

# Vilas County Forestry, Recreation, & Land Committee Minutes

7 November 2012

Members Present: Stephen Favorite, Chair (excused at approx 10:20 a.m.)  
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  
Lawrence & Grace Gibbs, Trent Farm  
Rod Sternhagen, HYSA  
Dar Lonse, Lakeland ATV Club  
Mike Robillard, VASSA

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 Kukanich, seconded by Sitzberger, to approve the agenda in any order at the discretion of the Chair. Motion carried unanimously.
- 2) Motion by Sitzberger, seconded by Hjemvick, to approve the minutes of the 3, 10, & 24 October 2012 meetings. Motion carried unanimously.
- 3) Oldenburg Sports Park Softball: Weber advised that he has reviewed 3 quotes for bleachers for the softball fields; the lowest quote is \$4,530.50 from Belson Outdoors. There are monies available for this purchase in the Fairgrounds account. Motion by Sitzberger, seconded by Hjemvick, to authorize purchase of the bleachers in the amount of \$4,530.50 from Belson Outdoors, to be paid for from the Fairgrounds account. Motion carried unanimously.
- 4) Tax Deed Lands: Regarding the status of tax deed parcel 22-1277 - The Committee has had an opportunity to review information in the form of a Commitment for Title Insurance for said parcel, which reveals that "there appears to be nothing of record establishing a right of access to and from the subject premises." Corporation Counsel Milanowski concurred with the opinion. The Committee had expressed concern at the last meeting that since there is no public boat landing at Stateline Lake, they wished to

ascertain whether the tax deed parcel could be used as a public boat landing. Having established that there is no public roadway access to this county-owned parcel, and also being aware that the Town of Presque Isle and the State of Wisconsin both own lands adjacent to Stateline Lake which could provide public access, the Committee will proceed with the public sale of the subject parcel. At the last regular committee meeting on 3 October 2012, a motion was passed to reject the 2 bids received on the property. Corporation Counsel explained the protocol to the Committee, which the Committee proceeded to follow: motion made by Hjemvick, seconded by Sitzberger, to reconsider the 10/03/12 motion to reject the bids. Motion carried unanimously. The 2 bidders from the October meeting, Mr. & Mrs. Gibbs, and Trent Farm via his attorney Steve Garbowicz, addressed the Committee. The motion to reconsider having been made and passed, the Committee then voted on the motion to reject. Roll call vote: Hjemvick: no; Sitzberger: no; Kukanich: no; Favorite: no. The motion to reject the bids failed. The bids opened at the October meeting were re-entertained as follows: Maple Ridge Haven LLC - \$3,850.00; Trent Farm - \$6,140.00. Motion by Sitzberger, seconded by Hjemvick, to accept the highest bid (Trent Farm) in the amount of \$6,140.00. Motion carried unanimously.

- 5) Zyhowski Correspondence: Over the past several years, various boundary line agreements have been entered into between the County and the adjacent property owners who were affected by the boundary conflicts which resulted from a difference between the concrete monuments in place and modern survey subdivision work. The Committee had decided to go by the true and most accurate section subdivision lines. However, prior to that decision, the County made two Line by Agreements; one with Gardener and one with Klessig. Mark Zyhowski was invited to address the Committee again (as he had requested to be on the agenda) regarding his property boundary lines in Sec. 9 T.40N. – R.9E., Town of Cloverland. Discussion. Zyhowski asserted that a document exists, possibly from 1986, that will clarify the issue; however, he advised that he is not in possession of such a document. The Committee directed that department staff work with Zyhowski to discover if such a document exists, and if such documentation exists, the matter will again be brought before the Committee.
- 6) Oldenburg Sports Park Signage: Discussion of commercial advertising signs currently in place at OSP, contrary to County Ordinance. The soccer organization (HYSA) has placed 3 or 4 signs at the park which in addition to containing location designation information also contain advertising for local business. The Committee advised that the commercial sign issue must be treated uniformly throughout the County owned lands. Corporation Counsel advised that Vilas County Ordinance prohibits placement of commercial advertisement on County property at this time, and an ordinance amendment would be needed in order to change this policy. Sternhagen addressed the Committee as to placement of temporary signs for specific events, and was advised by the Committee and Corp Counsel that this is acceptable, as are informational signs, but only as specified in the lease with the County. Motion by Hjemvick, seconded by Sitzberger, to allow the existing informational signs to remain in place, with the commercial advertising removed. Motion carried unanimously. HYSA has also requested permission to place “no pets” signs at the park, due to user conflicts. HYSA was asked to submit proposed sign language for the Committee’s review; HYSA has not, to date, done so. This will be placed on the December agenda.
- 7) Bike/Pedestrian Plan Revision: Robillard addressed the Committee, asking for the procedure to amend/update the current plan to allow for additions and other changes. Stevens advised him that the plan can be revised at any time as necessary. Stevens also

