

Vilas County Forestry, Recreation, & Land Committee Minutes

1 June 2011

Members Present: Stephen Favorite, Chair
Bob Egan, Vice Chair
Leon Kukanich
Sig Hjenvick

Members Excused: Jack Harrison

Others Present: Lawrence Stevens, CF, Forest Administrator
Constance Valkenaar, Administrative Secretary
John Gagnon, CF Asst. Administrator
Dale Mayo, Parks/Rec/Snowmo Coordinator
Ken Anderson, Media
Cliff Brosseau, Dan Swiecichowski, Peter Walls, Jim
Fabish, Roger Flaherty, Dick Decker, David Erickson,
Uno & Jodi Bloom, April Scott, Gary Eskridge, Mike
Robillard, Pat Weber, Dan Balog, Terry Coplien, Marty
Ketterer, Becky Nordine

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Chairman Favorite, who advised that this was a public meeting and that notification of the meeting with the agenda was sent to the Committee members, the County Board Chairman, the Vilas County Clerk, the Vilas County Corporation Counsel, the Vilas County News-Review, the Lakeland Times, Radio Stations WERL, and WLSL, and the Rhinelander Daily News. The notice and agenda were also posted on the Courthouse and Forestry Department bulletin boards. This notification was verified by the Forestry Department Administrative Secretary.

- 1) Motion by Egan, seconded by Kukanich, to approve the agenda to be discussed in any order at the discretion of the Chair. Motion carried unanimously.
- 2) Motion by Egan, seconded by Kukanich, to approve the minutes of the 30 April and 4 May 2011 meetings with the correction that the meeting date is to be added to the 30 April meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously.
- 3) Request for Easement: The Nordines are requesting an easement for timber management purposes through the County Tax Deed Parcel #12-1714 on Babcock Road. The tax deed parcel contains a residence listed for sale by the County. Becky Nordine advised the Committee that Nordines do have alternative access. Discussion. Motion by Hjenvick, seconded by Egan, to deny the request for an easement. Motion carried unanimously.
- 4) Tax Deed Land Bid Opening: Bids were opened as described on the attached bid result sheet. 12-1591: motion by Hjenvick, seconded by Egan to reject the bid. 12-1618: motion by Egan, seconded by Hjenvick to reject both bids. 12-1714: motion by Hjenvick, seconded by Kukanich, to accept Erickson's bid. 12-2272-0009: motion by Kukanich, seconded by Hjenvick, to accept the bid of Major. 12-2300: motion by Egan, seconded by Hjenvick, to accept Plude's bid. 14-20: motion by Hjenvick, seconded by Kukanich, to reject the bid of Greves. 22-1916: motion by Egan

Musson Bros. \$10,500.00
Pitlik & Wick a. \$4,910.00 b. 3,445.00

This project is not in the budget. Funds in Parks Capital Improvement (4,500.00) are earmarked for Dr. Oldfield Park ADA asphalt pathway. Motion by Hjemvick, seconded by Egan, that the Dr. Oldfield project be put on hold; Capital Improvements funds to be used for the Muskellunge Landing and replaced through Forestry funds if possible. Ken Anderson volunteered that the Committee may want to do a line item transfer from the remaining Conservation Congress line item (about \$500.00) for the project as well. Motion by Egan, seconded by Hjemvick, to award the Muskellunge Landing project bid to Pitlik & Wick, option a. Motion carried unanimously.

- 9) ATV Routes Letter to Towns: The Chair has received numerous letters from citizens expressing interest in the issue of ATV routes. In many cases, it was requested that Favorite share these letters with the County Board. Favorite has determined that the most economical way to accomplish this is to direct Valkenaar to organize a notebook for these letters to be available to County Board members and the public. This notebook can be kept in the County Clerk's Office for easy availability. Valkenaar will contact Alleman to make arrangements. Stevens' draft of the Committee's letter to towns was discussed. Hjemvick proposed the following language to be inserted: "townships having an interest in establishing an ATV Route contact the Department with their intent, including proposed route map." Comments were then taken from the audience. Motion by Hjemvick, seconded by Egan, to send the letter as revised to Town Clerks with a copy to the Highway Committee. Motion carried unanimously
- 10) Resolution re: Bike Trail: Motion by Hjemvick, seconded by Egan, to approve resolution designating Conover-Phelps RR grade as non-motorized recreation corridor (except for snowmobiles). Motion carried unanimously.
- 11) Request to Redeem Tax Deed Parcel #24-1802: This parcel is ready for sale, total expenses to the County, not placing a value on administrative costs, is \$2,483.63. Former owner Barbara Nelson, has written the Committee a letter asking to redeem the property. Discussion. Motion by Kukanich, seconded by Hjemvick, to allow Nelson to redeem the property for the amount of \$2,483.63 and any other costs incurred by the transfer. Motion carried unanimously.
- 12) Timber Contracts Activity & Forest Management Report: Gagnon gave his report, a copy of which is attached. Bid results from the May bid opening were reviewed. Motion by Hjemvick, seconded by Kukanich, to approved closure of Timber Sale #854 when contract conditions have satisfactorily completed. Motion carried unanimously. Stevens reported that the Red Oak Plantation Release Project contracted to Northwoods Forestry was completed 31 May. Stevens will send in the application for reimbursement in the form of a Sustainable Forestry Grant. Stevens & Gagnon reported that the Town of Conover is again having issues with the use of Town Roads by logging contractors. The Department was requested to attend the Town Board Meeting June 2, 2011. The Committee directed that County Board Supervisor Bedish be notified. Discussion.
- 13) Snowmobile Trail Safety Committee: Hjemvick reported that Mr. Lawhorne from the DNR is coming to that Committee on 16 June at 1:00 p.m. to talk about the Snowmobile Accident Reduction law enforcement practices.
- 14) Resolution for Tax Deed Lands: Five new parcels have been added to the list of unsold parcels. All parcels sold today and #24-1802 will be removed from the attachment list. Motion by Egan, seconded by Hjemvick, to approve the resolution. Motion carried unanimously.

- 15) Resolution Conservation Aids (Fish & Game): An updated resolution has been requested by WDNR for continued participation. Motion by Hjemvick, seconded by Egan, to approve the resolution. Motion carried unanimously.
- 16) Resolution to Withdraw Cell Tower Land from CFL: Specific details have yet to be worked out; this is the first step in the process. Motion by Hjemvick, seconded by Egan, to approve the resolution. Motion carried unanimously.
- 17) Correspondence: OSP letter from Chamberlain regarding low spots in field; Letter from Forest County re abandonment of Canadian National Railroad corridor abandonment – meeting on 23 June at 1:00 p.m. in Rhinelander. Committee approved Egan’s attendance.
- 18) Meetings: Governor’s Council on Snowmobiling on 11 July in Wausau – motion by Kukanich, seconded by Hjemvick to authorize Mayo to attend. WDNR Mapping & Recon Training on 14 June in Rhinelander – motion by Hjemvick, seconded by Egan, to authorize Gagnon to attend. Both motions carried unanimously
- 19) Monthly Budget Summary: No problems noted with the budget.
- 20) Bills reviewed for payment: Motion by Egan, seconded by Hjemvick, to approve the bills for payment. Motion carried unanimously.
- 21) The next regular meeting will be 6 July, 2011 at 8:30 a.m., Courthouse Conference Rooms.
- 22) Motion by Hjemvick, seconded by Kukanich, to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Transcribed from tape and notes of Valkenaar and Stevens and presented to the Committee for approval.