

FORESTRY, LAND, & RECREATION COMMITTEE

DATE: July 2, 2014

TIME: 4:00 p.m. Committee Room 1, 2nd Floor, Court House, Rhinelander, WI

PRESENT: Chair Sorensen; Committee Members: Rudolph, Van Raalte, Zunker
Forestry Staff: Bilogan, Fiene, Bradley.

OTHERS: Manny Oradei, DNR. David Schatzley, Lynne Town Chair

CALL MEETING TO ORDER— At 4:00 p.m. Chair Sorensen called the meeting to order, noting that it had been properly posted in accordance with the procedures set forth by the Wisconsin Open Meeting Law.

APPROVE CURRENT AGENDA WITH THE ORDER OF AGENDA ITEMS AT CHAIR'S DISCRETION— It was moved by Rudolph, seconded by Van Raalte, to approve current agenda with the order of agenda items at Chair's discretion. All aye, motion carried.

APPROVE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 4 AND JUNE 12, 2014 FORESTRY COMMITTEE MEETINGS. Van Raalte moved to approve the minutes; Rudolph seconded, with a correction that he was in attendance at the June 12 meeting. All aye, motion carried

FOREST MANAGEMENT—

Fiene reported that year to date stumpage is \$804,795.55 . Although the rainy weather slowed work in June, the total amount remains well above any other year to date in June.

Contract 1602 with Biewer Lumber has been completed satisfactorily. Van Raalte moved to return the Letter of Credit and close the contract. Rudolph seconded, all aye. Motion carried.

WILLOW ROAD TRAFFIC COUNT UPDATE—Bilogan reported that he had investigated several methods for traffic counts on Willow Road. His preference is using two digital surveillance cameras which ideally would be set up at both ends of Willow Road. The images recorded with the surveillance cameras may provide valuable information such as number of vehicle axles, origin, and timber volume. The DNR has surveillance cameras that they would lend to the County at no charge. The County would be responsible if the cameras were damaged or stolen. One of the state's law enforcement rangers would train members of the County Forest staff on how to properly use the equipment. The most accurate data would be obtained if the cameras are out for at least a month in the summer, pre-freeze and during the Frozen Road Declaration period. Rudolph moved to engage the DNR surveillance cameras for whatever period of time is necessary. Zunker seconded. All aye, motion carried.

2015 BUDGET/CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS—

Projects were identified in the 5-year Rec Plan. Some of those projects, such as silent sports trails, are not meant to be funded with levy money, and the committee may want to prioritize the remaining projects. Bilogan's choice for first improvement is to expand the Perch Lake Parking lot. Margie would like to see snowmobile and ATV projects listed even though they would be 100% funded through the motorized programs.

There was discussion about reopening the land acquisition account to accumulate funds to purchase parcels that might become available in the County Forest blocks. The stewardship grant, and could be applied after the fact for reimbursement ½ of the land cost.

Bilogan recommended the committee have a separate budget-only meeting once he gets it closer to completion.

Rudolph moved to adjourn into closed session pursuant to section Sec. 19.85 (1)(g), Wis Stats., for: Conferring with legal counsel concerning strategy to be adopted by the governmental body with respect to litigation in which it is or is likely to become involved. (Topic: Thunder Creek Gravel Pit). Van Raalte seconded. Roll call. Sorensen, aye; Rudolph, aye; Van Raalte, aye; Zunker, No. Motion passed. Committee entered closed session at 4:33 p.m.

Committee returned to open session at 5:02 p.m. Rudolph moved to not pursue litigation over gravel potentially taken out of Thunder Creek gravel pit, but pursue an agreement with Town of Lynne re: Future gravel, pit run, or other materials from pit and pit reclamation plan. Zunker seconded. All aye, motion carried.

CO-SHARE FACILITY: FORESTRY & HIGHWAY DEPARTMENTS

There is a possibility of the current Highway Building being sold. There was discussion that if a new building is built to house Highway, it should also include Forestry equipment. Bilogan said that the assumption is that if that happened, the present Forestry shop building would be sold. That building is located on County Forest land and would have to be withdrawn with approval by DNR.

VOUCHERS & LINE ITEM TRANSFERS—Vouchers totaling \$21,360.58 were presented. Van Raalte moved to approve payments, Rudolph seconded. All aye. Motion carried.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS—

- Land Purchase Account
- 2015 Budget Items
- Tour of County Forest facilities for Committee
- Severance payments and relevant data

PUBLIC COMMENTS

David Schatzley asked what is the committee’s plan to move forward. We had talked about having a meeting to create a memorandum of understanding. Is that still the plan?

Sorensen asked for the opinion of the Forest Director with regard to that question..

Bilogan stated that the County participating in meetings with the Town of Lynne, for the purpose of developing a course of action for Willow Road would likely be beneficial. It was also stated that information obtained from the Willow Road traffic counts would like be beneficial.

Les Felbab remarked that County Forest shop facilities are very well kept.

ADJOURNMENT. With business completed, it was moved by Rudolph, seconded by Van Raalte, to adjourn at 5:20 p.m. All aye, motion carried.

JACK SORENSEN
CHAIR

JILL BRADLEY
RECORDING SECRETARY