

## OWNER

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"My hearing is very sensitive so I'm sure I'm going to be affected, too," Flynn said. "I have very sensitive hearing and I am outside and I hear a very high-pitched sound and I ask people, 'do you hear that?' and they say 'no.'"

Flynn said he has attended hearings in both Chowan and Perquimans on the proposed wind energy project and has heard testimony about sound from the expert witnesses called by Apex.

But he said he also began doing his own research when he learned that some of the planned turbines would be located near his home. That research pointed him to studies identifying possible health concerns

related to sound beginning just beyond 35 decibels.

The local wind energy ordinance establishes a sound threshold of 55 decibels.

Flynn said that based on the latest trends in European siting on wind energy facilities, the sound limit should be 35 decibels and the setback for the turbines should be one mile. European nations currently are increasing setback requirements to two kilometers, which is a little more than a mile, he said.

"I'm not against wind energy but I'm against things that affect my family's health," he said.

Flynn is one of the property owners who is represented by an attorney in opposing the proposed Timbermill Wind Project at the permit hearings currently being held by the Chowan County Board of Commis-

sioners.

In addition to the health concerns, which he said are what troubles him most, Flynn also is bothered by the way the turbines could detract from his enjoyment of the home's rural setting, where they have plans to keep a few animals and raise some vegetables.

He stood in the yard last week and pointed to where he understands the closest of the turbines would be. But he also pointed to other locations on three sides of the house where he expects turbines to be visible from his home once the project is completed.

"The visual impact — these things are going to destroy my sunset views," Flynn said.

When Weyerhaeuser harvests the trees that currently provide some visual screening the visual impact will be

even greater, he said.

"But I'm going to see it at a little over half a mile," Flynn said.

He noted he and his wife have invested a lot of time and effort in the home.

"We're working on the house," Flynn said.

They have cleared an area and are working toward getting a few animals and planting some vegetables. With a barn on the property, they have talked about boarding horses.

When they bought the house about six years ago they did a lot of work, including raising the foundation, he said.

"We've got all the hard work out of the way," Flynn said.

Now he worries the work could have been in vain because of the development of the wind energy project nearby.

"We don't want to abandon our house," he said.

Flynn said that ever since the meeting of the Chowan County Planning Board in July, during which the proposed Timbermill Wind Project was discussed and public comment was heard, he has been reading about wind energy facilities.

"Everything I have read and looked at has been triggered by the planning board meeting," Flynn said.

He has looked especially at the health information. One of the things he has concluded is that the facilities affect people differently, based partly on pre-existing conditions they might have and how that affects their sensitivity to sound.

"The experts are trying to reassure everybody that everything is going to be fine, but I would have to question how it's going to be for peo-

ple living close," Flynn said.

He said he also is concerned that environmental concerns are being left largely to state and federal agencies and that local officials are making a decision on the Conditional Use Permit for the Timbermill project without adequate information about possible environmental impacts.

Flynn keeps coming back to the stricter development standards that European countries are moving toward.

"The thing that stands out is we really need to look at what other countries that have had wind energy longer than we have are doing," Flynn said. "I have no problems with wind turbines in the (Albemarle) Sound (or) in deserts. But when you're putting those things around people you're introducing a lot of problems."

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**NOTICE OF GENERAL ELECTION PERQUIMANS COUNTY NORTH CAROLINA**

A general election will be held on Tuesday, November 8, 2016 in Perquimans County.

Polls will be open from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. on the day of the election, Tuesday, November 8. One-stop early voting will be held at the Perquimans County Board of Elections office 601 S. Edenton Road St. Hertford, NC 27944. One-stop early voting will be open from Thursday, October 20 until 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, November 5. The hours are as follows: October 20-21, 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM. October 24-28, 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM. October 31-November 2, 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM. November 3-4, 8:00 AM – 7:00 PM. November 5, 8:00 AM – 1:00 PM. Canvass will be held in the Perquimans County Board of Elections office at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, November 18.

Absentee voting by mail is available. Requests for an absentee ballot must be made on an absentee request form (available on the State Board of Elections website and at the county board of elections office), and must be received in the Perquimans County Board of Elections by Tuesday, November 1. Absentee voting requires the voter to complete an application on the return envelope that must be witnessed by two qualified persons or a notary public. Completed absentee ballots must be returned to the Board of Elections by 5:00 p.m. on Election Day (ballots received by mail after this time will be considered timely if they are received within three business days and postmarked on or before Election Day). Voters may receive assistance voting a mail-in absentee ballot from a qualified person of their choice.

All persons who are registered to vote with Perquimans County may vote in this election. Persons who are not already registered to vote in the county must register by Friday, October 14 to be eligible to vote in this election. Voters who are not registered in the county by that deadline may register and vote during one stop early voting only, and will be required to provide documentation of their identity and residence. Voters who wish to change party affiliation or who have changed name or address must do so by the registration deadline. Voters who fail to timely make a change in name or address in the county must update the information when presenting to vote, and may be required to vote a provisional ballot.

Voters voting in person are entitled to assistance by an election official, or, if assistance is needed due to disability or illiteracy, by a qualified person of their choice. Voting sites are accessible to all voters. Curbside voting is available for voters who are not able to enter voting sites.

