

Vilas County Forestry, Recreation, & Land Committee Minutes

5 December 2012

Members Present: Sig Hjemvick, Vice Chair
Leon Kukanich
Ralph Sitzberger
Charles Rayala, Jr.
Steven Favorite, Chair, excused till later in meeting; Maynard Bedish was appointed for Mr. Favorite

Others Present: Constance Valkenaar, Administrative Secretary
John Gagnon, CF, Assistant Forest Administrator
Jill Nemec, DNR Forestry Liaison
Ken Anderson, Media
Holly Tomlanovich, Sno-Eagles
Pat Weber, ER Baseball
Ron De Bruyne, James Behling, Gary Peske, Mark Rogacki, Kathleen Rushlow, Communications Committee
Joe Van De Laarschot, Lakeland Times
Dale Soltrow, Joy Spies, Sheriff's Dept.
Dave Leack, celltower consultant
Marty Ketterer, Town of Cloverland Supervisor

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 Rayala, 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 Kukanich, to approve the minutes of the 7 November 2012 meeting, with the following correction: #21 change "he went over" to "he reviewed". Motion carried unanimously.
- 3) Tax Deed Lands: A sealed bid was opened for #2-1341 from Jon Hansen in the amount of \$4,000.00. Motion by Sitzberger, seconded by Kukanich, to accept the bid. All voted aye except Rayala, who voted no. Motion carried.
- 4) Timber Sales Contracts/Forest Management: Gagnon gave his report, a copy of which is attached.
- 5) Survey Bid: A bid was solicited for survey work on County Forest boundary lines. The sole bid was received and opened from Eagle Landmark Surveying in the amount of \$2,880.00, to be paid for from TSI and Survey line items. Motion by Sitzberger,

seconded by Kukanich, to accept this bid and pay for it as outlined herein. Motion carried unanimously.

- 6) GPS & Supporting Software: Gagnon explained the need for this new equipment in order to update the Department's system. He reviewed quotes and presented the information to the Committee. Discussion. Motion by Sitzberger, seconded by Rayala, to authorize expenditure of approximately \$2,944.00 for these expenses, to be taken from TSI. Motion carried unanimously.
- 7) Recreation: Snowmo Trail Safety Committee Report - Sitzberger advised that the full amount of supplemental payment monies was received by Vilas County this year, an uncommon occurrence due to the fact that Vilas County had better snow conditions than most other counties applying for the funds. Cindy Burzinski of County Tourism is creating new Public Safety Announcements (PSA's) for the 2012-2013 snowmobiling season. The funds will be derived from the balance of 2012 funds and budgeted 2013 funds. Sitzberger also advised that the Sheriff's Department is in receipt of 2 new snowmo trail safety patrol snowmobiles. Sitzberger also advised that Mayo will be finished with trail inspections by Friday, with a planned trail opening date of Monday, 10 December. Highway 155 Re-route update – the State has filed a motion to join in the pending legal action between Martens and Vilas County. A motions hearing is set for 19 February 2013. This matter will be placed on the January agenda for updates.
- 8) Meetings/Out of County Travel: Motion by Sitzberger, seconded by Hjemvick, to approve Mayo's attendance at the Governor's Snowmobile Recreational Council 7 December 2012 in Hurley. Motion carried unanimously.
- 9) ATV Route Proposal: The Lakeland ATV club which attended the November Forestry Committee meeting to ask for approval for use of a portion of County D in Lac du Flambeau has met with the Highway Department with their request. Highway Committee approved the use of Hwy D, contingent upon review of Corporation Counsel.
- 10) Florence County Resolutions: The Committee received a request to support a resolution from Florence County. The resolution is supporting the mandatory management of the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest at the Allowable Sale Quantity established in the 2004 Forest Plan and that all management revert back to the counties where those lands are located. Motion by Rayala, seconded by Sitzberger, to support Florence County's resolution by way of preparing a resolution in support, attaching Florence County's resolution, and submitting the resolution to the County Board for approval. Motion carried unanimously.
- 11) Oldenburg Sports Park: The matter of signage regarding pets in the park will be placed on the January agenda. The Department should prepare proposed new ordinance language to present to the Committee alongside a copy of the present ordinance language.
- 12) 10:00 a.m. – Communications Committee joined the Forestry Committee meeting.
- 13) Communications Committee Chair Gary Peske called the Communications Committee to order. Peske advised that a quorum was present; Kathleen Rushlow sat in for Stephen Favorite on the Communications Committee. De Bruyne, Behling, Rogacki were also present from the Communications Committee.
- 14) American Tower Company (ATC) cell tower on County Forest Land located at SESW, Sec. 21, T.40N. – R.9E., Town of Cloverland (near Snipe Lake): Favorite summarized the history of the lease with Vilas County and the various proposals for lease changes that ATC has made to Vilas County over the course of the lease. The current lease

expires in 2024. ATC has proposed to Vilas County 2 options for continuing the cell tower lease:

- Option #1: -4 additional 5 year renewal options
 -Continue the current rent at \$3083.69/year
 -\$5000.00 onetime signing bonus
 -Continue to escalate the rent by 15% per term
 -15% of any additional revenue from additional tenants to the site
- Option #2: -Perpetual easement or buy out
 -\$75,000.00 onetime lump sum buy out

Gagnon presented a chart to show a comparison between the value of the current lease, which includes cell phone (6 [phones) service to the Department at no charge and an annual payment; and ATC's offer of \$75,000.00 for a permanent easement with no free cell phone service. Motion by Hjenvick, seconded by Kukanich, to stay with the current lease. Discussion. Motion by Hjenvick, seconded by Kukanich, to amend the motion to stay with the current lease and to reject current offers to date by ATC. Motion carried unanimously by both Committees. Forestry was directed to gather information about what options are available for cell phone service and the cost to Vilas County for alternative cell phone service to the current plan the Forestry Department has today.

- 15) 10:55 a.m. – Motion by De Bruyne, seconded by Peske, to adjourn the Communications Committee meeting and re-convene at the Justice Center. Motion carried unanimously.
- 16) Monthly Budget Summary: Gagnon advised that the tractor needs unexpected repairs. The Committee directed that the Highway Dept. should be asked to look at it if time permits them, and to pay for needed repairs from 2012 TSI line item.
- 17) Next Meeting Date: The next regular meeting of the Forestry Committee will be 2 January 2013, 8:30 a.m. at the Courthouse Conference Rooms.
Adjourn: Motion to adjourn by Rayala, seconded by Favorite. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

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