure that the WEF is kept in good operating condition. Ordinary Maintenance includes inspections, testing and modifications that maintain functional capacity and structural integrity. Ordinary Maintenance does not include Modifications.

Person: An individual, trustee, executor, receiver, other fiduciary, corporation, firm, partnership, association, organization, club, etc., acting as an entity.

Repair: The replacement of existing work with the same kind of material used in the existing work, not including additional work that would change the structural safety of the structure or that would affect or change required existing facilities, a vital element of an elevator, plumbing, gas piping, wiring, or heating installations, or that would be in violation of a provision of law or this Ordinance. The term "Repair" or "Repairs" shall not apply to any change in construction.

Shadow Flicker: The visual effect that results when the blades of an operating wind energy turbine pass between direct and indirect light from the sun and an observer and

cast an observable, moving shadow on a person or property in the vicinity.

Sound Power: The total sound energy radiated by a source per unit time. The unit of measurement is the watt. Abbreviated as Lw. This information is determined for the WES manufacturer under laboratory conditions specified by IEC 61400-11 and provided to the local developer for use in computer model construction. It cannot be assumed that these values represent the highest sound output for any operating condition. They reflect the operating conditions required to meet the IEC 61400-11 requirements. The lowest frequency is 50 Hz for acoustic power (Lw) requirement in IEC 61400-11. This Ordinance requires wind turbine certified acoustic power (Lw) levels at rated load for the total frequency range from 6.3 Hz to 10k Hz in one-third octave frequency bands tabulated to the nearest 0.1 dB. The frequency range of 6.3 Hz to 10k Hz shall be used throughout this Ordinance for all sound level modeling, measuring and reporting.

Sound Pressure: The instantaneous difference between the actual pressure produced by a sound wave and the average or barometric pressure at a given point in space.

Sound Pressure Level (SPL). 20 times the logarithm, to the base 10, of the ratio of the pressure of the sound measured to the reference pressure, which is 20 micronewtons per square meter. In equation form, sound pressure level in units of decibels is expressed as $SPL (dB) = 20 \log p/pr$.

Spectrum: The description of a sound wave's resolution into its components of frequency and amplitude. The WES manufacturer is required to supply a one-third octave band frequency spectrum of the wind turbine sound emission at 90% of rated power. The published sound spectrum is often presented as A-weighted values. This information is used to project the wind farm sound levels at all locations of interest. Confirmation of the projected sound spectrum can be determined with a small portable one-third octave band frequency (spectrum) analyzer. The frequency range of interest for wind turbine noise is approximately 10 Hz to 10k Hz.

State: The State of Wisconsin

SWEF (Small Wind Energy Facility): A WEF that has a rated capacity of less than 100 kW. Such a facility is used primarily for on-site consumption, is an accessory use, and consists of no more than one wind turbine and any associated tower, control and/or conversion electronics.

Temporary: Something intended to exist or does exist for fewer than 180 days, except for an anemometer or other meteorological measuring device that is used to test the wind conditions, which are considered temporary when it exists for two years or less.

Town: Means the Town of Lincoln, Eau Claire County Wisconsin.

Utility Pole: A structure owned and/or operated by a public utility, municipality, electric membership corporation, or rural electric cooperative that is designed specifically for and

used to carry lines, cables, or wires for telephone, cable television, or electricity, or to provide lighting.

WEF (Wind Energy Facility): An electricity-generating facility whose primary purpose is to supply electricity. This consists of one or more wind turbines and other accessory structures and buildings, including substations, meteorological towers, electrical infrastructure, transmission lines, and other appurtenant structures and/or facilities.

Wind Energy Systems (WES) means equipment that converts and then transfers energy from the wind into usable forms of energy on a large, industrial scale for commercial or utility purposes. Small scale wind systems of less than 170 feet in height with a 60-foot rotor diameter and a nameplate capacity of less than 100 kilowatts or less are exempt from this definition and the provisions of this Ordinance.

Wind Energy: Wind turbines convert the kinetic energy of moving air (wind) into mechanical power. Note that the term "wind energy" is more technically correct than saying "wind power".

Wind Farm: A marketing term for a LWEF.

Windmill: A wind-driven machine that does not produce electricity.

Wind Turbine: A wind energy conversion system that converts wind energy into electricity through the use of a wind turbine generator. Such a system might include, but are not limited to, a nacelle, rotor, tower, pad transformer, and other appurtenant structures and/or facilities.

Wind Turbine Height: The distance measured from the lowest adjacent grade to the highest point of the structure, including any attachments, such as a lightning protection device or a turbine rotor or tip of the turbine blade when it reaches its highest elevation.

Wind Turbine or Turbine (WTi) means a mechanical device which captures the kinetic energy of the wind and converts it into electricity. The primary components of a wind turbine are the blade assembly, electrical generator and tower.

Section 5. WEF License Requirements.

Applicants shall adhere to all requirements set forth by the Wisconsin Public Service Commission Chapter 128, Register December 2012 No. 684 except in instances where the Town of Lincoln requires greater restrictions to ensure protection of the health, safety and welfare of the Town of Lincoln residents.

No Wind Energy System over 100 MW shall be constructed or operated in the Town without first obtaining a WEF License in accordance with this Ordinance.

5-1 General.

5-1.1 Application Procedure for Wind Energy Facility License

- A.** Applications for a WEF License shall be submitted to the Town Clerk. The application shall include a completed application form as provided by the Town Clerk, and shall include all of the information, documents, plans, deposits and other things required to be submitted with an application under section 5-2 and the payment required by section 5-10.
- B.** The Town Board shall, with assistance from such staff, consultants, committees or commissions as it deems appropriate, determine whether the application is complete and contains all of the materials, information, agreements, as well as the deposits and payments required to be submitted with an application under sections 5-10. If an application is not complete, the applicant shall be so advised, and no further action shall be taken by the Town until a complete application is received.
- C.** After the Town Board determines that an application is complete, the Town Board shall determine whether the application meets all requirements of this Ordinance. In determining whether the application meets the requirements of this Ordinance, the Town Board may obtain assistance from such staff and consultants as it deems appropriate. The Town Board shall process the application as soon as reasonable and feasible, given the complexity of the application, other business facing the Town, staff and other resources, questions that arise during the review process, and other matters affecting the time needed to complete the review process.
- D.** If an application is complete and meets all requirements of this Ordinance, and the applicant has paid all fees and costs pursuant to section 5-10 of this Ordinance, the Town Board shall approve a WEF License for the WES, subject to the execution of a WEF licensing agreement pursuant to this Section. If an application does not meet all requirements of this Ordinance or the applicant has not paid all fees and costs pursuant to section 5-10, the Town Board may deny the application or approve the application with conditions that will assure compliance with this Ordinance. If an application is approved with conditions, a WEF License for the WES shall be issued when all conditions of approval have been satisfied.
- E.** The Town Board shall require an applicant to enter into a WEF licensing agreement with the Town as a condition of approving a WEF License. The WEF licensing agreement shall include all provisions deemed appropriate by the Town to assure that the WEF is constructed and operated, and that all fees, costs and sureties are paid and provided, as required by the Town Board and by this Ordinance.
- F.** If a WEF is not constructed within 30 months after a license is issued, the license shall be terminated.

5-1.2 Anemometers or other meteorological towers.

Temporary towers may be erected to use a meteorological measuring device to test the wind conditions on the proposed LWEF site. Such towers do not require approval of a WEF License. However, each such temporary pole or tower shall comply with the dimensional requirements stipulated by the Town Board. A copy of an FAA determination

report as a result of filing the FAA Form 7460-1 , "Notice of Proposed Construction or Alteration of an Object that may Affect the Navigable Airspace," shall be submitted prior to submission of any building permits for such a temporary tower. The temporary pole or tower may be any approved height but it must be set back from all property lines, vacant or occupied dwelling units, rights-of-way, and access easements by a distance that is greater than 1.5 times its height. The temporary pole or tower may not have any signs; may not be illuminated (except as required by the FAA or Department of Defense); and must be completely removed within two (2) years of the date that it is erected, unless the Town Board grants a single one (1) year extension.