- reported that the Department is working with NCWRPC on the 2013-2017 Outdoor Recreation Plan; the Bike/Ped Plan will be included in the new Outdoor Rec Plan.
- 8) Right of First Refusal: Parcel #4-1252 was sold by the County to Ohlsson in 1964, with a caveat that Vilas County retained the right of first refusal should Ohlsson decide to sell, which he now desires to do. The Committee sees no reason to exercise its right of first refusal. Motion by Hjemvick, seconded by Sitzberger, to release the right of first refusal for this parcel as recorded as Document No. 118801. Motion carried unanimously.
  - 9) Tax Deed Parcel #4-1597&1699: Bid was accepted from Josie Allen by the Committee at their 3 October 2012 meeting; correspondence from Allen was received on 22 October 2012 withdrawing the bid. Motion by Sitzberger, seconded by Kukanich, to award the bid to the next highest bidder, Dennis Reuss, in the amount of \$12,800.00. Motion carried unanimously.
  - 10) Request to Redeem: Request received from former property owner Rodney Boone to redeem Tax Deed #18-101. He stated that he did not receive the tax bills due to his change of address and cited this as his reason for failure to pay the bills. Motion by Hjemvick, seconded by Sitzberger, to allow redemption upon payment of all taxes, interest, penalties and other County costs, in full. Motion carried unanimously.
  - 11) Tax Deed Land Bids: Sealed bids were opened as reported on the attached Tax Deed Land Sale Bid Results for November 2012.
  - 12) ATV Route Proposal: Lonse addressed the Committee with a proposal to include use of County D in Lac du Flambeau as part of an ATV route/trail connecting Lac du Flambeau casino to Price & Iron Counties. Mayo outlined the proposed route for the Committee on a map. Discussion. The Committee advised Lonse that it would be appropriate for him to take this request to the County Highway Committee first. Motion by Hjemvick, seconded by Sitzberger, to postpone this matter until next meeting. Motion carried unanimously.
  - 13) American Tower: ATC had previously presented the County with 2 offer options; the Committee directed that Stevens advise ATC that the Committee may reconsider re-negotiating the lease if there is a co-location provision in the ATC proposal. Stevens did as directed, and ATC didn't get back to him, so he re-contacted ATC and got this proposal: renew the existing ground lease for 4 additional 5 year renewal options, continuing with the existing rent of \$3083.69/yr, escalate the rent by 15%/term, a one-time signing bonus of \$5000.00, and 15% of any additional revenue from additional tenants ATC may get onsite. The second option is a one-time payment of \$75,000.00 for a perpetual easement. Discussion. The Committee decided to let the matter stand at this time.
  - 14) Resolutions: Motion by Hjemvick, seconded by Sitzberger, to approve resolution authorizing sale of tax deed parcel #28-1363-05. Motion carried unanimously. Motion by Hjemvick, seconded by Kukanich, to approve annual Forest Administrators Grant. Motion carried unanimously. Annual Variable Acreage Grant: Motion by Sitzberger, seconded by Favorite, to approve the resolution authorizing application for the grant. Discussion. Stevens informed the Committee that Finance Manager Hilger advised that application for this grant is not necessary at this time, due to changes in budget structure. The Committee can apply for this grant in future years should they wish to. Motion withdrawn by Sitzberger.
  - 15) Timber Sales Contracts/Forest Management: Gagnon gave his report, a copy of which is attached. Gagnon advised that upon inspection of TS #877, he discovered significant damage to residual trees. Penalties will assessed for this contract violation.

- 16) Sale of Brush Rake: The auction service suggested that they be authorized to accept a bid should they receive one in the amount of \$1,000.00 or more. Motion by Hjemvick, seconded by Sitzberger to allow this authority. Motion carried unanimously. If no bids are received of at least \$1,000.00, this matter will be placed on the December agenda.
- 17) Periodic Trail Closure: On the Fall Tour, 2 roads were discussed; one off Deep Lake Road at the snowmobile trail, and one at the end of Adams Road. Stevens requested to place gates that could be seasonally closed, when conditions warrant, to prevent excessive rutting of the roads. The roads would be crowned and leveled prior to gate closure to allow them to set up properly. The recreational “mudding” activity which occurs at these locations can be a safety issue as well as a Forest Certification issue. Motion by Sitzberger, seconded by Kukanich, to authorize gating of those 2 roads. Motion carried unanimously.
- 18) Parks & Recreation: 2011-2012 Supplemental Advance & Supplemental Final payments for Snowmobile Maintenance Program, each in the amount of \$119,175.00, are ready to be paid out to the Snowmobile Alliance. Motion by Sitzberger, seconded by Kukanich, to approve the payments. Motion carried unanimously. Disposal of Department boat: A replacement boat, motor, & trailer have been donated to the Department. Motion by Kukanich, seconded by Sitzberger, to dispose of the boat as salvage (boat is not seaworthy), and put the trailer & motor on the auction service the Department currently uses. Motion carried unanimously.
- 19) Monthly Budget Summary: Stevens pointed out that the Snowmo Safety line item within the Snowmo Maint Budget doesn’t specify separate line items for postage, etc. Mayo wished to have the postage that was charged to Snowmo Safety (because it was used for Snowmo Safety) debited to Snowmo Maint Postage. The Committee advised that was not necessary; they advised that charges incurred for Snowmo Safety Committee should be charged to that line item. Stevens advised some other line items such as Parks Equipment & Fuel, will require line item transfer request forms. Sitzberger advised that the forms are no longer necessary, as long as the line item transfers are within the budget, and the Department was directed to take necessary action to effect the line item transfers.
- 20) Property Purchasing Policy: Pursuant to Committee directive, Stevens asked the Property Committee for their policy when purchasing goods & services. He was advised that for anything greater than \$500.00, they obtain 3 bids. Property Committee has given the advantage to county vendors, but they do address the issue on an individual basis, and only go that route when the bids are close. The consensus of this Committee is to simply accept the lowest bid if the product meets the Department’s needs.
- 21) 2013 Budget: Stevens advised that he reviewed the Budget again, and nothing has changed from the last time the Committee reviewed it, except that \$5,000.00 will be carried over for the Eagle Lake Park dock project.
- 22) Next Meeting Date: The next regular meeting of the Forestry Committee will be 5 December 2012, 8:30 a.m. at the Courthouse Conference Rooms.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

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