Persons with questions about registration, polling places, early voting, absentee ballots, or other election matters may call the Perquimans County Board of Elections Office at 252-426-5598.

Board Meeting Dates: October 18, 25, November 1, and November 15 at 10:00 AM, November 7 at 5:00 PM, and November 8 at 2:00 PM.

Dianne M. Layden, Chairman  
PERQUIMANS COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

## EXCUSED

Continued from 1

long as he was able to see the transcript and get caught up on the proceedings.

Nixon is chairing the hearings because the board's chairman, Commissioner Jeff Smith, has been recused from participating in decisions related to the Timbermill project. Apex's plan for the project includes land that is part of Smith's family farm.

Both Smith and Winborne represent the county's 1st District.

Bill Bryan, the attorney representing opponents of the project in Chowan County, objected Monday to moving forward with the hearings

without Winborne present. He noted he had made a similar objection at a previous session when Commissioner John Mitchener was absent for medical reasons.

On that earlier occasion the board rescheduled the hearing until a time and date when Mitchener could be present.

Bryan also asked that Bob Kirby, a 1st District resident, be heard on his opposition to proceeding without Winborne present.

But Nixon told Bryan it was strictly a board matter. He said would not hear from the attorney or witness on the matter.

Kirby, the 1st District resident who had asked to speak regarding Winborne's

absence, told the Chowan Herald it was not right for the hearing to be held with no one representing the 1st District.

"I have no representation here tonight," Kirby said. "That is not right."

Kirby said there had been discussion at the meeting about how far some witnesses had to come for the hearing. But he said that even though he had come only 15 miles he was important because he's a taxpaying citizen of Chowan County.

The hearing Monday was held at Swain Auditorium but the board chose at the end of Monday's meeting to reconvene Tuesday at the Public Safety Center on Freemason Street. The hearings were

slated to continue Wednesday at 9 a.m.

Commissioner Alex Kehayes expressed concern that excusing Winborne would mean the 1st District would have no vote on any issue voted on Monday night. But he added that when realized the board needed to make progress on the hearings.

A motion by Kehayes to accept Winborne's request to be excused passed unanimously.

Bryan submitted a motion for a continuance of the hearing to a later date, since the board had scheduled hearings this week for Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday and one of his witnesses lives in Maryland and can only be here on Thursdays or Fridays.

## PROJECT

Continued from 1

the environmental assessments aren't required at this point.

They also argue that background sound data isn't required under the ordinance. Instead the ordinance requires data on how much sound each wind turbine would make.

While Apex has not settled on just what kind of turbine it will use, the CUP

application included calculations based on the worst-case scenario of the five turbine models Apex is looking at. Apex argues that even then, it will still be less than the limit of 55 decibels the county ordinance requires.

Henry Campen, the lead attorney for Apex, argued that the county's own consultant, Clarion ruled that the CUP application was complete and the planning board agreed.

"The planning board wouldn't have done that if it

was not complete," Campen said.

Apex lawyers have argued that even with county approval in both Perquimans and Chowan, the project cannot go forward unless it also meets the standards set by the state and federal government.

Katherine Ross, another Apex attorney said regulatory bodies wouldn't have considered doing an environmental review without the county's CUP first.

"If we had gone to the

Army Corps of Engineers first, they would not have met with us," she said.

At least two more hearings are scheduled for Oct. 17-18.

Time is becoming a factor now. The seats of three of the six commissioners are up this year. The election is set for Nov. 8. Chair Janice Cole and Peeler aren't running. Vice Chair Kyle Jones is. Of the three other candidates, at least two of them have been vocal opponents of the Apex plan.

## RAIN

Continued from 1

were swapped with all the excess water and a mixture of sewage and water spilled in both Hertford and Winfall.

Hertford Town Manager Brandon Shoaf estimated his town's spill amounted to about 300,000 gallons. The Town of Winfall reported a spill of about 30,000 that went into a swamp that leads to the Perquimans River. Shoaf said town employees treated areas of the spill with lime on Thursday.

Shoaf said what spilled was mostly just rainwater.

"Unless we lose something at the sewer plant, it's always going to be diluted and not much of that is sewer."

The mixture of rainwater and sanitary sewer water was discharged into the Tom's Creek portion of the Upper Perquimans River.

The local sewer spills were dwarfed by one in Elizabeth City. Some 1 million gallons of untreated wastewater flowed into Charles Creek.

"What we are discharging is predominantly rainwater," Elizabeth City City Manager Rich Olson said in a follow-up interview with The Daily Advance Thursday evening. Shoaf said this is the third such big rain event. There was one in June and another one in July. In one case five inches fell in the span of an hour. In the other about eight inches fell in an hour and a half.

Because of the rain last week, state officials were warning people last week to use caution with all water-

based activities like boating and swimming. Because of the storm there are excessive bacteria levels in the water or introduced other substances into the water at potentially unsafe levels.

"Waters impacted by these heavy rainfalls can become unsafe for swimming and recreational activities," said J.D. Potts, manager of the N.C. Recreational Water Quality Program. "Floodwaters and storm water runoff may contain pollutants and should be avoided."

State officials are monitoring the situation, working with impacted communities to address needs, and keeping a close watch on overall water quality.

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