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Posted Jan. 19, 2005

## County board approves 911 call upgrade

**By Neil Rhines***Herald Times Reporter*

MANITOWOC — A cell phone call can be made from nearly anywhere, but the Manitowoc County Joint Dispatch Center will soon be able to identify where people are when calling 911 on their cell phones.

The Manitowoc County Board of Supervisors voted to fund the upgrade to Joint Dispatch to make it possible to locate the area where the phone call was made.

The cost to Manitowoc County will be about \$394,000. The state has pledged to reimburse 50 percent of the cost during the next two to three years.

More than half of the calls coming into Joint Dispatch are from cell phones.

In other news:

The County Board voted 19-3 to table a resolution that would place two questions on the April ballot.

The questions are:

—Should the state of Wisconsin, not the county of Manitowoc, pay for the cost of the state mandated court system in Manitowoc County?

—Should the state of Wisconsin, not the county of Manitowoc, pay for the cost of state mandated human services in Manitowoc County?

Speaking to the board before the vote, Rep. Bob Ziegelbauer cautioned against approving what he described as confusing questions, and said the April election shouldn't be diminished by "silly" questions.

Also, Ziegelbauer he is concerned that, "if the state is controlling the money, the state will make the rules."

Supervisor Bob Dobbs said the questions are confusing, and he'd like to see them grow some more teeth.

Supervisor Don Markwardt, chairman of the Legislative Review

  

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Committee, asked that any suggestions for changes should be given promptly to him. Referendums must be placed on the April ballot by February.

## Wind power

Controversy continues to swirl around the wind energy project proposed for the northeastern part of Manitowoc County.

William Strasser, of rural Mishicot, said on Dec. 9 he learned that he soon could have a 471-foot wind turbine across the street from his home.

Strasser, as well as several others, expressed their strong dissatisfaction with the proposal from Navitas Energy, Inc., a Minneapolis-based company, to build 49 turbines in the towns of Mishicot, Two Creeks and Two Rivers. Stray voltage, noise, ice fling, shadow flicker, loss of property value and several other possible reasons were stressed. He also asked the County Board to place a moratorium on building the wind turbines in the county until more is known about them.

One man, Bill Hliniak, said he has been approached by representatives of Navitas Energy, Inc., who expressed an interest in placing a tower on his land. His answer has been no, and he doesn't believe people understand just how tall these turbines will stand.

Hliniak made several models to demonstrate the scale of the towers to the board. Standing at the podium, the blades representing Hliniak's model of the 471-foot tall tower stood above his head. Everything in scale, a 6-foot tall human would stand 1-inch tall.

The board recorded all the input from those in opposition to the wind turbines. No further action was taken on the matter.

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