5-1.3 Structural Safety Certificate.

A structural safety certificate shall be provided from a professional engineer stating that the structure is of new construction and not refurbished or rebuilt and has been designed to operate in cold-weather conditions and is safe.

5-1.4 Wind Energy License Application.

Before a building permit may be submitted for a WEF, a Wind Energy License Application must be approved by the Town Board.

5-2 WEF License Application.

Throughout the license process, the applicant shall promptly notify the Town Board of any changes to the information contained in the license application. Changes that do not materially alter the initial site plan may be administratively accepted. The application for a WEF shall be an electronic digital filing that contains at least the following:

5-2.1 Summary.

A narrative overview of the WEF, including its generating capacity.

5-2.2 Inventory.

A tabulation describing the:

- A.** Specific number, types, and height of each wind turbine to be constructed, including their generating capacity.
- B.** Dimensions and respective manufacturers.
- C.** Appurtenant structures and/or facilities.

5-2.3 Vicinity map.

Identification of the property on which the proposed WEF will be located.

5-2.4 LWEF Site Plan.

A plan showing the:

- A.** Planned location of each wind turbine.
- B.** All property lines within two (2) miles of the property lines of the proposed site.
- C.** The names, addresses and phone numbers of the owners of all Project Parcels, Participating Parcels, and Non-Participating Parcels located within (2) miles of any boundary of a Project Parcel.
- D.** An aerial photo showing all Project Parcels, Participating Parcels, and Non-Participating Parcels located within (2) miles of any boundary of a Project Parcel.

- E. Existing zoning of each Project Parcel and all required zoning setbacks on each Project Parcel.
- F. Each turbine's setback distance from the closest LWEF boundary.
- G. Access road and turnout locations.
- H. Substation(s) and ancillary equipment, buildings, and structures, including permanent meteorological towers.
- I. Electrical cabling from the WEF to the substation(s) and from the substation(s) to where the electricity will leave the site.
- J. Associated transmission lines.
- K. Conservation Areas, including natural areas protected by law, such as wetlands that meet the definition in the Clean Water Act; shoreland areas; water bodies; riparian buffers; populations of endangered or threatened species (Federal or State) or habitat for such species; flyways; archaeological sites, cemeteries, and burial grounds; important local historic sites; existing healthy, native forests consisting of at least one acre of contiguous area; individual existing healthy trees that are at least 100 years old; other significant natural features and scenic viewsheds; existing trails or corridors that connect the tract to neighboring areas.
- L. Location of all structures and properties within the geographical boundaries of any applicable --setback.
- M. A landscaping plan that shows proposed screening and buffering of all buildings and other non-turbine structures on the site or sites.
- N. Location of wells, abandoned and active, within a 0.5 mile radius of the project boundary.
- O. The number, location, and purpose of any proposed new wells for the LWEF.
- P. The site plan shall include such additional information as the Town engineer or Town Board may require.

5-2.5 LWEF Misc.

The applicant shall provide the following information to the Town Board:

- A. A Stand-down Plan for high wind conditions.
- B. Signed copies of all original leases/easements and agreements for this LWEF (not memorandums).
- C. The type, size, and total installed height of all LWEFs.
- D. The rotor material, rated power output, performance history, safety history, and noise characteristics of each make/model of LWEF turbine, tower, and all transmission equipment being used.
- E. The typical length of service of the proposed components,
- F. Any other materials needed to satisfy the requirements of this license.

5-2.6 LWEF Economic Impact Study.

The Town will hire independent experts paid for from the Escrow Account (5-4) who will do a thorough, conservative assessment of the LWEF's net economic impact on the community. This will include possible tourism reduction, reduced agricultural yields due to bat takings, property devaluations (and the commensurate loss in tax base), cost to the community due to adverse health effects, higher cost of electricity, etc. This will be compared to any guaranteed incomes from the LWEF.

5-2.7 LWEF Environmental Impact Study.

An Environmental Impact Study (EIS) shall be conducted that includes review comments from citizens in the Town, independent experts, as well as all applicable State and Federal agencies, including at least the:

- A.** WI Department of Health,
- B.** WI Department of Transportation,
- C.** WI Department of Natural Resources,
- D.** U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and
- E.** U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

As a minimum the EIS shall include the potential impacts on: (i) humans (such as audible and inaudible sounds, vibrations, electromagnetic fields/ ("EMFs"), shadow flicker, blade glint, ice throw, component liberation due to major storms, etc.), (ii) wildlife, livestock and domestic animal populations, including migratory flyways and corridors (same concerns as with humans), (iii) land and vegetation (such as agricultural effects), (iv) wetlands, water bodies, flowing water sources and groundwater (including aquifer impacts due to turbine foundations, etc.), and (v) air (such as changes in humidity). The study area shall include the proposed LWEF, as well as the area at least two (2) miles surrounding the proposed LWEF.

All costs and expenses incurred related to the Environmental tests for the LWEF shall be paid from the Escrow Account (5-4). The Town shall use the Escrow Account funds to hire independent qualified experts, as needed, to do the following: Provide the location and full description of any of the following: open drainage courses, streams, vernal pools, wetlands, and other important natural areas and site features, including, but not limited to, floodplains, deer wintering areas, Essential Wildlife Habitats, Significant Wildlife Habitats, livestock, Scenic or Special Resources, habitat of rare and endangered plants and animals, natural communities of endangered species (federal or state), unique natural areas, sand and gravel aquifers, wells, and historic and/or archaeological resources.

- 1.** The Applicant must provide a written report from all appropriate State and Federal agencies detailing their evaluation of the proposed LWEF.
- 2.** The Applicant must demonstrate, to the satisfaction of the Town, that the proposed LWEF will not have undue hydro-geological consequences (e.g. with surface or subterranean water resources and storm water runoff), or adverse effects on geological stability; rare, threatened, or endangered wildlife; Significant Wildlife Habitat; Essential Wildlife Habitat; Raptor Habitat; livestock; threatened or endangered plants; and rare or exemplary natural plant communities and ecosystems.
- 3.** The applicant must provide a cumulative-impact assessment of the LWEF in the context of any other LWEFs within twenty-five (25) miles, including migratory bird, bat and large mammal corridors, and demonstrate that the LWEF is not located in an area that will result in degradation of important wildlife corridors or flyways.
- 4.** Pre-construction and post-construction field studies shall be conducted

using the most advanced techniques available. If the pre-construction field studies demonstrate significant adverse effect to birds, bats, game animals, water resources, habitat fragmentation or other ecosystem degradation, the LWEF Applicant shall propose a remediation plan, subject to the Town's approval. The Applicant accepts that some environmental impacts cannot be satisfactorily resolved, and that such situations will be factored into the Town's decision regarding the net benefits of the LWEF.

5. In determining the nature and effectiveness of such remediation plans, the Town will be guided by inputs of its citizens, its own consultants, the appropriate State & Federal agencies, and applicable state and federal laws and regulations. The LWEF Applicant will be responsible for the full cost of implementing any approved remediation plan, under the supervision of the Town and its designated agents.
6. After implementation of any remediation plan, the Town will review the situation to determine its effectiveness. Should the Town find the remediation efforts inadequate, the LWEF Applicant will be given sixty (60) days from that finding to resolve the deficiencies. In the absence of a successful resolution, the Town (at its sole discretion) shall have the right to deny the LWEF license.
7. A computer-generated "zone of visibility map" (covering at least a one [1] mile radius from the proposed LWEF) shall be created to illustrate locations from which the proposed installation may be seen, with and without foliage.

5-2.8 WEF Air Space Impacts.

