

Vilas County Forestry, Recreation, & Land Committee Minutes

2 November 2011

Members Present: Stephen Favorite, Chair
Bob Egan, Vice Chair
Leon Kukanich
Sig Hjermvick
Ralph Sitzberger

Others Present: Lawrence Stevens, CF, Forest Administrator
John Gagnon, CF, Asst. Forest Administrator
Constance Valkenaar, Administrative Secretary
Dale Mayo, Parks Tech/Snowmo Prog. Coordinator
Jill Nemec, DNR Forestry Liaison
Ken Anderson, Media
John Helgeson, Lakeland Times
Holly Tomlanovich, Sno-Eagles
Joe Eisele, Cloverland Town Supervisor
Dan Swiecichowski, Bruce Giles, Al & Sue Drum

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 WRJO/WERL, and WLSL, and the Northwoods River 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 in any order at the discretion of the Chair. Motion carried unanimously.
- 2) Motion by Egan, seconded by Sitzberger, to approve the minutes of the 5 October 2011 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.
- 3) ATC Celltower Lease: Discussion of ATC's request for major changes in the lease with Vilas County. The list of suggested items to be considered was again reviewed and discussed at length; with special emphasis placed on the importance of co-location and power easement. There should be no cost for co-location for emergency services and co-location for private ventures should be at a cost which is comparable for our area, including an easement for power at comparable rates. The first item on the new list is co-location; the second is the size of the subject area is approximately 3.5 acres. Moving through the list, the County will not retain timber rights; the County will make the survey and access arrangements; the County will propose selling the property to ATC rather than continue to engage in a lease and in that regard, the subject of Vilas County retaining right of first refusal should ATC decide to sell it. No decision was made on first refusal. ATC is offering \$100,000.00 for a permanent easement; the current fee is over \$2,700.00/year. It was pointed out that ATC pays no real estate taxes for the property; the Department was directed to contact the local Assessor and find out if ATC pays personal property taxes on the tower. The agreement to give the

Forestry Department free cell phone service should be updated and will remain in place. Motion by Egan, seconded by Hjemvick, directing Corporation Counsel to draft the proposed agreement according to the discussion that has taken place at this meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

- 4) Tax Deed Parcel 2-180-04: This Arbor Vitae parcel was taken for non-payment of 2007 real estate taxes in October 2011. Bruce Giles, a realtor acting as authorized agent for the former owner, Bank of America (BAC), addressed the Committee. He stated that the nonpayment of the 2007 taxes was an oversight by BAC, and that they have now tendered the funds to cover all back taxes, penalties and interest, and BAC is willing to pay all other associated costs. Milanowski advised that, as directed by the Chair, she has compiled a list of administrative costs incurred by the County including employees' hours spent on the matter. Discussion as to just cause for allowing the redemption. Motion by Hjemvick, seconded by Sitzberger, that: based upon the fact that the taxes are paid except for 2007, there must have been an oversight in missing the 2007 taxes, and they are at this point willing to pay those taxes and any associated costs...(Chair then recognized County Treasurer.) County Treasurer Radtke addressed the Committee, advising that any oversight was not on the part of the County Treasurer's Office. She demonstrated that her office exercised all due diligence in notification and further, communicating with former owner BAC with regard to the delinquent taxes, and that BAC was well aware of the delinquent taxes. Discussion as to whether just cause applies in this case. (motion completed after discussion) ...and to direct Corporation Counsel to have the Judgment vacated upon payment of all unpaid taxes, penalties, interest, and other County costs including costs incurred by Chairman Favorite totaling \$106.60 for mileage and per diem. Roll call vote: Favorite, Egan, Kukanich, Hjemvick, and Sitzberger all voting aye. Motion carried unanimously. Check #4126 was accepted by Treasurer Radtke from Town & Country Realty in the amount of \$3,209.65. This check will be applied to the total amount due as discussed herein.
- 5) Tax Deed Land Sales: Sealed bids for purchase of tax deed lands were opened and recorded as follows:

Computer Number	Approx. Acres	Bidder Name	Amount of Bid	Committee Action
12-1557	40	William Kahlenberg	\$20,000.00	Mtn by Egan, 2 nd Hjemvick, to reject. Mtn carried unanimously.
12-1557		Jerry Olk	\$10,000.00	Mtn by Egan, 2 nd Hjemvick, to reject. Mtn carried unanimously.
12-1639-003	14.57	Harold Paalman	\$14,210.02*	Mtn by Hjemvick, 2 nd Sitzberger, to accept this bid, and reject the other two (below). Mtn carried unanimously. Favorite absent.
12-1639-003		Mark McDonough	\$13,612.00	See above.
12-1639-003		Orr/Favorite	\$12,500.00	See above.
12-1639-006	15.86	Nowak/Klessig	\$15,000.00*	Mtn by Hjemvick, 2 nd Kukanich, to accept this bid, & reject the other bid. Mtn carried unanimously.

