

Vilas County Forestry, Recreation, & Land Committee Minutes

3 October 2012

Members Present: Sig Hjemvick, Vice Chair
Leon Kukanich
Ralph Sitzberger
Charles Rayala, Jr.

Members Excused: Stephen Favorite, Chair

Others Present: Lawrence Stevens, CF, Forest Administrator
Constance Valkenaar, Administrative Secretary
John Gagnon, CF, Assistant Forest Administrator
Dale Mayo, Parks Tech/Snowmo Prog. Coordinator
Jill Nemec, DNR Forestry Liaison
Martha Milanowski, Corporation Counsel
Ken Anderson, Joe VanDeLaarschot, Media
Holly Tomlanovich, Sno-Eagles
Pat Weber, ER Baseball
Mike Kiefer, Rodney Sternhagen, HYSA Soccer
Bill & Larry Gibbs, Tom Ober, John Higgins
Edie Kukanich, Vilas County Fair
Mark Zyhowski
Colin Snook, Phelps Town Chair
Irv Teichmiller, Vilas County Board
Janna Kahl, Vilas County HR
David Alleman, Vilas County Clerk
Vilas Co. Property Committee: Jim Behling, Ed
Bluthardt, Lorin Johnson, Gary Peske, Linda Thorpe

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Vice Chairman Hjemvick, 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, FYI Wisconsin, Radio Stations WRJO and Coyote 93.7, 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 Kukanich, seconded by Sitzberger to approve the agenda in any order at the discretion of the Chair. Motion carried unanimously.
- 2) Motion by Rayala, seconded by Sitzberger, to approve the minutes of the 5 September 2012 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.
- 3) Oldenburg Sports Park: Kiefer addressed the Committee regarding his wish to place "No Dogs Allowed" signs at OSP due to continuing issues with dog owners not cleaning up after their pets. Kiefer feels that the present ordinance language is not adequate. Stevens directed the Committee's attention to another sign issue at OSP, which is that signs have been placed, contrary to ordinance and without permission, which contain a local business name, and could be construed as advertising. Motion by

Sitzberger, seconded by Rayala, to postpone this issue until the next meeting and directed Stevens to work with the OSP user groups, to come up with a proposal for the Committee. Motion carried unanimously.

- 4) Job Description Recreation Administrator: Discussion of job description as proposed by HR manager Kahl. Minor changes were made to the job description. Kahl advised that this position should be a salaried position. She is still gathering information and will forward the same to the Personnel Committee. Motion by Rayala, seconded by Sitzberger, to approve the job description and forward the same to the Personnel Committee. Motion carried unanimously.
- 5) Zyhowski Correspondence: Mark Zyhowski addressed the Committee reference a letter he sent to them in September 2012 regarding his property lines, some of which are adjacent to County Forest. Stevens reminded the Committee that this matter has already been settled between the Committee and adjacent property owners. Chairman Favorite may have some background information on this issue, and since he is unable to be present today, this matter will be placed on the November agenda for further clarification.
- 6) Tax Deed Land Bid Opening: Sealed bids were opened as follows:

TAX DEED LAND SALE BID RESULTS – OCTOBER 2012

Computer ID #	Name of Bidder	Amount of Bid	Result
4-1597&1600	1. Allen 2. Reuss	1. \$16,501.50 2. \$12,800.00	Mtn by Rayala, 2 nd by Kukanich to accept Allen's bid. Mtn carried unan.
10-413-002	Shapiro	\$345.00	Mtn by Rayala, 2 nd by Sitzberger, to accept the bid. Mtn carried unan.
14-786	1. Ober 2. Higgins	1. \$15,761.00 2. \$13,666.99	Mtn by Rayala, 2 nd by Sitzberger, to accept Ober's bid. Mtn carried unan.
18-432	McCaslin	\$13,200.00	Mtn by Sitzberger, 2 nd by Kukanich, to accept. Mtn carried unan.
22-1277	1. Maple Ridge 2. Trent Farm	1. \$3,850.00 2. \$6,140.00	Mtn by Sitzberger, second by Rayala, to reject both bids. Mtn carried unan.
26-2889	Higgins	\$666.99	Mtn by Rayala, 2 nd by Kukanich, to accept. Mtn carried unan.

In the matter of #22-1277, the Committee directed that research be done as to whether or not this parcel could provide public access to Stateline Lake.