- A. For all portions of the WEF more than 200 feet tall, the Applicant shall provide a copy of an FAA determination as a result of filing the FAA Form 7460-1, "Notice of Proposed Construction or Alteration of an Object that may Affect the Navigable Airspace."
- B. If any portion of a LWEF will be located within five (5) miles of any civilian or military airport runway, or heliport, the Applicant shall demonstrate compliance with all local County, State and Federal airport related laws.
- C. The Applicant shall establish to the satisfaction of the Town Board that the LWEF will not adversely impact the restricted air space in the area.
- D. The Applicant shall forward this application to the Commanding Officers of all military bases located within 150 miles of the LWEF, in order to provide for review and comment concerning any possible impacts on the operations and mission of each military base. These comments are separate from whatever is in the DOD Clearinghouse documents. This application will not be deemed completed until such time as said review is completed and written comments are received.
- E. The Applicant shall provide a narrative description of all risks to
 1. Civil air navigation (including civilian radar).
 2. Military air navigation routes, military air traffic control areas, military training routes, military special-use airspace, military radar or other

potentially affected military operations, and shall further include documentation that addresses any potential adverse impact on military operations and readiness as identified by the DOD Clearinghouse and any remediation action agreed to by the applicant.

3. NEXRAD weather radar systems.
4. Hot Air Balloon rides available to the public within twenty (20) miles of the WEF.
5. Emergency Medical Helicopters.

5-2.9 Sound Modeling and Sound Standards

- A. Applicant's Pre-licensing Sound Studies and Modeling. An application for a WEF License shall include a sound prediction model that includes the information and meets the requirements in this chapter.

Information regarding the make and model of the turbines, Sound Power Levels (Lw) for each one-third octave band from 6.3 Hz up through 10,000 Hz, and a projection showing the expected dBA and dBC sound levels computed using the one-third octave band sound power levels (Lw) with appropriate corrections for modeling and measurement accuracy tolerances and directional patterns of the WTi for all areas within and to one (1) mile from the project boundary for the wind speed, direction and operating mode that would result in the worst case WTi sound emissions.

The prediction model shall assume that the winds at hub height are sufficient for the highest sound emission operating mode even though the enforcement tests will be with ground level winds of 10 mph or less. This is to accommodate enforcement under weather conditions where there is significant difference in the wind speed between ground and hub heights. This condition often occurs during summer evenings when wind shear is affected by the reduction in solar heating of the earth's surface between sunset and sunrise.

The projection may be by means of computer model but shall include a description of all assumptions made in the model's construction and algorithms. If the model does not consider the effects of wind direction, geography of the terrain, and/or the effects of reinforcement from coherent sounds or tones from the turbines these should be identified and other means used to adjust the model's output to account for these factors. These results may be displayed as a contour map of the predicted levels, but should also include a table showing the predicted levels at noise-sensitive receptor sites and residences within the model's boundaries. The predicted values must include dBA and dBC values but shall also include un-weighted octave band sound pressure levels from 8 Hz to 10k Hz in data tables.

The Town will refer the applicant's information and sound studies to the Town engineer (if qualified in acoustics) or a Qualified Independent

Acoustical Consultant selected by the Town for review and a determination whether the proposed WES will, based on pre-licensing studies and sound modeling, comply with the sound limits set forth in this Ordinance

- B.** Independent Pre-licensing Sound Modeling. In any case in which a WES is located within one mile of a sensitive receptor the Town shall require the preparation of an independent preconstruction noise study for each proposed Wind Turbine location conducted by a Qualified Independent Acoustical Consultant selected by the Town, in accordance with the procedures provided in this section showing background dBA and dBC sound levels (L90 (10min)) over one or more valid ten (10) minute continuous measurement periods during quietest time of night (10pm until 5am). The preconstruction baseline studies shall be conducted by an Independent Qualified Acoustical Consultant selected by the Town. The Qualified Independent Acoustical Consultant shall be selected and retained by the Town. The applicant shall be responsible for paying the Independent Qualified Acoustical Consultant's fees and all costs associated with conducting the study. The applicant shall provide financial security and reimburse the Town for the cost of the study in accordance with section 5-4.

C. Sound Study and Measurement Requirements.

1. All instruments must meet ANSI or IEC Type 1 Precision integrating sound level meter performance specifications.
2. Procedures must meet all ANSI standards including but not limited to S12.9 Part 3, S12.18. Where a standard's requirements may conflict with other standards the most stringent requirement shall apply.
3. Measurements for background sound levels shall be made when ground level winds are 2 m/s (4.5 mph) or less with wind speeds at the hub at or above nominal operating requirements and for other tests when ground level winds are 4 m/s (9 mph). Weather in the night often results in low ground level wind speed and nominal operating wind speeds at wind turbine hub heights.
4. IEC 61400-11 procedures are not suitable for enforcement of these requirements except for the presence of tones.

D. Postconstruction Sound Measurements

Within twelve months after the date when the project is fully operational, and within four weeks of the anniversary date of the pre-construction background noise measurements, the Licensee shall repeat the existing sound environment measurements taken before the project approval. Post-construction sound level measurements shall be taken both with all WES's running and with all WES's off. At the discretion of the Town, the preconstruction background sound levels (L90A) can be substituted for the "all WES off" tests if a random sampling of 10% of the pre-construction study sites shows that background L90A and C conditions have not changed more

than +/- 5 dB (dBA and dBC) measured under the preconstruction nighttime meteorological conditions. The post-construction measurements shall be reported to the Town (and available for public review) using the same format as used for the preconstruction sound studies. Post construction noise studies shall be conducted by a firm chosen by the Town. Costs of these studies shall be reimbursed by the Licensee paid for from the Escrow Account (5-4). The Licensee's consultant may observe the Town's consultant. The WES Licensee shall provide all technical information and wind farm data required by the Independent Qualified Acoustical Consultant before, during, and/or after any acoustical studies required by this document and for local area acoustical measurements.

5-2.10 Blasting Plan and Requirements.

An application for a WEF License shall include a blasting plan containing the information and meeting the requirements in this section. The blasting plan shall comply with all requirements under Wisconsin law governing blasting, including ground vibration limits. The plan shall require that fly rock traveling in the air or along the ground shall remain in the controlled blasting area site owned or controlled by the applicant. All blasting must be performed by or under the direct supervision of a state-licensed blaster. A blasting log for each blast shall be kept by the applicant for not less than 5 years, and copies of the required blasting log shall be promptly submitted to the Town upon the Town's request. A resident call list shall be established for the purpose of notifying neighbors at homes in the vicinity of the WEF of blasting activity. The call list shall be maintained and used on a request basis only for all residents in the vicinity of the WEF who ask to be notified before any blast. Explosives shall be stored in accordance with Wis. Admin. Code Ch. Comm. 7.

5-2.11 Microwave Beam Study and Requirements.

An application for a WEF License shall include a microwave beam study and electromagnetic interference mitigation plan. All Wind Towers shall be sited in accordance with the findings of the microwave beam study and electromagnetic interference mitigation plan. The applicant shall mitigate any electromagnetic interference such as to radio or television.

5-2.12 Shadow Flicker and Blade Glint Assessment and Requirements.

Shadow flicker occurs when the blades of a Wind Turbine pass between the sun and an observer, casting a readily observable, moving shadow on the observer and his or her immediate environment. An application for a WEF License shall include a detailed shadow flicker and blade glint assessment model and plan containing the following information and meeting the following requirements.