12-1639-006		Nancy Porstner	\$13,051.00	See above.
12-1639-007	32.66	Nancy Porstner	\$26,754.00	Mtn by Egan 2 nd Sitzberger, to reject. Egan, Sitzberger, Kukanich, voting aye, Favorite, Hjermvick, voting nay. Mtn carried. Bid rejected.
22-1916	3.18	Richard Cerull	\$3,750.00	Mtn by Hjermvick, 2 nd Kukanich, to reject. Mtn carried unanimously.
22-1920	1.63	Richard Cerull	\$2,205.00	Mtn by Favorite 2 nd by Kukanich, to reject. Mtn carried unanimously.

Also, motion by Favorite, seconded by Kukanich, to remove parcel 22-1916 from the land sales prospectus. Motion by Hjermvick, seconded by Favorite, to remove parcel 22-1920 from the land sales prospectus. Motion by Hjermvick, seconded by Egan, to remove parcels 12-1557 and 12-1884 from the land sales prospectus. All 3 motions carried unanimously. The possible uses of these parcels will be discussed at a later date.

- 6) CFL Withdrawal Resolution: Appraisals that the Committee directed to be done were received: County 40 - \$75,000.00; Oldenburg 22 - \$40,000.00. Favorite wondered if the appraiser took into consideration the lack of deeded access to the County 40. He directed Stevens to contact the appraiser and ask these questions: 1.) find out if there was a deduction in value for the lack of access to the County 40, and 2.) her indication on the appraisal of the 22 acre parcel that the sales price is not applicable, if the fact that the property was sold 2 months ago has any bearing on her opinion. The proposed resolution follows the format of the previous resolution of a similar nature. Discussion. Motion by Hjermvick, seconded by Egan, to approve the resolution with the addition of language: the primary characteristic Vilas County is interested in is the railroad grade to enhance the multi-use recreation trail system and for the ability to acquire future grants. Motion carried unanimously.
- 7) Review of Tax Deed Parcels Taken by County in October 2011: The Committee briefly reviewed a summary of the new tax deed parcels. A letter was received from the former owner of 24-282 requesting redemption of her homestead. This matter will be placed on the December agenda. An item to address a possible standard fee to be paid to the County in tax redemption cases to cover County costs will also be placed on that agenda.
- 8) Resolutions amending Co. Ord. 16 (Forestry) & 19 (Parks) pursuant to Concealed Carry Law: Resolutions drafted by Corporation Counsel were reviewed. Motion by Egan, seconded by Kukanich, to approve both resolutions and present to the County Board. Motion carried unanimously. Lease Changes for Concealed Carry Law: Amendments will need to be made to the Fairgrounds and OSP leases with respect to this new law. An agenda item in this regard will need to be placed on the December agenda. Law enforcement and representatives of the HYSA and Fair Board should be invited to the December meeting.
- 9) Access Permits: Motion by Hjermvick, seconded by Kukanich, to approve renewal for Jeff Kroeger; motion by Sitzberger, seconded by Egan, to approve renewal for Harold Johnson; motion by Egan, seconded by Sitzberger, to approve renewal and owner name change for Mark Fouts (formerly Heleniak). All 3 motions carried unanimously.

