

FORESTRY, LAND, & RECREATION COMMITTEE

DATE: March 3, 2021

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

PRESENT: Committee Members: Sorensen, VanRaalte, Almekinder, Mott
Excused: Pence
Forestry Staff: Fiene, Rady, Tischendorf
Via Zoom: Corporation Counsel – Brian Desmond; DNR Liaison – Manny Oradei

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Sorensen called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. The meeting has 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 Mott to approve the current agenda with the order of agenda items at Chair's discretion. Second by VanRaalte. All aye, motion carried.

APPROVE MINUTES

Motion by VanRaalte to approve the minutes of February 3, 2021 meeting with correction on public comment provided by Tracy Beckman. Second by Almekinder. All aye, motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None at this time.

FOREST MANAGEMENT – YTD STUMPAGE REPORT

YTD Stumpage Report – Fiene reported updated county forest stumpage for February was \$253,259.02 bringing the year-to-date total to \$392,002.87. For the month of March, we have billed \$48,636.67 and approximate another \$125,000 for the month.

Set Date for Spring Timber Sale Bid Opening – Fiene explained that over the last couple years we have scheduled our timber sale bid opening a couple of days before the state timber sale deadline. This helps out loggers that bid on both county and state timber sales. Spring timber sale bid opening will be scheduled for May 3, 2021 with results brought to the May 5, 2021 committee meeting.

Emerald Ash Borer Update – Emerald Ash Borer has been found on the county forest in the Town of Enterprise. According to the DNR specialist, it is suspected to have been around for a couple years. We will not be able to stop it, but will try to include as much ash timber in the upcoming sale to prevent economic loss.

Informational updates only.

FORESTER I RECRUITMENT UPDATE

Fiene stated the department received 12 applicants for the position. There are seven interviews scheduled for next Monday & Tuesday.

DISCUSS POTENTIAL TOWN LINE LAKE PARK CITIZEN'S GROUP

Public Comment – Tracy Beckman informed the committee that a citizens group has been formed and is available to answer any questions.

Sorensen suggested the Town Line Lake Park citizens group notify the media regarding meetings to alleviate any concerns with open meeting laws.

Appoint Bob Mott as Committee Representative of Citizen's Group – VanRaalte brought up concerns with the committee appointing someone to the citizens group. Discussion regarding what county ordinance allows regarding county supervisor participation. Mott volunteered to be a member of the Townline Lake Park citizens group.

Desmond's recommendation to prevent any open meetings concerns and county ordinance violations is to have the citizens group reach out to the committee and/or the forestry department with any questions or concerns.

Motion by Almekinder to table the appointment of Bob Mott as committee representative of the citizens group. Second by VanRaalte. 3 aye, Sorensen, VanRaalte, Almekinder; 1 no, Mott; Absent, Pence. Motion carried.

Kim Gauthier commented that the citizens group is not a unit of government and is not required to follow posted agendas and open meeting requirements.

ADA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GRANT UPDATE – ALMON PARK SHELTERS & GILLETTE/WICKHAM LOT AND ACCESS PATH

Fiene stated that the county was approved for both grants – replacement of Almon Park shelters and development of the Gillette/Wickham access path and parking lot updates. Gillette/Wickham is a prorated grant for the parking lot and road, the access path will be covered 100% and the ADA accessible pier was not approved.

Motion by VanRaalte to accept the grant award. Second by Almekinder. All aye, motion carried.

CLEMENTS PROPERTY UPDATE

The county received notification that WDNR accepted the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship grant for the Clements property. Currently waiting for the final letter of approval.

AWARD ATV TRAIL REHAB BID – BURROWS LAKE ROAD & KELLY FIRE LANE

The department received six bids for the bid opening. Also received one bid this morning after the deadline.

Motion by VanRaalte to reject the sealed ATV Rehab Bid received from QSP Utility, LLC after the bid deadline. Second by Almekinder. All aye, motion carried.

Fiene provided the bid amounts to the committee. The department's recommendation is to award the bid to Rynders pending a meeting with Rynders to ensure the bid is accurate.

Motion by VanRaalte to approve the awarding of the bid to Rynders Corporation pending bid confirmation with Rynders. Second by Mott. All aye, motion carried.

AWARD FORESTRY TRUCK BID

Fiene informed the committee there weren't any bids received. After discussions with a few dealerships, the delivery date within the bid packet may have been a factor.

Motion by Almekinder to re-bid with revised delivery date specifications. Second by VanRaalte. All aye, motion carried.

VOUCHERS/LINE ITEM TRANSFERS

Vouchers presented totaling \$73,142.53 which includes final snowmobile maintenance for 2020-21 of \$62,025.00. Additional expenses include grant funds and Minocqua Forest Rider reimbursement for snowmobile trail work completed by the Oneida County Highway Department.

Motion by VanRaalte to approve the vouchers as presented. Second by Almekinder. All aye, motion carried.

Motion by VanRaalte to approve the final 2020 end of year line item transfers of \$5,425.00 as presented. Second by Almekinder. All aye, motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None at this time.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS/MEETINGS

- Next meeting – April 7, 2021
- Award Forestry Truck Bid
- Engineering Bid and Specifications for Almon Shelters
- Friends of Townline Lake Park Progress

ADJOURNMENT

With business completed, Chair Sorensen adjourned the meeting at 4:33 p.m.

JACK SORENSEN
CHAIR

TANYA TISCHENDORF
RECORDING SECRETARY