

Vilas County Forestry, Recreation, & Land Committee Minutes

6 June 2012

Members Present: Stephen Favorite, Chair
Sig Hjemvick, Vice Chair
Leon Kukanich
Ralph Sitzberger

Members Excused: Charles Rayala, Jr.

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, Media
Holly Tomlanovich, Sno-Eagles
Pat Weber, ER Baseball

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, 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 Sitzberger, seconded by Hjemvick to approve the agenda in any order at the discretion of the Chair. Motion carried unanimously.
- 2) Motion by Hjemvick, seconded by Sitzberger, to approve the minutes of the 2 May 2012 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.
- 3) Oldenburg Sports Park: Weber advised that he has reviewed the new lease, and finds it satisfactory with an adjustment: on the baseball addendum, he defined the 2 County-owned locations where the Baseball organizations play – Fairgrounds and OSP. The lease will expire in 2014. Motion by Hjemvick, seconded by Sitzberger, that the resolution regarding the Baseball & Soccer associations leases be forwarded to the County Board for approval. Discussion. Motion carried unanimously. Stevens reported on the 300' playing field lighting project. Stevens advised that everything is set up. The Department has requested that it be given notice when WPS is going to hook up the final electric and test it. The Department will let the Committee and any other party who would like to know so that they can be present on site when this occurs. Weber advised that the power will be metered in the name of Eagle River Baseball. Stevens advised that the two poles talked about at previous Committee meetings did have to be moved about 15' to accommodate the U-14 soccer playing field.
- 4) Tax Deed Lands: Stevens gave a summary of the tax deed parcels taken in October 2011 which the County will plan to sell in 2012. The Committee reviewed maps of the

parcels. In regard to parcel #22-1277, Favorite directed the Department to determine whether the parcel is a buildable lot. One group of parcels in particular, formerly owned by the Greenwald Northland Trust, located in Lac du Flambeau, and identified as computer nos. 10-1877, 1888, 1889, 1911-04, 1911-05, 1911-06, & 1911-07 was discussed. Brian Pierce addressed the Committee on behalf of the Trust, and explained that due to changes of address and other considerations, Robin Greenwald and her sister were unaware of the ownership change to Vilas County. The Greenwalds wish to redeem the property. A letter of explanation was received from Robin Greenwald. The Committee will review the letter and the other facts of the case and will place this item on the agenda for discussion and action at their 11 July 2012 meeting.

- 5) WDOT Elevation Monumenting Project: Stevens advised that any minor use conflicts were resolved to the Department's satisfaction, and there are no problems to report with this DOT project as it impacts the Vilas County Forest.
- 6) Timber Sales Bid Opening: Bids were opened on tract no. 15-12. Motion by Hjenvick, seconded by Sitzberger, to accept the high bid, provided by Ed Holtorp Logging. Motion carried, with Kukanich abstaining.
- 7) Timber Sales Contracts/Forest Management: Gagnon gave his report, a copy of which is attached.
- 8) Sale of 1998 Pickup Truck & Brush Rake: The auction service reported that the highest bid they received for the truck is \$2,902.00. Motion by Hjenvick, seconded by Favorite to accept this bid. Motion carried unanimously. The highest bid received on the brush rake to date is \$535.00. The County's minimum is \$6,000.00. Motion by Sitzberger, seconded by Kukanich, to change the minimum bid for the brush rake to \$3,000.00, and to continue with the auction service for this sale. Motion carried unanimously.
- 9) Parks & Recreation: Discussion of the snowmobile trail relocation which involves a proposed crossing at Highway 155 north of St. Germain. Due to safety concerns, MSA engineers have been contacted to evaluate the situation. Discussion. Mayo advised that the DNR is in support of the outside opinion, and that the funds required for this MSA consultation will likely be reimbursed by the State. If not, there are snowmobile trail safety funds available that have been set aside in the Outside Revenue account. Motion by Favorite, seconded by Sitzberger, to spend the \$3,000.00 with MSA for pre-engineering safety analysis on the Highway 155 trail crossing project, and that the funds be taken out of the DOT timber sale (Outside Revenue account), and Snowmobile Development account, and that the Department will apply for reimbursement under the Snowmobile Program. Motion carried unanimously.
- 10) Outdoor Recreation Plan: It is time to update the Plan. The current Plan was written in-house by Stevens and Valkenaar. Since that time North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission has been hired by the County for various projects, and NCWRPC will do the update at no charge. The Committee directed Stevens to ask NCWRPC to do this.
- 11) Sustainable Forestry Grant Resolution: Motion by Sitzberger, seconded by Kukanich, to approve the resolution accepting the grant to pay the wages for the Forestry Intern. Motion carried unanimously.
- 12) Resolution to Amend Parks & Recreation Ordinance to permit sale of food and beverages at OSP: Motion by Kukanich, seconded by Sitzberger to approve the resolution and forward to County Board for approval. Motion carried unanimously.
- 13) Oldenburg Land Trade Resolution: Motion by Hjenvick, seconded by Sitzberger, to approve exchange of lands between Oldenburg Group and Vilas County, and to enter

the lands specified in the resolution into the County Forest Law. Motion carried unanimously.

- 14) Communications: Letter from Mark Zyhowski in reference to his property lines; information only.
- 15) Closed Session: Motion by Hjemvick, 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 regarding timber sales contracts. Motion carried unanimously.
- 16) Adjourn Closed Session: Motion by Hjemvick, seconded by Favorite, to adjourn closed session pursuant to §19.85(1)(g), Wis. Stats. and return to open session. Motion carried unanimously.
- 17) Action Taken: Motion by Hjemvick, seconded by Sitzberger, to accept the \$1,000.00 check from Mr. Martin as partial payment toward satisfying the debt to Vilas County, and to direct Corporation Counsel to file a small claims action no later than 3:30 p.m. on 22 June 2012 for the remaining portion of the debt and expenses, including interest and any penalties and costs if the debt is not paid in full by that date. Motion carried unanimously.
- 18) Meetings: Mayo will attend the Governor's Council on Snowmobiling Project Selection Meeting on 25 June. Motion by Hjemvick, seconded by Sitzberger, for Sitzberger to attend both the pre-selection meeting & the regular project meeting, both to be held in Rothschild. Motion carried unanimously. Wisconsin County Forests Summer Meeting (Hurley) – motion by Sitzberger, seconded by Favorite, for any interested Committee member to attend. Motion carried unanimously. Gagnon will also attend.
- 19) Abandoned Railroad Grades: Corporation Counsel Milanowski was given permission to contact a Bayfield attorney she suggested may be helpful in researching abandoned railroad grade issues.
- 20) Monthly Budget Summary: No problems noted, although some line items are running low, and the Forestry Publishing Fees line item is zeroed out.
- 21) Monthly Bills: Motion by Sitzberger, seconded by Kukanich, to approve the bills and forward them to Finance. Motion carried unanimously.
- 22) Next Meeting Date: The joint meeting with the Highway Committee to approve a resolution addressing the Town of Phelps request to use County Highways for ATV trails will be 13 June, 2012 at 9:45 a.m. in the Vilas County Highway Dept. The next regular meeting of the Forestry Committee will be 11 July 2012, 8:30 a.m. at the Courthouse Conference Rooms.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

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