

Vilas County Forestry, Recreation, & Land Committee Minutes

5 October 2011

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

Members Excused: Jack Harrison

Others Present: Lawrence Stevens, CF, Forest Administrator
Constance Valkenaar, Administrative Secretary
Jill Nemec, DNR County Forest Liaison
Jamie Ramme, DNR Ranger/Forester
Ken Anderson, Media
Holly Tomlanovich, Sno-Eagles
John Gagnon, CF, Asst. Forest Administrator
Dale Mayo, Parks Tech/Snowmo Prog. Coordinator
John Helgeson, Lakeland Times
Jim Behling, Property Committee
Gina Egan, Public Health
Chris Kamps, IT

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 Rhinelander Daily News. The notice and amended agenda were also posted on the Courthouse and Forestry Department bulletin boards. This notification was verified by the Forestry Department Administrative Secretary.

- 1) Agenda: Motion by Egan, seconded by Hjermvick to approve the agenda in any order at the discretion of the Chair. Motion carried unanimously.
- 2) Minutes: Motion by Egan, seconded by Hjermvick to approve the minutes of the 7 September Forestry Committee meeting. Motion carried unanimously.
- 3) Off-Site Office Space Lease Proposal: Behling brought the Committee up to speed on this situation. Due to Courthouse space constraints, Property Committee is considering a lease for additional office space outside of the Courthouse, possibly for Public Health Department. This would be in the Eliason Realty building on W. Pine St. in Eagle River. Even though the Forestry, Recreation, & Land Committee is not involved in this situation, current Standing Rules mandate that this Committee is to review leasing of lands. Behling gave a detailed account of the proposed financial arrangement and accommodations. Motion by Hjermvick, seconded by Kukanich, that the Public Property Committee should investigate the possibility of leasing off-site office space. Motion carried unanimously.

4) Tax Deed Land Sales Bid Opening: Bids were opened for tax deed properties authorized and advertised for sale, with the following results:

Computer Number	Bidder Name	Amount of Bid	Committee Decision
12-1557	Wm. Kahlenberg	\$15,000.00	Mtn by Hjemvick, 2 nd Kukanich, to reject. Mtn carried unanimously.
12-1884	Wm. Kahlenberg	\$16,500.00	Mtn by Hjemvick, 2 nd by Favorite, to reject. Mtn carried unanimously.
12-1639-002	Mark McDonough	\$10,140.00	See below - No action necessary.
12-1639-002	Tony Verkuilen	\$14,000.00*	Mtn by Hjemvick, 2 nd Kukanich, to accept this bid. Mtn carried unanimously.
12-1639-003	Mark McDonough	\$11,440.00	Mtn by Egan, 2 nd Favorite, to reject both bids this parcel. Mtn carried unanimously.
12-1639-003	Harold Paalman	\$11,629.00	See above.
12-1639-006	Nancy Porstner	\$9,051.00	Mtn by Hjemvick, 2 nd Egan, to reject this bid. Mtn carried unanimously
12-1639-007	Jerry Bybee	\$21,100.00	Mtn by Egan, 2 nd Hjemvick, to reject both bids this parcel. Mtn carried unanimously.
12-1639-007	Nancy Porstner	\$23,754.00	See above.
12-1639-008	Jerry Bybee	\$26,000.00	Mtn by Egan, seconded Favorite, to reject this bid. Mtn carried unanimously.
16-414-001	Dennis Hackstein	\$1,400.00	See below – no action necessary.
16-414-001	Peter Mordinoff	\$8,000.00*	Mtn by Hjemvick, seconded by Kukanich, to accept this bid. Mtn carried unanimously.
18-78	Colin Crawford	\$3,000.00	Mtn by Favorite, 2 nd by Kukanich, to accept. <u>Motion failed.</u>
18-648-03	Colin Crawford	\$3,000.00	Mtn by Hjemvick, 2 nd by Egan, to reject. Mtn carried unanimously.
22-1916	Mark McDonough	\$3,740.00	Discussion. Mtn by Egan, 2 nd by Kukanich, to lay on table. Mtn carried unanimously. More information received. Mtn by Egan, 2 nd by Hjemvick, to remove from table. Mtn carried unanimously. Discussion. Mtn by Egan, 2 nd by Favorite, to reject. Mtn carried unanimously.

