

Vilas County Forestry, Recreation, & Land Committee Minutes

2 January 2013

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

Others Present: Lawrence Stevens, CF, Forest Administrator
Constance Valkenaar, Administrative Secretary
John Gagnon, CF, Assistant Forest Administrator
Dale Mayo, Recreation Administrator
Jill Nemec, DNR Forestry Liaison
Ken Anderson, Media
Holly Tomlanovich, Sno-Eagles
Pat Weber, ER Baseball

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Chairman Sitzberger, 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 Rayala, seconded by Kukanich, to approve the agenda in any order at the discretion of the Chair. Motion carried unanimously.
- 2) Motion by Rayala, seconded by Hjemvick, to approve the minutes of the 5 December 2012 meeting as presented, with one amendment: #9 change name from Arbor Vitae to Lakeland ATV Club. Motion carried unanimously.
- 3) Tax Deed Lands: Sealed bids were opened as follows: #18-648-03 – James Wierichs in the amount of \$888.00. Motion by Hjemvick, seconded by Kukanich, to reject this bid. Motion carried unanimously. Parcel #12-1639-008 – Ed & Kim Weide in the amount of \$6,435.00. Motion by Hjemvick, seconded by Rayala, to reject this bid. Motion carried unanimously.
- 4) Parcel #18-1355-01: This small parcel lying along Highway K in the Town of Phelps has been offered for sale to the County. Unfortunately the parcel directly to the west of subject parcel was recently sold to a private party, rendering the subject useless to Vilas County. In the opinion of the Committee, this parcel would provide no benefit to any recreational trails. Motion by Hjemvick, seconded by Rayala, to decline the offer to purchase this property. Motion carried unanimously.
- 5) Timber Sales Contracts/Forest Management: Gagnon gave his report, a copy of which is attached. Gagnon advised that the Forestry Project Intern, John Steigerwaldt, has left the Department to commence his new employment with Clark County. Hjemvick urged Gagnon to send a letter on behalf of the Department commending Steigerwaldt's

performance for the Department. Anderson questioned the rationale for forest road closures. This matter will be placed on the February agenda.

- 6) Sale of Brush Rake: Stevens advised that the \$1,500.00 payment for the brush rake has been received from Wisconsin Surplus and will be returned to the State Forest Aid Fund per State statute, because payment for the rake was made from this fund. The rake will be picked up by the purchaser this week.
- 7) Parks & Recreation: Snowmobile Trail Safety Committee Report – Sitzberger gave highlights of the December meeting. Mayo has been offered an appointment to the Governor’s Snowmobile Recreation Council. He advised that new PSA’s (done by local high school students) have been released; that the Vilas County snowmobile trails have been inspected for safety and were opened 10 December with minimal snow conditions; the inspections indicated a job well done by the local snowmobile clubs. Sitzberger advised that he would like to have the highlights of the Snowmo Safety Committee meeting available as an enclosure for the Forestry Committee to receive with their monthly meeting agendas. This will allow pre-review before the Forestry Committee meeting and thus save time at the meeting. Tomlanovich will work with Mayo on this. ATV Trails: The request of the Lakeland ATV Club is being handled by the Highway Committee. Governor’s Snowmobile Recreation Council: Mayo reported on the 7 December 2012 meeting in Hurley. No action necessary by this Committee.
- 8) Piers: The Chairman directed that “replacement & renovation of piers” be placed on the February agenda. Hjemvick volunteered to research the County permitting process concerning guidelines/rules for events on County property. The Committee suggested that the Department go ahead and accept quotes for the pier renovation project at Eagle Lake Park in order to take advantage of the present ice conditions. This item is to be placed on the February agenda.
- 9) Resolutions: Amend Budget (brush rake sale revenue) - Motion by Hjemvick, seconded by Rayala, to approve this resolution and forward it to the full County Board. Motion carried unanimously. Two other resolutions, one supporting Florence County’s resolution regarding the management of the CNNF and one to amend the County Parks Ordinance, will be addressed at the February meeting, as Corporation Counsel has not completed her review.
- 10) Meetings: Motion by Hjemvick, seconded by Bedish, to allow Mayo to attend all Governor’s Snowmobile Recreation Council meetings. Motion carried unanimously. Motion by Hjemvick, seconded by Rayala, for Mayo to attend the confirmation hearing on the appointment to the Governor’s Snowmo Rec Council. Motion carried unanimously.
- 11) Monthly Budget Summary: Stevens advised that the tractor did require transmission work and will cost about \$4,000.00 (slightly below the Committee approved estimate), to be paid for from TSI line item, per Committee direction. Regarding Department vehicle maintenance, Favorite had asked Stevens to check with Highway Department to see if they would be able to find time to do maintenance on the trucks. Highway advised that they can, their schedule permitting. The Committee advised that the Highway Dept. can be used in situations where it’s practical, but when it’s not, the work should be jobbed out as usual. Gagnon did some research on the cost of Department cell phones. He communicated with the County’s Verizon contact and with the Sheriff’s Dept., and learned that the other County Departments, with the exception of Forestry, use this plan. Gagnon was advised that under the present county contract, there is no monthly fee, and the cost is 6 cents/minute. Based on present usage, the cost to the Department would be about \$40.00/month for all 6 phones, 100

minutes each. The state contract is presently with Verizon. This information will remain on file in case changes are to be made to the present arrangement the Department has for cell phone service.

12) Authorized signatory for official documents: This should be placed on the February 2013 agenda.

Next Meeting Date: The next regular meeting of the Forestry Committee will be 6 February 2013, 8:30 a.m. at the Courthouse Conference Rooms. Rayala is excused for another commitment (Legislative Exchange). The meeting was adjourned at 10:26 a.m.

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