- A. The model shall be prepared by a registered professional regularly engaged in this type of work with not less than three years' experience.
- B. The model study area will examine areas where shadow flicker will occur within a one-mile radius of the Project Parcels.
- C. The model will be calculated using the following minimum inputs:
 1. Turbine locations (proposed and existing)
 2. Shadow flicker receptor locations
 3. Existing topography (elevation contours and vegetation)

4. Rotor diameter and hub height
 5. Joint wind speed and direction distribution (wind rose table)
 6. Hours of sunshine (long term monthly references)
- D. All existing occupied structures, structures permitted for construction and roadways shall be identified within the model as receptors. Each individual receptor that is a residential parcel shall be defined by the perimeter of the building plus an additional 100-foot boundary around the building. Schools, churches, and other public building receptors shall be defined by the entire outdoor area routinely utilized in their operation.
 - E. The model may be prepared by use of current aerial photography and topographical maps. A site visit by the preparer is required to identify receptors and verify the existing conditions.
 - F. The model shall calculate the locations and durations of shadow flicker caused by the proposed WEF within the study area. The model shall clearly indicate the duration of shadow flicker at each receptor and across the entire study area showing the total number of hours per year anticipated.
 - G. Problem zones where shadow flicker will interfere with existing and future receptors and which is not allowable under this section shall be identified, and measures to mitigate problems shall be described, including but not limited to siting changes, operational procedures, grading or landscaping.
 - H. Blade glint, defined as the intermittent reflection of the sun off the surface of the blades of a Wind Turbine, is prohibited. The applicant shall submit a paint sample that demonstrates the color, texture and gloss of the proposed surface coating. The applicant shall also submit a certification by the manufacturer stating that the proposed surface coating will not create a reflective surface conducive to blade glint.

5-2.13 Ice Throw Calculation.

A report from a Wisconsin professional engineer that calculates the maximum distance that ice from the turbine blades could be thrown. The basis of the calculation and all assumptions must be disclosed. The report shall be prepared by a qualified person on behalf of the applicant, and shall be reviewed and approved by an independent consultant selected by the Town Board, at the applicant's expense paid for from the Escrow Account (see 5-4) prior to review and approval of the Application.

5-2.14 Blade Throw Calculations.

A report from a Wisconsin professional engineer that calculates the maximum distance pieces of the turbine blades can be thrown. The report shall be prepared by a qualified person on behalf of the applicant, and shall be reviewed and approved by an independent consultant selected by the Town Board, at the applicant's expense, paid for from the Escrow Account (5-4) prior to review and approval of the Application.

5-2.15 Stray Voltage Assessment and Requirements.

- A. An application for a WEF License shall include reports of stray voltage analyses in accordance with this section. The applicant shall conduct and include a report of a preconstruction stray voltage test on all livestock facilities located within a one-mile radius of the Project Parcels. The tests shall be performed by a

Wisconsin certified stray voltage investigator approved by the Town, paid for from the Escrow Account (5-4). The tests shall be performed according to PSCW Phase II Stray Voltage Testing Protocol. A report of the tests shall be provided with the WEF License application and shall be provided to the owners of all property included in the study area. Applicant shall seek written permission from property owners prior to conducting testing on such owners' property. Applicant shall not be required to perform testing on property where the owners have refused to grant permission to conduct the testing.

- B.** Following construction of the WEF, the applicant shall conduct a postconstruction stray voltage test on all livestock facilities located within a one-mile radius of the Project Parcels. The tests shall be performed by a Wisconsin certified stray voltage investigator approved by the Town. The tests shall be performed according to PSCW Phase II Stray Voltage Testing Protocol. A report of the tests shall be provided to the Town and to the owners of all property included in the study area. Applicant shall seek written permission from property owners prior to conducting testing on private property. Applicant shall not be required to perform testing on property where the owners have refused to grant permission to conduct the testing.

5-2.16 Visual Impacts.

The Applicant shall furnish a visual impact assessment to the Town Board, which shall include:

- A.** Pictorial representations of "before and after" views from 360 degree viewpoints within two (2) miles of the proposed WEF boundaries, including a drone perspective from the WEF. These will include, but not be limited to, major roads; State and local parks; other public lands; historic districts; preserves and historic sites. The Town Board will provide guidance concerning the appropriate key sites. The Applicant shall provide a map showing the locations of where the pictures were taken and the distance of each location from the proposed WEF.
- B.** If any portion of a proposed WEF will be located within one (1) mile of the right-of-way of a Federal or State-designated Scenic Route/By-way, the Applicant shall describe the proposed measures to be taken to minimize the visual impact of the proposed WEF (including shadow flicker and blade glint) upon a Scenic Route/By-way.
- C.** The Applicant shall not install any lighting that exceeds the minimum required by the FAA. If approved by the FAA, on-demand lighting (AVWS) is required.

5-2.18 LWEF Impacts on Other Town Municipalities.

If the proposed WEF is within two (2) miles of the Town of Washington, the Town of Ludington, the Town of Bridge Creek, the Town of Pleasant Valley, or the Town of Otter Creek, the Applicant shall provide written notification of this application to those municipalities.

5-2.19 Maintenance Plan.

The Applicant shall detail the triennial, storm follow-up, and other actions that will be taken to keep the WEF operating quietly, efficiently, and not polluting land, water, or air. This will

include (but not limited to) the minimization of: audible sounds, infrasound, vibrations, blade glint, and fluid leaks. The Applicant shall conduct preventive maintenance inspections at least once every year and after any wind event defined galeforce (39mph) or greater. Each inspection shall look for such things as metal fatigue, nut loosening, and other potential failures that might impact the public health and safety. Such inspection reports shall be provided to the Town Board within thirty (30) days of the inspection.

5-2.20 Road Use and Risk Assessment Plan and Road Impact Requirements.

- A.** An application for a WEF License shall include a road use and risk assessment plan containing the following information and meeting the following requirements:
 - 1.** A description and map of all public roads in the Town to be used in connection with the construction of the WEF, including a description of how and when such roads will be used in connection with the construction of the WEF.
 - 2.** A description of the type and length of vehicles and type, weight and length of loads to be conveyed on all public roads in the Town.
 - 3.** A complete assessment of the proposed use of roads in the Town in connection with the construction of the WEF, including the adequacy of turning radii; the ability of the roads to sustain loads without damage; the need to remove (permanently or temporarily) signs, trees, utilities, or anything else; any reasonably foreseeable damage to roads or other property; any reasonably foreseeable costs the Town may incur in connection with the use of roads in the Town, including but not limited to costs relating to traffic control, public safety, or damage to roads or property.
 - 4.** A traffic control and safety plan relating to the use of roads in the Town in connection with the construction of the WEF.
 - 5.** Any additional information the Town may request relating to the use of roads in the Town in connection with the WEF.
- B.** The Town will evaluate the road use and risk assessment plan with assistance from such consultants it deems appropriate. The Town may document the condition of all roads to be used in connection with the construction of the WEF in such manner as it deems appropriate. The Town may require changes to the road use and risk assessment plan it deems appropriate to protect public safety, to protect Town roads, and to address anticipated costs to the Town associated with applicant's use of roads in the Town.
- C.** The Town may require the applicant to enter into an agreement relating to the use of roads in the Town. The Town may require the applicant to provide a deposit or letter of credit in an amount the Town determines appropriate to secure any obligations under the agreement, including but not limited to any obligation relating to alterations or improvements to roads needed in connection with applicant's use of roads in the Town, and the reimbursement of the Town for any costs the road use and risk assessment indicates the Town may incur in connection with applicant's use of the roads in the Town.

5-2.20 Decommissioning Plan.

A description of how the structural and turbine materials will be disposed of and how the site will be restored, as well as:

- A.** Anticipated life of the WEF.
- B.** Estimated decommissioning costs including contingency costs of at least 20% (in current dollars), as provided by an appropriately experienced licensed engineer.
- C.** A verifiable means of determining whether the decommissioning plan needs to be activated due to cessation of use, such as a letter from the electric utility stating that it will notify the Town Board within ten (10) business days if electricity is not received from any turbine within the WEF for any thirty (30) consecutive days.
- D.** Method for ensuring that funds will be available for decommissioning and restoration as set forth in 6-7.

5-2.14 Ancillary Materials.

Other relevant studies, reports, certifications, and approvals as may be reasonably requested by the Town to ensure compliance with this Ordinance, or to protect the health, safety and well-being of the Town's citizens or local ecosystems. The inputs of local citizens will be solicited in at least one (1) public hearing on this application.

5-2.15 Testament.

The Applicant will sign a document that Applicant (and successive assigns) agree to all the provisions of this Ordinance without reservation or qualification.