- 10) Timber Sales Contracts/Forest Management: Gagnon gave his report, a copy of which is attached. Gagnon reported that Contractor TSI wishes to re-assign Sale #883 to Biewer Wisconsin Sawmill. Gagnon outlined how this would work. Motion by Hjemvick, seconded by Egan, to allow this re-assignment pursuant to the Department's recommendations and upon Corporation Counsel's review and providing TSI meets all debt obligations. Motion carried unanimously.
- 11) Forest Roads Sidebrushing: Pursuant to the Committee's direction, Stevens awarded the contract based on the quote most advantageous to Vilas County. Northwoods Forestry will do the job for \$750.00/mile. The number of miles was re-addressed and amended down to 5.3 miles of road to accommodate the funds available. Work begins today.
- 12) Snowmobile Trail Program: The Committee reviewed correspondence from the Boulder Junction Snowmobile Club objecting to the proposed memorial for the Finleys which the Committee approved at the October meeting at the request of Holly Tomlanovich on behalf of the Snowmobile Alliance. Motion by Hjemvick, seconded by Sitzberger, to reconsider the motion granting permission for the Boulder Junction snowmobile bridge memorial made at the October meeting. Motion carried unanimously. Discussion. Motion by Hjemvick, seconded by Kukanich, to reject request to name the Boulder Junction snowmobile bridge for the Finleys. Motion carried unanimously.
- 13) Bike Trails: – Highway K bike lane - .3 mile of bike lane is paved and painted along Highway K from Songhill Rd. going east to County E. Discussion; although this bike lane is a vast improvement, it seems unexpectedly narrow to Hjemvick. Sitzberger advised he will go up and measure the lane. Map bike trails via GPS – concerning the Sheriff's Dept. request the Forestry Dept. received through the Mapping Dept (discussed at October meeting), Mayo reported the Mapping Dept. advises that the cost of adding another data set to the map is insignificant. The work in the field would be the cost factor; however, Great Headwaters Trails and Vilas Area Silent Sports have volunteered to do the actual ground work to GPS the trails.
- 14) Tennis Courts Improvements: A design sketch by Chuck Pride of GERTA was provided to the Committee, showing planned improvements to the Tennis Courts shelter pavilion lighting. The Committee reviewed the plan, and motion was made by Egan, seconded by Kukanich, to authorize the electrical improvements as presented in Chuck Pride's drawing, provided the work is done by a licensed electrician, and is up to applicable codes. Motion carried unanimously.
- 15) Variable Acreage Share Loan Resolution: This 50 cents/acre annual loan is for operating costs for the County Forest, and is a no interest, no date of call loan. Motion by Egan, seconded by Hjemvick, to approve this resolution to be forwarded to the County Board. Motion carried unanimously.
- 16) Forest Administrators Grant & WCFA Dues Reimbursement Resolution: This annual grant pays 50% of the Administrator's salary and up to 50% of the benefits, as well as 50% of WCFA dues. Motion by Hjemvick, seconded by Favorite, to approve the resolution and forward the same to the County Board. Motion carried unanimously.
- 17) Snowmobile Safety Committee Report: Hjemvick presented a brief report on last month's meeting – the Committee is working on their agenda for the coming season. They have designed a logo for their letterhead which will need Property Committee approval. A media day for the beginning of the season is being planned.
- 18) Tree Removal Request: A request was received from a property owner adjacent to County Forest Land. The tree grows on County Land, and the owner is concerned

about damage to his structure should the tree blow down. The owner has asked that the County bear the expense of the tree removal. Keeping in mind the expense involved to the County should it make a practice of taking on this responsibility, the problem tree was inspected, and permission was given to the landowner to remove the tree at his own expense, which he does not want to do; he wants the County to pay for this. Motion by Sitzberger, seconded by Egan, to grant landowner permission to remove tree at his own expense. Motion carried unanimously.

- 19) Meetings/Education/Out of County Travel: Motion by Egan, seconded by Hjermvick, to approve Gagnon's attendance at WHIP meeting in Woodruff in November. Motion carried unanimously.
- 20) Monthly Budget Summary: Receipting Procedure - Auditors commented about fact that Department's receipts are not always sequential. This is because more than one receipt book is used, because at times, a book is needed in the field. The Department would embrace a workable solution presented by the auditors. Summer Help line item Conservation has \$148.00 shortfall due to pay increase for workers. Motion by Hjermvick, seconded by Sitzberger, to request line item transfer from Conservation 100.56104.247 Game Trail Maint. To 100.56104.131 Summer Help. Motion carried unanimously. There is \$1,355.00 remaining in Forestry Surveys line item. Committee granted permission to take and award lowest quote to use these funds for survey work on County Forest. Place on December agenda to inform Committee of action taken. Note to LS – place RR grades on December agenda.
- 21) Monthly Bills: Motion by Egan, seconded by Kukanich, to approve the bills and forward them to Finance. Motion carried unanimously.
- 22) Next Meeting Date: Next regular meeting will be 7 December 2011, 8:30 a.m., Courthouse. Sitzberger is excused due to scheduling conflict. Tentatively, Committee will meet jointly with Highway at their regular meeting on 17 November 2011. Subject would be ATV issue in Phelps. Department will receive instructions regarding this.
- 23) Motion to adjourn by Kukanich, seconded by Hjermvick. Motion carried unanimously
The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

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