

Ashe may change its Wind Ordinance

Written by Lauren Ohnesorge
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Monday marks a public hearing regarding Ashe County's wind ordinance.

Additionally, commissioners are having an emergency meeting this morning at 8 a.m. to discuss the ordinance. According to County Manager Dan McMillan, with the possibility of wind turbines coming to Ashe- commissioners want to cover all of their bases.

The Mountain Ridge Protection Act, along with these proposed ordinances- should make sure that the whole county is covered, McMillan said. One change would lessen the setback for utility scale turbines to 1,000 feet. Under the proposal, no portion of a large wind energy system could be located or maintained on a protected mountain ridge if the top of the turbine exceeds the vegetative canopy by more than 35 feet.

The county wants to change the ordinance by August 8th.

That's the big date- when the county should know whether wind turbines will be a part of Ashe County. The first public hearing will be held at 4:30 p.m. on Monday, July 16, during the commission's regular meeting.