5-2.16 Town Board Decision

The approval by the Town Board shall be valid for a period of two (2) years. Prior to the expiration of such approval, the Owner of the WEF may submit one (1) approval extension application for up to an additional two (2) years. Such an approval of the extension application shall be accompanied by a second application fee (5-10) as well as a letter explaining the reasons that would justify an approval extension.

5-3 WEF Dimensional Requirements. To provide for at least minimal operational safety for persons and property located outside of a WEF, all WEFs shall comply with the minimums and maximums contained in the following table:

Type of Wind Energy Facility	Minimum Wind Turbine Setback from any Property Line, Public or Private Right of Way and/or Access Easement*	Maximum Wind Turbine Height**
SWEF (up to 100kW)	1.5 feet for each foot of height from any property line and any vacant or occupied dwelling unit on the same property. If the Town Board determines there will be no significant impact on abutting properties or those across a stream, lake, or other body of water, no such setback is required from the waterward property line for a turbine placed in a body of water, or on a dock or pier.	75 feet
LWEF (100kW or more)	One (1) mile or 10x the turbine height, from facility property lines, whichever is greater.	76 feet or higher

* Such minimum setbacks for a WEF shall be measured from its outermost extension (whether blade tip, nacelle/turbine housing, or tower/pole edge) that is nearest the WEF property line, public or private right-of-way, and access easement.

** Height is measured from the lowest adjacent grade to the highest point of the structure, including any attachments (such as a lightning protection device or a turbine rotor or tip of the turbine blade when it reaches its highest elevation). No portion of any wind turbine blade shall be closer than 25 feet to any portion of the ground that surrounds any WEF.

No LWEF wind turbine shall be permitted to be within five (5) miles of any operating or proposed radar facility (NEXRAD, military, commercial, etc.).

5-4 LWEF Escrow Account.

The Applicant shall pay to the Town a non-refundable Application Fee (see 5-10). The Town Board and/or Planning Board reserve the right to obtain engineering, economic impact, environmental impact, or other professional services to aid it in the review of any submitted WEF application. These costs (and other expenses incurred by the Town) are reimbursable only from the Escrow Account, not the Application Fee.

5-4.1 The Applicant shall reimburse the Town for all oversight expenses incurred relating to the LWEF, from application through decommissioning.

5-4.2 These LWEF-related oversight expenses include (but are not limited to) amounts required for Building Permits, Licensing, Re-Licensing, and Decommissioning e.g. administration, engineering, expert health and wildlife evaluations, handling complaints, legal, etc. "Legal" includes attorney fees for the Town if the Town has to sue the Applicant.

5-4.3 Any Escrow Account interest shall stay with the account and be considered new principal.

5-4.4 This Escrow Account will be set up by the Applicant at the time of the LWEF License Application. This Escrow Account will be at a financial institution approved by the Town, solely in the name of the Town, to be managed by the Town Treasurer(or designee). The Applicant will make an initial deposit of \$50,000. An LWEF License Application will not be processed until proof of deposit has been provided by the Applicant. A LWEF License Application determination will not be made until all costs incurred by the Town to date have been reimbursed by the Applicant.

5-4.5 If the LWEF Application is denied, all Escrow Account funds will be returned to the Applicant, less related expenses incurred by the Town. The money will be returned, along with a statement as to these costs, within 30 days of the Application being formally denied, or receipt of a Letter of Withdrawal. License Fees are non-refundable.

5-4.6 This Escrow Account will be funded during the life of the LWEF by the Applicant/Owner/Operator. The Applicant/Owner/Operator will replenish any Escrow funds used by the Town within 14 days of being sent written notification (and explanation) of said withdrawals. Failure to maintain the Escrow Account at \$50,000 (within 30 days of being given notice) shall be cause for revocation (or denial of renewal) of the LWEF License.

5-4.7 Once the Owner believes that the Owner has satisfactorily complied with the decommissioning conditions specified herein, the Owner will send the Town written notification. The Town then has sixty (60) days to verify to its satisfaction that all decommissioning conditions have been complied with. If there is material non-compliance, the Town will so notify the Owner and the process starts over. Otherwise, the Town will return all Escrow Account funds to the Owner, less related expenses incurred by the Town, along with an explanatory statement.

5-5 Installation and Design.

5-5.1 LWEF Power Collection.

The electrical connection system from the turbines to a collection point or substation shall, to the maximum extent possible, be placed underground. The power from that collection point or substation may use overhead transmission lines if approved by the Town Board.

5-5.2 Road Analysis.

The applicant shall agree, in writing, to the conditions of section 6-3.

5-5.3 Security.

The Applicant shall submit design plans to verify that the WEF is:

- A.** Located, fenced, or otherwise secured so as to prevent unauthorized access.
- B.** Made inaccessible to individuals and constructed or shielded in such a manner that it cannot be climbed or collided with.
- C.** Installed in such a manner that it is readily accessible only to persons authorized to operate or service it.
- D.** The applicant shall not install any video surveillance at a height exceeding 10 feet from ground level unless otherwise approved by the Town Board.

5-5.4 The WEF shall:

- A.** Be a non-obtrusive color (such as light blue, off-white, or light gray) that blends with the sky, as determined by the Town Board.
- B.** Not be artificially lighted, except to the extent required by the FAA or other applicable authority that regulates air safety.
- C.** Not contain any signs or other advertising (including flags, streamers or decorative items or any identification of the turbine manufacturer, WEF owner and operator). This does not include any identification plaques that might be required by the electric utility or a governmental agency.
- D.** Be sited and operated so as to not interfere with television, internet service, telephone (including cellular, broadband, and digital), microwave, satellite (dish), navigational, or radio reception in neighboring areas. The Applicant and/or operator of the WEF shall be responsible for the full cost of any remediation necessary to correct any problems or provide equivalent alternate service, within thirty (30) days of being given notice. This includes relocation or removal of problematic turbine(s), or any other equipment, transmission lines, transformers, and other components related thereto.
- E.** Have a leak containment system for oil, hydraulic fluids, and other non-solids that is certified by an expert (such as an engineer, turbine manufacturer, etc.) acceptable to the Planning Board that all such fluids will be captured before they reach the ground. The Applicant shall pay the cost(s) of the expert.
- F.** For LWEFs, prepare an incident response plan that ensures that local emergency responders have the necessary equipment and training to effectively handle emergencies such as oil spills, turbine fires, turbine structural damage (or collapse) of equipment, including access to heavy equipment needed for rescue of trapped personnel. The Escrow Account (5-4) will be used to reimburse all local emergency responders for any necessary equipment or training required.
- G.** An owner shall notify the Town Board of the occurrence and nature of an LWEF emergency within 24 hours of an LWEF emergency.
- H.** An owner shall establish and maintain liaison with the Town Board and with

fire, police, and other appropriate first responders serving the LWEF to create effective emergency plans that include all of the following:

1. A list of all the types of LWEF emergencies that require notification under par.G, Current emergency contact information for first responders and for the LWEF owner, including names and phone numbers.
 2. Procedures for handling different types of LWEF emergencies, including written procedures that provide for shutting down the LWEF or a portion of the system as appropriate.
 3. Duties and responsibilities of the owner and of first responders in the event of an LWEF emergency.
 4. An emergency evacuation plan for the area within 0.5 mile of an LWEF, including the location of alternate landing zones for emergency services aircraft.
- I. The owner shall review the emergency plan at least annually in collaboration with fire, police, and other appropriate first responders to update and improve the emergency plan as needed.
- J. The owner shall distribute current copies of the emergency plan to the Town Board, fire, police, and other appropriate first responders as identified by the Town Board.
- K. The Town Board shall require the owner to provide annual training for fire, police, and other appropriate first responders regarding responding to an LWEF emergency until the LWEF has been decommissioned.
- L. An owner of an LWEF shall do all of the following:
1. Furnish its operator, supervisors, and employees who are responsible for emergency action a copy of the current edition of the emergency procedures established under this subsection to ensure compliance with those procedures.
 2. Train the appropriate operating personnel to ensure they have knowledge of the emergency procedures and verify that the training is effective.
 3. As soon as possible after the end of an LWEF emergency, review employee activities to determine whether the procedures were effectively followed.
- M. Electrical controls and control wiring and power-lines must be wireless or below ground, except where wind farm collector wiring is brought together for connection to the transmission or distribution network, adjacent to that network.
- N. The clearance between the ground and the Wind Turbine blades shall be not less than 75 feet.