- 5) Land Trade: Oldenburg Trade Request re SWSW Sec. 26, T42N – R10E Vilas County Forest Land: Discussion, including the importance of the acquisition of the Oldenburg 22 acre parcel located at Pt. NE ¼ Sec. 29, T41N – R10E, Conover as an important recreation trail link. The recommendation of the DNR that the County should benefit from such a trade by way of being able to increase the County Forest acreage rather than diminish it was also discussed. The County-owned parcel of land located near Adams Lake in Sec. 8, T40N – R10E would be a good parcel to be entered into the County Forest Law as regular acres; it contains approximately 61 acres. Thus, the Committee could enter these acres into the County Forest Law along with the Oldenburg 22 acres, trade the 40 acres of County Forest Land to Oldenburg, and have a net gain of County Forest Land of 43 acres. Motion by Hjenvick, seconded by Favorite, to pursue the Oldenburg trade and apply to enter the Adams Lake 61 acres into the County Forest Law to satisfy the DNR requirements, and to also withdraw the 40 acres to be traded with Oldenburg from the CFL. Motion carried unanimously. Stevens was directed to have appraisals done on both parcels involved in the actual trade, and to commence the paperwork for the application and withdrawal processes.
- 6) Parks & Recreation – Corridor 13 Closure near Clearwater Lake: The Gohlkes have closed their portion of the snowmobile trail. Trail relocation plans are underway. Communications with Gohlke are ongoing. Campground Hosts: Corporation Counsel was consulted, as directed by the Committee. She thinks the idea is fine; that the Department should come up with a specific list of expectations. At that point, Corp Counsel will craft an agreement for the parties. Stevens advised that the list would be short; the main purpose of this undertaking is to protect the best interests of Vilas County and the public. The Committee directed Stevens to put together the list and bring the Corporation Counsel's proposed agreement back to the Committee for their approval. 2011-2012 Advance Supplemental Snowmobile Trail Maintenance Payment: Motion by Hjenvick, seconded by Kukanich, to approve the \$119,750.00 to be paid to the Snowmobile Alliance for distribution to the clubs. Motion carried unanimously. Request to Map Bicycle Trails via GPS: Mayo advised that the Snowmobile Safety Committee received a request from the Sheriff's Department via the Land Records Department. The Safety Committee referred the request to the Forestry Committee. The Sheriff's Department has difficulty locating requests for assistance on the bike trails, and they would like to have GPS data for the bike trails in the county. This system could be similar to the numbering system on the snowmo trails for this same safety purpose. Discussion of doing this project in-house. The Committee directed Mayo to look into cost factors and get back to them.
- 7) Resolution Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest: Motion by Hjenvick, seconded by Egan, to forward this resolution, urging management as promised on the USFS lands, to the County Board for approval. Motion carried unanimously
- 8) Lanser Land Acquisition: Committee has directed Stevens to negotiate with Lanser over the proposed 40 acres acquisition. Lanser is not interested in a trade, and although he did not name a price, he indicated that he would want the appraised value. Discussion. No action taken. Land Acquisition Gregor: 120 acres on the market adjacent to County Forest, asking \$174,900. Committee says they have enough land activities at the present. No action; information only. Right of First Refusal: Request by owner to County for release of County right of first refusal as well as County deed restrictions on tax ID #018-063: motion by Hjenvick, seconded by Favorite, to release

- the County's interest in all deed restrictions and right of first refusal if they are in compliance with County zoning regulations. Motion carried unanimously
- 9) 2012 Budget: The 2012 Budget has already been discussed in detail. The Committee approved Stevens' explanatory notes, and directed that he reconfigure his memo to add a bullet addressing the \$130,000.00 for the OSP lighting.
 - 10) Memorializing County Structures: A request has been received to name a snowmobile trail bridge after a couple named Finley who, according to Holly Tomlanovich, "have been very instrumental in the development of trail systems and have done a lot of different snowmobile type things." Tomlanovich advised that the feeling of the Alliance is that the Finleys should be recognized for this, and wish to have a memorial sign placed on the bridge. Tomlanovich said the Finleys are elderly and this should be addressed very soon. Tomlanovich will be in touch with the Department, then the Committee, regarding specifications for the sign before any sign is placed. Discussion regarding other county methods for dealing with this situation, which vary wildly. Vilas County has no policy regarding memorializing and deals with requests on a case by case basis.
 - 11) Timber Sales Contracts/Forest Management: Gagnon gave his report, a copy of which is attached. Gagnon gave an update on the status of the TSI contracts, and outlined the Department's suggested course of action, which is contained in the memo attached hereto. Motion by Egan, seconded by Hjemvick, to allow the Department to go forward as outlined in the memo. Motion carried unanimously.
 - 12) Sidebrushing Contract: Stevens advised that a contract for sidebrushing 11.31 miles of County Forest Roads, has been approved as to form and content by Corporation Counsel. Due do the short period of time left for outside work this fall, the deadline for bids will be 11 October 2011. Rather than call a special meeting for the purpose, motion by Egan, seconded by Kukanich, to authorize the Department to review and award the bids. Motion carried unanimously.
 - 13) Meetings/Out of County Travel: WHIP October meeting in Woodruff; motion by Hjemvick, seconded by Egan, for Gagnon to attend. Motion carried unanimously. WCFA Fall Meeting 3 & 4 November in Minocqua, motion by Egan, seconded by Favorite, for Department staff and any interested Committee member to attend. Motion carried unanimously.
 - 14) Performance Deposits/Bonds: Stevens reviewed current Department practices, as well as information he received via a survey of the other County Forests. Discussion. Motion by Egan, seconded by Hjemvick, to require a 10% performance deposit in the form of Letter of Credit or cash, minimum \$500.00, for all projects with the exception of timber sales. Motion carried unanimously.
 - 15) Monthly Budget Summary: No problems noted, except Stevens noted that with the pay increase for the Summer Help, that line item may run short, maybe \$1,000.00 or so. Where to find the extra funds will be discussed as this budget year winds down.
 - 16) Bills reviewed for payment: Motion by Hjemvick, seconded by Egan, to pay the bills as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
 - 17) The next regular meeting will be 2 November 2011 at 8:30 a.m., Courthouse Conference Rooms.
 - 18) Motion to adjourn by Kukanich, seconded by Egan to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

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