

Fillmore County Planning Commission Minutes of Meeting

May 19, 2025

The Fillmore County Planning Commission convened, as required by statute, in open and public session at 8:00 p.m. May 19, 2025, in Fillmore County East 1320 G St, Geneva NE 68361.

Members present: Elznic, Hafer, Harre, Stuckey, Girmus, Williams

Absent: R. Noel

Also, present: Planning and Zoning Administrator, Tallgrass Rep- Scott Prestidge, Shawn Bates, Paul LaRue, Javier Gutierrez, Robert Schropfer, Rex Mussman, Galen Niederklein, Eric Johnson, Joes Hoarty, Tom Hoarty, Dan Aspegren, Tom Lovegrove, Jenny Hoarty, Ranee Hoarty, Brad Lauber, Phil Lauber, Brad Lauber-Jr., Ralph Graham, NextEra Energy Resources Rep- Tristan Wheeler and Doni Harris.

Notice of the meeting was given by published notice. All proceedings hereinafter shown were taken while the convened meeting was open to the public. Secretary Elznic was present to record the minutes.

Chairman Harre noted that the public meeting guidelines are posted as required by law and available for public distribution if requested.

Motion to approve agenda for May 19, 2025, made by Girmus, seconded by Williams. Upon roll call, vote is as follows: Ayes: Hafer, Stuckey, Elznic, Harre, Girmus, Williams

Nays: None

Chairman Harre declared motion carried 6-0 (approved)

Motion to approve minutes from the April 7, 2025, meeting was made by Williams, seconded by Girmus. Upon roll call vote is as follows:

Ayes: Stuckey, Hafer, Elznic, Harre, Girmus, Williams

Nays: None

Chairman Harre declared motion carried 6-0 (approved)

Public Hearing:

Chairman Matt Harre declared the public hearing open at 8:10pm. The hearing action item was as follows:

The conditional use permit filed by Trailblazer CO2 Pipeline, LLC, to construct a surface facility for a mainline shut off valve station to improve operational capabilities and to increase safety while regulating compression and metering at an aboveground facility. In addition to improved safety, there is an operational significance as it relates to any planned maintenance and being more efficient to manage the line.

Site: NW ¼ of Section 23, Township 5, Range 1, Road 23 and V, Ohioa, Fillmore County, NE.

Trailblazer and Tallgrass representatives presented and discussed the CO2 pipeline that will travel east 12 miles to the county line from the Strang mainline valve station. There will be 1 mainline shut of valve station constructed at Road 23 and V, Ohioa.

After discussion Hafer moved to close the public hearing, Williams seconded the motion. Upon roll call, the vote was as follows:

Ayes: Hafer, Stuckey, Girmus, Elznic, Harre, Williams

Nays: None

Chairman Harre declared the motion carried and the public hearing was closed at 8:40pm.

Stuckey moved to recommend and approve the Conditional Use Permit filed by Trailblazer CO2 Pipeline, LLC to construct a surface facility for a mainline shut off valve station to improve operational capabilities and to increase safety while regulating compression and metering at an aboveground facility to the Fillmore County Board of Supervisors and seconded by Girmus.

Ayes: Elznic, Hafer, Harre, Girmus, Stuckey, Williams

Nays: None

Chairman Harre declared the motion carried and the Conditional Use Permit filed by Trailblazer CO2 Pipeline, LLC will be presented to the Fillmore County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday, May 27, 2025.

Discussion:

Trailblazer engineers reported positive construction progress thus far and are excited about POET's collaboration to connect to the CO2 pipeline at the POET facility in Fairmont, NE. The CO2 pipeline lateral from Columbus to Strang is mechanically complete, and it will now enter a testing phase to triple check all details. Small batches of CO2 at lower pressure will be added into the pipeline and begin running tests. This testing occurs across the entire system all the way to Wyoming. The test run is scheduled for July. NextEra Energy representatives presented information regarding solar farms in Fillmore County. NextEra stated they are in the beginning phases with scoping out Fillmore County with a target acreage of 2,000 acres within 5 miles of an existing substation. Public comments and concerns regarding glares, dust, storm damage, toxic chemicals, land use, mowing, grazing animals were discussed. NextEra Energy reps stated their active and positive involvement within the community and continuance as an agenda item for the Planning Commission Board meetings as well as the County Board of Supervisors meetings. Chairman Harre moved to table discussion on increasing accessory building maximum size. A brief wind and solar regulation discussion involving public comments and concerns from Robert Schropfer, Rex Mussman, and Galen Niederklein.

Girmus moved to adjourn, and Williams seconded at 10:05PM.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:05PM. Next meeting will be June 16, 2025, at 8:00PM pending agenda items.