5-6 LWEF Real Property Value Protection Plan.

The LWEF Applicant shall assure the Town that there will be no loss in real property value within two miles of each wind turbine within their LWEF. To legally support this claim, the Applicant shall consent in writing to a Real Property Value Protection Agreement ("Agreement": see 6-5) as a condition of approval for the LWEF. This Agreement

shall provide assurance to non-participating real property owners (i.e. those with no turbines on their property) near the LWEF that they have some protection from LWEF-related real property values losses.

5-7 LWEF Surety for Removal, when Decommissioned.

The applicant shall place with the Town an acceptable letter-of-credit, bond, or other form of security that is sufficient to cover the cost of removal at the end of each WEF turbine's useful life, as detailed in the decommissioning plan. Such surety shall be at least \$200,000 for each wind turbine. The Town Board may approve a reduced surety amount that is not less than 150% of a cost estimate that is certified by an engineer, salvage company, or other expert acceptable to the Town Board. This calculation will not take into account any estimated salvage values.

The Town shall use this surety to assure the faithful performance of the decommissioning terms and conditions of the Applicant's plan and this law. The full amount of the bond or security shall remain in full force and effect until all necessary site restoration is completed to return the site to a condition comparable to what it was prior to the WEF, as determined by the Town Board (see 6-7). The Applicant will be responsible for assuring that any subsequent Assigns of the LWEF will provide acceptable surety to the Town prior to any transfer of ownership

5-8 LWEF Liability Insurance.

5-8.1 The holder of a license for an LWEF shall agree to secure and maintain for the duration of the license public liability insurance, as follows.

A. Commercial general liability covering personal injuries, death and property damage: \$10,000,000 per occurrence (\$20,000,000 aggregate), which shall specifically include the Town and its officers, councils, employees, committee members, attorneys, agents and consultants as additional named insureds.

B. Umbrella coverage: \$50,000,000.

5-8.2 The insurance policies shall be issued by an agent or representative of an insurance company licensed to do business in the State and with at least a Best's rating of "A"

5-8.3 The insurance policies shall contain an endorsement obligating the insurance company to furnish the Town with at least 30 days prior written notice in advance of a cancellation.

5-8.4 Renewal or replacement policies shall be delivered to the Town at least 15 days before the expiration of the insurance that such policies are to renew or replace.

5-8.5 No more than 15 days after the grant of the license and before construction is initiated, the license holder shall deliver to the Town a copy of each of the policies or certificates representing the insurance in the required amounts.

5-8.6 A certificate of insurance that states that it is for informational purposes only, and does not confer sufficient rights upon the Town, shall not be deemed to comply with this Ordinance

5-9 LWEF Indemnification.

The granting of the Town's LWEF License shall contain an indemnification provision. This

clause shall require the Applicant to at all times defend, indemnify, protect, save, hold harmless, and exempt the Town (and affected municipalities), and its officers, councils, employees, committee members, attorneys, agents, and consultants from any and all penalties, damages, costs, or charges arising out of any and all claims, suits, demands, causes of action, or award of damages, whether compensatory or punitive, or expenses arising therefrom, either at law or in equity, which might arise out of, or are caused by delivery, construction, erection, modification, location, equipment's performance, use, operation, maintenance, repair, installation, replacement, removal, or restoration of said LWEF, excepting, however, any portion of such claims, suits, demands, causes of action or award of damages as may be attributable to the negligent or intentional acts or omissions of the Town or its employees or agents. With respect to the penalties, damages, or charges referenced herein, reasonable attorneys' fees, consultants' fees, and expert witness fees are included in those costs that are recoverable by the Town.

5-10 Fees.

Non-refundable Fees shall be as follows.

5-10.1 A political subdivision shall charge an owner a reasonable application fee or require an owner to reimburse the political subdivision for reasonable expenses relating to the review and processing of an application for a wind energy system.

5-10.2 A political subdivision's fee or reimbursement requirement under 5-10.1 shall be based on the actual and necessary cost of the review of the wind energy system application, and shall include the cost of services necessary to review an application that are provided by outside engineers, attorneys, planners, environmental specialists, and other consultants or experts. The political subdivisions shall by ordinance set standardized application fees based on the size and complexity of a proposed wind energy system.

5-10.3 A political subdivision shall require an owner of a wind energy system to submit up to 50 percent of the total estimated amount of the fee or reimbursement for the wind energy system application under 5-10.1 before issuing a written decision if the political subdivision gives written notice to the owner of its intent to do so within 10 days of the date the application is deemed complete and the notice contains an estimate of the amount of the fee and the relevant reimbursement requirements.

5-10.4 A political subdivision shall not charge an owner an annual fee or other recurring fees to operate or maintain a wind energy system.

5-10.5 LWEF License: \$200 per megawatt (MW) of rated maximum capacity.

5-10.6 SWEF License: \$500 per turbine.

5-10.7 Wind Measurement Tower License: \$200 per tower.

5-10.8 Wind Measurement Tower License renewals: \$100 per tower.

5-11 Town Board's Permitted Provisions.

The Town Board may do any of the following in an ordinance or establish any of the following as a condition for approval of an application to construct an LWEF.

- A.** Information. Require information about whether an owner has consulted with and received any non-binding recommendations for constructing, operating, or decommissioning the LWEF from a State or Federal agency, and whether the

owner has incorporated such non-binding recommendations into the design of the LWEF.

- B. Studies.** Require an owner to cooperate with any study of the effects of LWEFs coordinated by a State agency.
- a. Monetary Compensation.** Require an owner of an LWEF to offer an agreement that includes monetary compensation to the owner of a nonparticipating residence, if the residence is located within 0.5 mile of a constructed LWEF. For one turbine located within 0.5 mile of a nonparticipating residence, the initial annual monetary compensation may not exceed \$600, For two turbines located within 0.5 mile of a nonparticipating residence, the initial annual monetary compensation may not exceed \$800. For three or more turbines located within 0.5 mile of a nonparticipating residence, the annual monetary compensation may not exceed \$1,000. The initial annual monetary compensation under this subsection shall apply to agreements entered into in 2011. For agreements entered into in 2012 and thereafter, the initial annual amounts shall increase each year by the greater of two percent or the increase in the Consumer Price Index s.196.374 (5) (bm) 2. B., Stats., from the previous year. An agreement offered under this subsection shall specify in writing any waiver of a requirement or right under this chapter and whether the landowner's acceptance of payment establishes the landowner's property as a participating property under this chapter.
- C. Aerial Spraying.** Require an owner of an LWEF to offer an agreement that includes monetary compensation to a farm operator farming on a nonparticipating property located within 0.5 mile of a constructed wind turbine if the farm operator demonstrates all of the following:
 - 1. Substantial evidence of a history, before the LWEF owner gives notice under s. PSC 128.105 (1), of using aerial spraying for pest control or disease prevention for growing potatoes, peas, snap beans or sweet corn on all or part of a farm field located within 0.5 mile of a constructed wind turbine.
 - 2. Material reduction in potato, pea, snap bean or sweet corn production or material increase in application costs on all or part of a farm field located within 0.5 mile of a constructed wind turbine as a result of the LWEF's effect on aerial spraying practices.
- D. Permits.** Require the owner to submit to the Town Board copies of all necessary State and Federal permits and approvals.
- E. Annual reports.** Require the owner to file an annual report with the Town Board documenting the operation and maintenance of the wind energy system during the previous calendar year.

