

TOWNSHIP OF MARATHON

Wind Energy Systems

ORDINANCE NO. 2025 - 05

An ordinance to amend certain provisions of the Marathon Township Zoning Ordinance concerning wind energy systems and to repeal conflicting ordinances on the same subject matter.

THE TOWNSHIP OF MARATHON ORDAINS:

Section 1. Amendment to Article 26 of the Township Zoning Ordinance to include definitions.

The Township hereby amends Article 26 of the Township Zoning Ordinance by adding the following definition thereto:

Wind Energy Systems (WES). Means any combination of the following:

- a. A mill or machine operated by wind acting on oblique vanes or sails that radiate from a horizontal shaft;
- b. A surface area such as a blade, rotor, or similar device, either variable or fixed, for utilizing the wind for electrical or mechanical power;
- c. A shaft, gearing, belt or coupling utilized to convert the rotation of the surface area into a form suitable for driving a generator, alternator or other electricity-producing device;
- d. The generator, alternator, or other device to convert the mechanical energy of the surface area into electrical energy;
- e. The tower, pylon, or other structure upon which any, all, or some combination of the above are mounted.

Section 2. Amendment to Section 11.01(D) of Article 11 of the Township Zoning Ordinance.

The Township hereby amends Section 11.01(D) of Article 11 of the Township Zoning Ordinance by adding Wind Energy Systems as a special land use permitted by special approval in the AR zoning district.

Section 3. Amendment to Section 13.01(D) of Article 13 of the Township Zoning Ordinance.

The Township hereby amends Section 13.01(D) of Article 13 of the Township Zoning Ordinance by adding Wind Energy Systems as a special land use permitted by special approval in the C-1 zoning district.

Section 4. Amendment to Section 14.01(D) of Article 14 of the Township Zoning Ordinance.

The Township hereby amends Section 14.01(D) of Article 14 of the Township Zoning Ordinance by adding Wind Energy Systems as a special land use permitted by special approval in the I-1 zoning district.

Section 5. Amendment to Article 18 of the Township Zoning Ordinance.

The Township hereby amends Article 18 of the Township Zoning Ordinance by adding a new Section 18.26 specifying special approval conditions for Wind Energy Systems to read as follows:

Sec. 18-26 Wind Energy Systems

Wind Energy Systems (WES): Means any combination of the following:

- a. A mill or machine operated by wind acting on oblique vanes or sails that radiate from a horizontal shaft.
 - b. A surface area such as a blade, rotor, or similar device, either variable or fixed, for utilizing the wind for electrical or mechanical power.
 - c. A shaft, gearing belt or coupling utilized to convert the rotation of the surface area into a form suitable for driving a generator, alternator, or other electricity-producing device.
 - d. The generator, alternator, or other device to convert the mechanical energy of the surface area into electrical energy.
 - e. The tower, pylon, or other structure upon which any, all, or some combination of the above are mounted.
- A. Commercial Wind Energy Systems. Wind energy systems, other than those exempted under subsection (B) above, may be allowed as special land uses in the AR Agricultural Residential. C-1 Commercial and I-1 Industrial Zoning Districts. pursuant to Article XVI and the following requirements:
1. The applicant shall submit a written explanation of the design characteristics and the ability of the structure(s) and attendant facilities to withstand winds, ice and other naturally occurring hazards. This information shall address the potential for the windmill to topple over or collapse, and what tower configuration should be expected in such an event.
 2. The minimum setback from any property line or road right-of-way shall be equal to 125% of the height of the windmill blades at the highest point.
 3. The minimum clearance from ground level to the blade at its lowest point shall be twenty (20) feet.
 4. The site and the base area shall be maintained in a neat manner and locked to prevent unauthorized access.
 5. The windmills and related equipment shall comply with all current guidelines published by the Energy Office of the State of Michigan or its successor agency.
 6. The provisions of subsection C.10 and C.11 above shall be complied with as to electrical generation windmills.

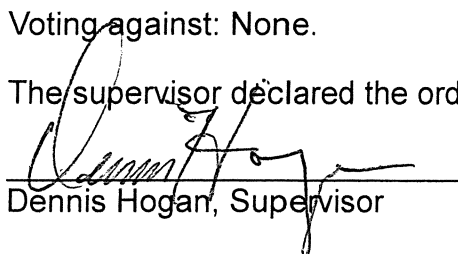
Section 6. Effective Date.

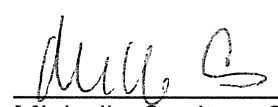
This ordinance shall take effect thirty days after publication.

Voting for: Coultas, Hollis, Church, Sickner and Hogan.

Voting against: None.

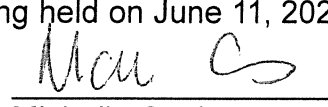
The supervisor declared the ordinance adopted.


Dennis Hogan, Supervisor


Michelle Coultas, Clerk

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing is a true copy of Ordinance No.2025-05 which was enacted by the Marathon Township Board of Trustees at a regular meeting held on June 11, 2025 @ 6:00pm.


Michelle Coultas
Township Clerk