

FORESTRY, LAND, & RECREATION COMMITTEE

DATE: December 2, 2020

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

PRESENT: Committee Members: VanRaalte, Pence, Almekinder, Mott
Excused: Sorensen
Forestry Staff: Fiene, Rady, Tischendorf
DNR Liaison: Oradei; RASTA – Brian Hegge

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Vice-Chair VanRaalte called the meeting to order at 3:32 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 Almekinder. All aye, motion carried.

APPROVE MINUTES

Motion by Pence to approve the minutes of November 4, 2020 meeting. Second by Almekinder. All aye, motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments at this time.

FOREST MANAGEMENT – YTD STUMPAGE REPORT

YTD Stumpage Report – Fiene reported county forest stumpage for November was \$0.00 Currently there are three active jobs.

BACKES WITHDRAWAL UPDATE

Fiene stated we are in the closing stretch for the garage encroachment that we have been working through for the last few years. We are currently waiting for the Town of Cassian to file an affidavit for the right-of-way. Hope to have this finalized by the end of the year. Informational only.

CLEMENTS PROPERTY PURCHASE UPDATE

Fiene received a letter from the Town of Little Rice supporting the County's purchase of the property. The letter has been forwarded to the WDNR. The WDNR ranking team has finished their process and has forwarded the request to the Joint Finance Committee. The county has a signed offer to purchase agreement with the landowners. Informational only.

RASTA

Discuss/Approve RASTA 2021 Trail Maintenance/Grooming Contract - Minor changes to the contract in addition to map and financial expenditure updates.

Motion by Mott to approve the RASTA 2021 trail maintenance/grooming contract. Second by Pence. All aye, motion carried.

Discuss/Approve Virtual Ski Race – RASTA is requesting approval to virtually “host” a race scheduled for the first week of February for the Boulder Mountain Tour in Idaho which would provide publicity of our ski trails and trail pass revenue.

Motion by Mott to approve the virtual ski race as described by Hegge. Second by Almekinder. All aye, motion carried.

DISCUSS MINOCQUA FOREST RIDERS TRAIL RELATED ISSUES ON COUNTY FOREST LANDS

Rady provided the committee with background information regarding concerns with a specific contractor (Bob Rynders), that the Minocqua Forest Riders snowmobile club has hired to do various trail projects (replacing culverts, bulldozer work, etc.) on county lands. Concerns include performing unauthorized work, performing work that was completed improperly, performing work without proper permits, etc.

These concerns have been brought to the attention of the snowmobile club various times over the past couple years and unfortunately it continues to happen despite providing the clubs with a project approval form that provides details and specifications for each project request. Mott suggested the form include a signoff section for the forestry department once the project has been completed.

Discussion by the committee to send a letter to the club informing them that Rynders will not be allowed to perform any work on county lands and if they violate this directive, the county will withhold reimbursement maintenance/project grant funds.

Additionally, the committee requested Fiene bring back an addendum to the snowmobile maintenance contract to include similar verbiage as follows "Any violations of federal, state, or county codes by the snowmobile club or its contractors, will be the sole responsibility of the club and/or contractor."

Motion by Almekinder that the committee agrees that Bob Rynders will not be allowed to perform any work on county property. Second by Mott. All aye, motion carried.

REVIEW AND APPROVE FORESTRY DEPARTMENT 2021 LONG RANGE PLAN

Fiene discussed the highlights of the long range plan. Mott requested safety training be added under Trained, Valued, Motivated, and Contributing Oneida County Internal Work Force section. VanRaalte requested departmental meetings be included under Open, Inclusive, Dynamic & Ongoing Oneida County Planning Process.

Motion by Pence to approve the 2021 long range plan with discussed changes. Second by Mott. All aye, motion carried.

REVIEW AND APPROVE 2021 ONEIDA COUNTY FORESTRY WORK PLAN & ASSOCIATED RESOLUTION

Fiene explained the work plan is required by the WDNR to qualify for the forestry administrator's salary grant. Fiene outlined the contents of the work plan for the committee. One correction to be made regarding the removal of an ATV project that was completed in 2019. VanRaalte requested update for next year to include indication of levy funds for budget section.

Motion by Mott to approve the 2021 Oneida County forestry work plan. Second by Almekinder. All aye, motion carried.

Motion by Almekinder to approve the resolution and forward to county board as a consent agenda item. Second by Pence. All aye, motion carried.

VOUCHERS/LINE ITEM TRANSFERS

Motion by Mott to approve the forestry department individual and blanket vouchers for December 2020 in the amount of \$2,148.69. Second by Almekinder. All aye, motion carried.

Motion by Mott to approve the Line Item Transfers to cover the expenses related to the dump truck repair. Second by Almekinder. All aye, motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None at this time.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS/MEETINGS

- Final Draft – 15 year plan
- Snowmobile Maintenance Contract Addendum & Update from Minocqua Forest Riders

- ADA Grant Update

ADJOURNMENT

With business completed, Vice-Chair VanRaalte adjourned the meeting at 4:51 p.m.

JACK SORENSEN
CHAIR

TANYA TISCHENDORF
RECORDING SECRETARY