- 7) Tax Deed Parcel #28-1363-03: This parcel was taken on tax deed back in 1934, and forgotten. It was only recently discovered and placed on the county property list by the Tax Lister. After being alerted to the existence of this tax deed parcel, Stevens & Valkenaar did a field inspection of this vacant wooded property and noted nothing out of order. Motion by Rayala, seconded by Sitzberger, that Valkenaar prepare a resolution, authorizing sale of this property, and present it to the Committee for approval at the November meeting. Motion carried unanimously.
- 8) Cell Tower Lease: As directed, Stevens wrote the company a letter but has not received a response.
- 9) Timber Sales Contracts/Forest Management: Gagnon gave his report, a copy of which is attached.
- 10) Sale of Brush Rake: Stevens reported on the status of the various options for disposition of this piece of equipment. He suggested putting in on the auction block, at no cost to the County, for another month to give everyone another opportunity to bid. The Committee directed Stevens to do so.
- 11) Sustainable Forestry Grant: Stevens advised that Jeremiah Oftedahl, the grant intern, was unable to complete the days needed for the project due to new employment elsewhere. Stevens will look for a replacement.
- 12) Power Driven Mobility Devices: Stevens advised that he has been informed that according to federal law, any time a person wants access to the forest with a device which makes him/her mobile (from a powered wheelchair to a pickup truck), the Department has to provide that access. A request has been received from an individual for ATV access for hunting. Stevens has a draft access permit into the Corporation Counsel for approval as to form. Discussion as to specifics of this case. Motion by Rayala, seconded by Sitzberger, to grant this particular permit at this time, subject to Corporation Counsel's approval. Motion carried unanimously.
- 13) Resolution Outdoor Recreation Plan: The 2013-2017 Outdoor Recreation Plan will not be complete till mid-2013. Discussion. Motion by Rayala, seconded by Sitzberger, to forward this resolution, for extension of the current plan through 2013, for approval by the County Board. Motion carried unanimously.
- 14) Property Donation: At 10:00 a.m. the Public Property Committee moved from their meeting in conference room 1 to conference rooms 2 & 3 to join the Forestry Committee regarding a possible donation of property. Lorin Johnson & Colin Snook gave a verbal & verbal presentation regarding an offer by the Rennes Group to donate the Phelps Nursing Home /Senior Center/Clinic to the Town of Phelps. The Town of Phelps is asking whether or not Vilas County is interested in partnering with the town in this possible venture. Discussion. No action taken by either Committee. A detailed account of this agenda item can be seen in the attached Public Property Committee minutes. At 11:01 a.m., the Public Property Committee ended the joint session with the Forestry Committee and returned to conference room 1.
- 15) Closed Session: Motion by Rayala, seconded by Sitzberger, to convene into closed session pursuant to §19.85(1)(g), Wis. Stats. for the purpose of conferring with legal counsel rendering oral or written advice concerning strategy to be adopted with respect to litigation in which it is or is likely to be involved. (Vilas County Case No. 2012SC371, Vilas County v. B. Martin, d/b/a TSI Logging & Vilas County Case No. 2012CV225, Martens v. Vilas County). Roll call vote: Rayala, Hjemvick, Sitzberger, Kukanich all voting aye. Motion carried unanimously.

- 16) Adjourn Closed Session: Motion by Rayala, seconded by Hjemick, to adjourn the closed session pursuant to §19.85(1)(g), Wis. Stats. And return to open session. Motion carried unanimously. No action ratified from closed session.
- 17) Meetings/Education: Motion by Rayala, seconded by Kukanich, to authorize Stevens & Gagnon to attend WCFA Fall Meeting 2 November in Chippewa Falls. Motion carried unanimously.
- 18) Abandoned Railroad Grades: Copy of recorded affidavit of claim by the Sabins for portion of abandoned RR ROW adjacent to their property south of Eagle River, Town of Lincoln (SWNW, Sec. 10) was forwarded to Department by Tax Lister. Motion by Hjemvick, seconded by Sitzberger, to forward this document to Corporation Counsel for guidance & direction, as the County has always presumed ownership of this parcel. Motion carried unanimously.
- 19) Department Boat: Discussion of Department boat, used for Parks maintenance. The present equipment was free of charge from the DNR's discard inventory, and it needs to be replaced. The Committee directed Mayo to work with Nemec to see if another DNR boat (in better repair) can be obtained.
- 20) Next meeting will be Fall Tour; meet at Forestry HQ at 8:30 a.m. on 10 October. Next regular meeting will be 7 November at 8:30 a.m., Courthouse Conference Rooms.
- 21) Adjourned at 12:04 p.m.

Minutes reflect the recorders' (Valkenaar & Stevens) notations and are subject to approval by the appropriate board or committee.