5-12 Standards for the Town Board's WEF License Application Decision. The Town

Board may disapprove a WEF License Application for a variety of reasons, including but not limited to, the following:

- A. Conflict with safety and safety-related codes and requirements.
- B. The use or construction of a WEF that is contrary to an already-stated purpose of a specific zoning or land use designation.
- C. The operation of an LWEF would be a net economic liability to the community.
- D. The operation of an LWEF would create unacceptable health risks to the public.
- E. The placement and operation of an LWEF that would create unacceptable risks to wildlife and/or regional ecosystems.
- F. The placement and location of a WEF would result in a conflict with, or compromise, or significantly change, the nature or character of the surrounding area.
- G. The operation of an LWEF would create unacceptable interference with any type of civilian or military radar systems.
- H. Conflicts, as determined by the Town Board, with the military's unrestricted ability to use the Restricted Air Space, including no flight hazards and/or use limitations. In addition, the Planning Board will consider whether construction or operation of the proposed WEF would encroach upon or would otherwise have a significant adverse impact on the mission, training, or operations of any military installation or branch of military in the State, and possibly result in a detriment to continued military presence in the State.
- I. Conflicts with any provisions of this Ordinance.

Section 6. WEF Post-License Approval Requirements

6-1 WEF Certification

Prior to operation of any approved and constructed WEF, the applicant must provide a certification that the project complies with applicable codes, industry practices and conditions of approval (where applicable).

6-2 Reservation of Authority to Inspect WEF.

In order to verify that the holder of a license for a WEF and any and all lessees, renters, and/or licensees of it, have placed and constructed such facilities in accordance with all applicable technical, safety, fire, building, and zoning codes, laws, Ordinances and regulations and other applicable requirements, the Town may inspect all facets of said license holders, renter's, lessee's or licensee's placement, construction, and maintenance of such facilities, including all turbines, towers, buildings, and other structures constructed or located on the site.

6-2.1 WEFs shall not begin operation until all approvals required under this Ordinance shall have been obtained and all required certifications are provided.

6-2.2 Following the issuance of any approval required under this Ordinance, the Town Board or its designee shall have the right to enter onto the Site upon which a WEF has

been placed, at reasonable times, in order to inspect such WEF and its compliance with this Ordinance.

6-3.3 After undertaking such inspection, the Town Board or its designated representative shall provide notice of any non-compliance with the terms of this Ordinance or the conditions of approval of any license or permit issued hereunder and shall provide the owner or Applicant with a reasonable time frame to cure such violation, such time frame to be determined based upon the seriousness of the violation, its actual and/or potential impact upon public health, safety, welfare, and the actual and/or potential impact of the violation upon Town residents and/or local ecosystems.

6-3 WEF Construction Related Damage.

The owner of any licensed WEF shall, to the extent practicable, repair or replace all real or personal property, public or private, damaged during the WEF construction.

The Applicant shall reimburse the WI DOT and/or Town (as appropriate) for any and all repairs and reconstruction to roads that are necessary due to the construction or decommissioning of the LWEF. A qualified independent third party or other qualified person, agreed to by the WI DOT and/or Town (as appropriate) and the Applicant, shall be hired to pre-inspect the roadways to be used during construction and/or decommissioning. This third party shall be hired to evaluate, document, and rate the road's condition prior to construction or decommissioning of the LWEF and again 30 days after the WEF is completed or removed.

- A.** Any road damage during construction that is done by the Applicant and/or one or more of its subcontractors that is identified by this third party shall be repaired or reconstructed to the satisfaction of the WI DOT and/or Town (as appropriate) at the Applicant's expense, prior to the final inspection. In addition, the Applicant shall pay for all costs related to this third party pre-inspection work prior to receipt of the final inspection.
- B.** The surety for removal of a decommissioned WEF shall not be released until the Town Board is satisfied that any road damage that is identified by this third party during and after decommissioning that is done by the Applicant and/or one or more of its contractors or subcontractors has been repaired or reconstructed to the satisfaction of the WI DOT and/or Town at the Applicant's expense. In addition, the Applicant shall pay for all costs related to work of this third party's inspection prior to receipt of the release of the surety.

6-4 LWEF Noise Impacts.

Independent acoustical experts have determined that 35 dBA is a reasonable proxy to protect nearby citizens from harmful infrasound. As such, no part of the LWEF shall produce noise above 35 dBA LAeq for more than five (5) consecutive minutes, as

measured at any WEF property line or residence. Each occurrence by individual turbines shall be a separate violation of this Ordinance, and the penalties (see 7-2) shall be cumulative.

If noise levels exceed 35 dBA for more than five (5) consecutive minutes, as measured at any WEF property line or residence, the problem turbine(s) shall be shut down within one business day of being directed to do so by the Town Board or their designee. The problem turbine(s) shall remain shut down until it can be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the Town Board (or their designee) that those turbines can be operated so as to not exceed 35 dBA for more than five (5) consecutive minutes, as measured at all WEF property lines, or proximate residences.

6-5 LWEF Real Property Value Protection Plan.

The Applicant guarantees that there will be no loss in real property value within two miles of the LWEF, due to the LWEF. Any real property owner(s) included in that area who believe that their property may have been devalued due to the LWEF may elect to exercise the following option:

6-5.1 All appraiser costs are paid by the Applicant from the Escrow Account (5-4). Applicant and the property owner shall each select a licensed appraiser. Each appraiser shall provide a detailed written explanation of the reduction, if any, in value to the real property ("Diminution Value") caused by the proximity to the LWEF. This shall be determined by calculating the difference between the current Fair Market Value (FMV) of the real property and what the FMV would have been at the time of exercising this option, assuming no WEF was proposed or constructed,

- A.** If the higher of the Diminution Valuations submitted is equal to or less than 25 percent more than the other, the two values shall be averaged ("Average Diminution Value" • ADV).
- B.** If the higher of the Diminution Valuations submitted is more than 25 percent higher than the other, then the two appraisers will select a third licensed appraiser, who shall present to the Applicant and property owner a written appraisal report as to the Diminution Value for the real property. The parties agree that the resulting average of the two highest Diminution Valuations shall constitute the ADV.
- C.** In either case, the property owner may elect to receive payment from Applicant of the ADV. Applicants are required to make this payment within 60 days of receiving said written election from the property owner.

6-5.2 Other Agreement Conditions.

- A.** If a property owner wants to exercise this option, they must do so within 10 years of the WEF receiving final approval from the Town.
- B.** A property owner may elect to exercise this option only once.
- C.** The Applicant and the property owner may accept mutually agreeable modifications of this Agreement, although the Applicant is not allowed to put other conditions on a financial settlement (e.g. confidentiality). If the property owner accepts some payment for property value loss based on an

alternative method, then that acceptance and payment shall be considered an exercise of this option.

- D.** This Agreement applies to the property owner of record as of the date of the LWEF approval and is not transferable to subsequent owners.
- E.** The property owner of record as of the date of the LWEF approval must reasonably maintain the property from that time until the owner chooses to elect this option.
- F.** The property owner must permit full access to the property by the appraisers as needed to perform the appraisals.
- G.** The property owner must inform the appraisers of all known defects of the property as may be required by law as well as all consequential modifications or changes to the property subsequent to the date of the LWEF application.
- H.** This Agreement will be guaranteed by the Applicant (and all its successors and assigns) for 10 years following the LWEF receiving final approval from the Town, by providing a bond (or other surety) to the Town, in an amount determined to be acceptable by the Town. This surety account will ensure execution of all aspects of this Agreement (including compensation of eligible property owners in the case of default by Applicant). Failure to maintain this surety account shall be cause for revocation (or denial of renewal) of the LWEF License.
- I.** Payment by the Applicant not made within sixty (60) days will accrue an interest penalty. This will be twelve percent (12 percent) annually from the date of the written election from the property owner.
- J.** For any litigation regarding this Agreement, all reasonable legal fees and court costs will be paid by the Applicant.

