

# Woodford board member won't quit

Terry Pille shrugs off questions about possible conflict of interest

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**OF THE JOURNAL STAR**

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EUREKA —

The chairman of Woodford County's Conservation, Planning and Zoning Committee started Tuesday's meeting on an uncomfortable note when a resident asked him point-blank if he would resign.

Vicky Kingdon, who read from a prepared statement, said Terry Pille should step down as a County Board member. She said he had a conflict of interest resulting from his involvement in a wind farm project in the county.

"You signed a contract with Navitas (Energy Inc.) for future turbine development on your property March 31, 2007," Kingdon said. "As a County Board member, you had to know that any development of turbines by Navitas in Woodford County would require a special use permit, and as a board member, you would have a vote on any project that Navitas applied for. Isn't that correct?"

Pille agreed that was true.

Navitas Energy has applied for a special-use permit to build a 100-turbine wind farm called Minonk Wind Farm LLC. The company also is planning to build a 52-turbine wind farm, called Roanoke Wind Farm LLC, near Benson. The County Board has yet to vote on the applications.

Kingdon also said Pille had received payment from Navitas in 2007 and also will receive one this year. He did not dispute that.

"While under contract with Navitas and also (receiving) payment from Navitas, you voted on Aug. 19, 2008, on Navitas' El Paso wind project after numerous objections from the public for conflict of interest," she said.

Kingdon said Pille also voted on a text amendment to the county's wind farm ordinance.

"This text amendment was part of the very ordinance that governs the way in which Navitas can do business in this county and would have actually eliminated one or more of your own turbines," she said. "Mr. Pille, I believe you have demonstrated to the public that you do not understand what conflict of interest means or the meaning of ethical conduct.

"Mr. Pille, I have just one question to ask you: Will you resign from the County Board?"

Pille shrugged and said this was the public input part of the meeting. He did not respond further to her question. He then called for other comments from the public.

Earlier this year, Pille said he would seek the advice of State's Attorney Mike Stroh on whether he could vote on wind farm matters.

At a meeting in May, committee members Doug Huser, Marcus Adams, John Evans and Stan Glazier voted Pille could not vote on any wind farm matters. Pille abstained during that vote.