

FORESTRY, LAND, & RECREATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, September 6, 2017

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

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

OTHERS: Oradei and Gillen, DNR; Viegut, Town of Lynne; Hansen, RASTA;
Welsh and Felbab, OCATVA

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— Motion by Zunker 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— Motion by Pence seconded by Mott to approve the minutes of the August 2, 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 \$1,056,054.87 and is a record high amount for this month.
- b) **TIMBER SALES FOR DISPOSITION—** Zunker moved to close contract 1670 and return the Letter of Credit to Futurewood. Pence seconded. All aye, motion carried.
- c) **FALL TIMBER SALE -** It was agreed that the next FLRC meeting scheduled for November 1, would be too soon for the timber sales to be advertised and opened. It was suggested to change the meeting date to November 8, 2017.

CLOSED SESSION. At 3:37 p.m., Mott moved, Pence seconded motion, to enter closed session pursuant to 19.85(1)(e), Deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session and 19.85(1)(g) Conferring with legal counsel for the governmental body who is rendering oral or written advice concerning strategy to be adopted by the body with respect to litigation in which it is or is likely to become involved. Topic: Alleged unauthorized logging on Oneida County Land by Ted Howerton, potential litigation and other potential action to be taken against Mr. Howerton. Roll call vote, All aye, motion carried. Fiene requested Oradei & Gillen remain for the closed session.

Motion by Mott, seconded by Pence to return to open session at 4:05 p.m. Roll call vote. All aye, motion carried.

BURROWS BRIDGES UPDATE. Bilogan has a list of questions from MSA for Pitz. Corp counsel is working on a new contract, which can be amended as necessary. Committee consensus agreed to have Bilogan proceed.

SNOWMOBILE TRAIL CONTRACTS. Corp Counsel is working with BTG Pactual, but asked the committee to approve the contract subject to negotiations. Meteor Timber will not make any changes to their contracts, so Corp Counsel recommended signing both contracts. Pence moved to approve Meteor

Timber contract and to approve BTG Pactual contract subject to negotiations about indemnification and damages. Zunker seconded. All aye, motion carried.

TOWN OF LYNNE GRAVEL CONTRACT. The dates were updated and extended dates for Turcott Road repairs. Mott moved to approve the contract, Pence seconded. Roll call vote, Pence-aye, Mott-aye, Sorensen-aye, Zunker abstained. Motion carried.

TOWNLINER PARK UPDATE. Bilogan provided a map showing the map of the parcels showing the footprint of the Forestry shop, and the parcels proposed to be withdrawn. The DNR is confident that recreational encumbrances only affect 8.4 acres. The other issue is the Town of Crescent and the Townline Lake Road. The Road is the only access to the northern parcel. Bilogan talked to the Town Chairman to confirm that the town will continue to maintain the road. This needs to be addressed formally before moving forward. Bilogan was directed to get something in writing from the town. The forthcoming appraisals may need to be updated based on the Town's response.

ORDINANCE AMENDMENT. There was a typo in an ordinance amendment from 2015. Mott moved to send to County Board on a consent agenda. Zunker seconded. All aye, motion carried.

LEASE OF FORESTRY TRACTOR/MOWER. The Oneida County Highway Dept. has requested to lease our tractor/ 60 inch rotary mower combination, during a June and July when it is not being used by Forestry. Bilogan would like to use DOT rates and bill at the same method Highway uses to bill Forestry for their equipment. He would put any lease revenue into the equipment non-lapsing account. Pence moved to allow John to proceed with negotiations with Highway. Sorensen seconded. All aye, motion carried

WCFA ANNUAL MEETING. Zunker motioned to approve out of county travel for staff and committee members to attend on Sept. 28-29, 2017. Mott seconded. All aye, motion carried.

2018 BUDGET.

Land Purchase: This account is almost 0. The County Board took approximately \$500,000 from it several years ago. Although there is a little revenue in and out, it is basically empty. Mott asked to reinstate the funding account as an agenda item for the next meeting.

Parks: Bulk of expenses is staffing. Maintenance and capital improvements request is \$80,000 and \$20,000 of that will go to RASTA for trail maintenance. Engineering expenses for Burrows Boardwalk and upgrading ATV bridges will come from the non-lapsing capital improvements account.

Campground: Positive revenue expected of \$3000-4,000

Snowmobile: State monies in and out to clubs for maintenance. We do not charge any administration fees. Special project monies are also state funds in and out.

ATV: State monies in and out to clubs for maintenance. We do not charge any administration fees. Special project monies are also state funds in and out. We have a grant to build a new trail in Enterprise for \$515,000 and which should be completed in 2018.

Forestry: Staffing increased and LTE's were eliminated. Bulk of revenues is stumpage. A major expenditure is equipment non-lapsing account to replace fleet of trucks, trail equipment, tractors, etc. Proposed to increase that by \$5000 to build up a balance to replace equipment which will be higher cost down the road. The overall revenue and expenses are approximately the same for 2017 and 2018.

Overall, Bilogan thinks the Department should net \$750,000 for the County. Mott asked for a report of the bottom line for all accounts together, to see what the Departmental totals are.

Pence moved to approve the budget with Mott's requested addition, and to allow Sorensen and Bilogan to attend budget hearings. Bilogan requested a one-time, 2.5% bonus for Paul Fiene and Eric Rady, as

David Hintz had suggested departments may wish to do for some of their employees who have had their salaries frozen since 2014. Pence withdrew his motion, Mott withdrew his second. Mott moved to approve the amended budget to include the bonuses requested and to allow Sorensen and Bilogan to attend budget hearings. Pence seconded. All aye, motion carried.

REQUEST FOR DEDICATION—A citizen requested to have something dedicated to the first Forestry Director. She also felt the Almon dedication plaque was moved and is now in the wrong place. Records show that the Almon plaque has been in its original place for 40 years and has never been moved. Bilogan will bring a list of potential items to rename.

PUBLIC COMMENTS—Felbab thought last year’s stumpage revenue was affected by the mills.

VOUCHERS AND LINE ITEM TRANSFERS.

Vouchers, which totaled \$19,530.63, were presented to the committee. Mott moved to authorize payment, Zunker seconded. All aye, motion carried

AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE FORESTRY COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

- Special meeting to open bids, September 25 at 10:00 a.m.
- November meeting date change to 11/8/2017
- Reinstate Land Purchase Fund
- Dedication suggestions.

ADJOURNMENT—With business completed, it was moved by Pence, seconded by Mott to adjourn the meeting at 5:25 p.m.. All aye. Motion carried.

JACK SORENSEN
CHAIR

JILL BRADLEY
RECORDING SECRETARY