6-6 LWEF Environmental Monitoring:

The Applicant will permit post-construction environmental studies deemed appropriate by the Town Board. These will be funded by the Escrow Account (5-4). Post-construction field studies will include scientific assessments of regional nesting failures, and territory abandonment of special status species like raptors species, within two (2) miles of the LWEF. When these assessments are being done, only researchers involved with these studies will be legally allowed to touch carcasses. LWEF personnel who move carcasses without written Town approval will be subject to a fine per 7-2.2, as wind turbines do kill endangered and other highly protected species. During the life of the project every bird or bat carcass, or crippled bird or bat found anywhere within the LWEF, must be reported to the Town by the Applicant within seven (7) days.

6-7 LWEF Decommissioning:

The Town Board will review the projected Decommissioning costs (5-2.20) every five (5) years. The LWEF owner will adjust their security to any changes from the original calculation.

If the State Building Codes official condemns any portion of an LWEF, or if no electricity is generated from any turbines for three (3) consecutive months, the LWEF owner and/or property owner shall have three (3) months to remedy the safety issues or complete the decommissioning of the WEF, according to the approved plan.

6-7.1 The Town Board may grant extensions of time for repair and/or maintenance, for

good cause, such as the need to back-order parts that are not currently available from the supplier or the need to repair an LWEF damaged by a storm.

6-7.2 Decommissioning shall include the complete removal of turbines, buildings, electrical components, cabling, roads, and any other associated facilities and/or structures, including below-ground items (e.g. foundations), to a depth of eight (8) feet below grade.

6-7.3 Disturbed earth shall be graded and re-seeded, unless the landowner requests in writing that the access roads or other land surface areas not be restored.

6-8 Collocation.

No Collocation of any Wireless Communications Facilities shall be permitted on any WES without the express approval of the Township.

6-9 Public Inquiries & Complaints.

Should an aggrieved property owner allege that a WES is not in compliance with the requirements of this Ordinance, the procedure shall be as follows:

- A.** Complaints received by the Township concerning noise and shadow flicker from a WES must be submitted to the Township in writing from the affected property owner including their name, address and contact information.
- B.** Upon receiving a noise complaint from an affected property owner that the Township deems sufficient to warrant an investigation, the Township shall request and the owner(s) and/or operator of the WES shall deposit funds in an amount sufficient to pay for an independent sound decibel level test conducted by a qualified sound professional to determine compliance with the requirements of this Ordinance.
- C.** If the WES is in violation of this Ordinance, the owner(s) and/or operator shall reimburse the Township for the noise level test from the Owners Escrow Account (5-4) and take immediate action to bring the structure into compliance.
- D.** If a complaint regarding shadow flicker is deemed sufficient by the Township, the Township will request and the owner(s) and/or operator of the WES shall provide a shadow flicker analysis of the turbine as constructed to determine compliance of the requirements of this Ordinance. The analysis shall be conducted by an independent third party acceptable to the Township and the owner(s) and/or operator shall reimburse the Township from Owners Escrow Account (5-4).
- E.** If the WES is in violation of the Ordinance shadow flicker requirements, the owner(s) and/or operator must take immediate action to achieve compliance, which may include, without limitation, ceasing operation of the structure until the violation is corrected or obtaining a waiver from the affected land owner.

6-10 LWEF Lease Agreements.

The owner shall legally file the entire lease document and a record of all signed leases shall be maintained by the Town Board.

Section 7. Miscellaneous

7-1 LWEF Tax Exemption.

The Town reserves the right to opt out of the Tax Exemption provisions of Personal Property Exempted From Taxation WI Statute 70.111(18), pursuant to the authority granted by any other provision of law. Further, the Town reserves the right to assess any and all parts of the WEF at its full current market value. That value will be determined by the documented construction cost, less any applicable depreciation.

7-2 Enforcement; Penalties and Remedies for Violations.

7-2.1 The Town Board shall appoint such Town staff or outside consultants as it sees fit to enforce and implement this Ordinance.

7-2.2 Any person owning, controlling or managing any building, structure or land related to a WEF shall be legally and financially responsible for any and all violations of this Ordinance. Such violations would include noncompliance with the terms and conditions of the License herein or any order of the enforcement officer. Any person who is responsible for doing so shall be guilty of an offense and subject to a fine of not less than \$100 and not more than \$1000 per incident and/or any other penalties provided by local, state, or federal law.

Every such person shall be deemed guilty of a separate offense for each day such violation shall continue. The Town may institute a civil proceeding to collect civil penalties in the amount of \$1000 for each violation, and each week said violation continues shall be deemed a separate violation. If multiple turbines are in violation, each turbine's violation shall be considered a separate offense.

7-2.3 In case of any violation (or threatened violation) of any of the provisions of this Ordinance, including the terms and conditions imposed by any license or permit issued pursuant to this Ordinance, in addition to other remedies and penalties herein provided, the Town may institute any appropriate legal action or proceeding to prevent such unlawful erection, structural alteration, reconstruction, operation, moving and/or use, and to restrain, correct or abate such violation, to prevent the illegal act.

7-3 Fiscal Responsibility.

7-3.1 The Town Board may, at its discretion, request the most recent annual audited financial report of the licensee prepared by a duly licensed Certified Public Accountant during the review process. If such a report does not exist, the Town Board may, in its sole discretion, require a suitable alternative to demonstrate the financial responsibility of the applicant and its ability to comply with the requirements of this Ordinance.

7-3.2 No transfer of any LWEF, or license, or the sale of more than 30 percent of the stock of such entity (not counting sale of shares on a public exchange) shall occur without written acceptance by such entity of the obligations of the licensee under this Ordinance and the terms of the license. Any such transfer shall not eliminate the liability of any entity for any act occurring during its ownership or status as licensee.

Section 8. Applicability. The requirements of this Ordinance shall apply to all WEFs proposed, operated, modified or constructed after the effective date of this Ordinance.

Section 9. Severability. Should any provision of this Ordinance be declared by any

Court, administrative body, or board, or any other government body or board to be unconstitutional, invalid, preempted, void, or otherwise inapplicable for any reason, such decision shall not affect the validity of this Ordinance as a whole or any part thereof other than the part so decided to be unconstitutional, invalid, preempted, void, or otherwise inapplicable.

Section 10. Effective date. This ordinance shall take effect upon its adoption and publication or posting as required by law .That the Town Clerk is instructed to both post and publish this Ordinance as a Class 1 legal notice under Ch. 985, Wis. Stats, and a certified copy of this Ordinance shall be mailed to the Eau Claire County Clerk.

Adopted this Date August 9th, 2021
TOWN OF LINCOLN

Bob Dewitz
Town Chairman

Matt Krenz
Supervisor

Dean Klingbeil
Supervisor

Attest: _____
Sherri McCormick, clerk

(signatures on file with Town of Lincoln clerk)

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Attachment A

Dear Landowner,

Our office has been made aware of a renewable energy company that has been in contact with area farmers to sign wind energy easements. As the owner of land covered under an active Farmland Preservation Program (FPP) Agreement, we felt it important to remind you that the siting of a commercial wind turbine is not an allowable land use under the terms of your Agreement with the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP).

Should you decide to sign an easement for the construction of a commercial wind turbine on land covered under your FPP Agreement, the lands subject to the easement must be released from your FPP Agreement. Releasing land from a FPP Agreement prior to its natural expiration is subject to a conversion fee under S.91.66, Wis. Stats..

The conversion fee is equal to *three times the per acre value* of the highest value category of tillable cropland in the town in which the land is located in, as specified by the Wisconsin Department of Revenue under S.73.03(2a), Wis. Stats.. In 2021 the average conversion fee to release land from an effective FPP Agreement in Eau Claire County is equal to: $\$235 \times 3 = \mathbf{\$705 \text{ per acre}}$.

Thank you for participating in Wisconsin's Farmland Preservation Program. Should you have any questions please be in touch.

Sincerely,



EAU CLAIRE COUNTY
LAND CONSERVATION



Amanda Peters, CCA
Conservation Technician-Agronomist
715-839-4788