

FORESTRY, LAND, & RECREATION COMMITTEE

DATE: July 5, 2017

TIME: 3:30 p.m. Committee Room 2, 2nd Floor, Court House, Rhinelander, WI

PRESENT: Chair Sorensen; Committee Members: Mott, Pence, Van Raalte. Zunker was excused.
Forestry Staff: Bilogan, Fiene, Bradley.

OTHERS: Bill Welsh, OCATVA; Guy Hansen, RASTA

CALL MEETING TO ORDER— At 3:30 p.m. Chair Sorensen called the meeting to order, noting that it had been properly posted in accordance with the procedures set forth by the Wisconsin Open Meeting Law.

APPROVE CURRENT AGENDA WITH THE ORDER OF AGENDA ITEMS AT CHAIR'S DISCRETION— It was moved by Van Raalte seconded by Mott to approve the current agenda with the order of agenda items at Chair's discretion. All aye. Motion carried.

APPROVE MINUTES OF THE FORESTRY COMMITTEE MEETING— It was moved by Van Raalte seconded by Pence to approve the minutes of the June 7, 2017 FLR Committee meetings. All aye. Motion carried.

FOREST MANAGEMENT:

- a) **YEAR-TO-DATE TIMBER STUMPAGE REVENUE REPORT—**
Fiene reported that the YTD stumpage revenue was \$ 691,659.00
- b) **TIMBER SALES FOR DISPOSITION—**Pence moved to close Contract 1610, Van Raalte seconded. All aye, motion carried. Deposit will be returned when roadwork is complete.

2018 Budget

Bilogan submitted a staffing request for a Parks and a Ranger LTEs. He told the committee that the Ranger position has been very difficult to fill, probably due to the comparatively low pay. Accordingly, he is requesting a higher rate next year. Van Raalte moved to approve the LTE positions. Mott seconded. All aye, motion carried

APHIS does nuisance wildlife removal. DNR Wildlife said that we could no longer use the entire Wildlife Habitat grant to pay for the contract. There are few options, and Bilogan does not think hiring a private contractor would work well for Oneida County. The consensus of the committee is the Department needs to budget for it.

Update on proposed acquisition, Sec. 19, T35N-R9E

- a) The two appraisals will be delivered by August 18, 2017. There was discussion about possible revenue from selling a small strip of County Forest land near Townline Lake, which could then be used towards the purchase of the Gillette/Wickham lakes.
- b) Bilogan has concerns about the Wickham parcel. He wants corp counsel to look into the ownership, whether that means preliminary title work or some other action, to determine who will represent the group during negotiations. Then, are the appraisals public or confidential? Are negotiation/discussions held during closed session?

Additional recreational development and maintenance requested by RASTA.

RASTA has requested an additional (third) summer mowing of the trails. They would also like it cut shorter than the current length of one foot to keep the ticks down. Part of the problem with the height may be the inexperienced person, but the equipment will not mow as low as RASTA is requesting. The cost each time is about \$551. Sorensen asked whether spraying would be more efficient. Bilogan

pointed out that erosion is already an issue, and would worsen if the vegetation was gone. He suggested RASTA might attach a mower deck to an ATV as a solution, as the summer mowing is only a single pass. Hanson disagreed; RASTA feels that the County should mow as the contract says. Bilogan said the department will mow another time before July 15. Everyone agreed that the contract for next year will need to reflect these issues.

RASTA also requested the Committee consider allowing overnight camping on the bike trails. They would like to start with three or four primitive sites, which might have a level pad for a tent, a fire ring and a very primitive toilet. Bilogan asked if there might be permits? What about overseeing them, if they are only walk-in? How would they prevent cutting of trees for firewood? Bilogan will contact other County Forestry departments to see how they manage and come back to the committee.

There was discussion about the timber sales and buffering the trails. Bilogan feels his department is doing the best practice for the type of timber we have in Oneida County.

Van Raalte discussed approval levels for contract types. He think that contracts that do not have any exchange of money, like temporary access permits, or that are repetitive, such as the APHIS contract, should be authorized by the Forest Director or the Committee. He feels that current procedures are simply a burden to the County Board. Bilogan provided a list of the types of contracts that the Committee could approve or delegate to the Department. Van Raalte feels that Corp Counsel would be receptive. Bilogan will meet with Corp Counsel to discuss and ask them to prepare an ordinance amendment.

PUBLIC COMMENTS—none.

VOUCHERS AND LINE ITEM TRANSFERS.

Vouchers totaled \$6,899.10 were presented to the committee. Van Raalte moved to authorize payment, Mott seconded. All aye, motion carried.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE FORESTRY COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

Snowmobile land use contract for BTG Pactual
Camping on bike trails.
Possible second meeting regarding appraisal results
Townline real estate follow up

ADJOURNMENT—With business completed, it was moved by Pence, seconded by Van Raalte to adjourn the meeting at 4:45 p.m. All aye. Motion carried.

JACK SORENSEN
CHAIR

JILL BRADLEY
RECORDING SECRETARY