

FORESTRY, LAND, & RECREATION COMMITTEE

DATE: September 7, 2022

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

PRESENT: Committee Members: Almekinder, Briggs, Schultz, Sorgel, Winkler (via Zoom)
Forestry Staff: Fiene, Rady, Tischendorf
WDNR – John Gillen, Kristina Wells

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Almekinder 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 Schultz to approve the agenda with the order of agenda items at Chair's discretion. Second by Winkler. All aye, motion carried.

APPROVE MINUTES

Motion by Briggs to approve the minutes of August 3, 2022 meeting. Second by Schultz. All aye, motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Kristina Wells introduced herself as the new DNR Liaison. Provided brief background of Forestry and related work experience.

FOREST MANAGEMENT

YTD Stumpage Report – Fiene reported stumpage for August was \$182,382.01 for a year-to-date total of \$657,039.82. Year-to-date revenue continues to lag behind the last few years. Currently billed approximately \$30,000 for September. There are a couple of high value sales going right now. Weather has been good, however, no significant market changes to date.

REVIEW/APPROVE BID SPECIFICATIONS FOR NEW FORESTRY PICKUP TRUCK

Fiene explained that the department is looking to replace a 2011 Chevrolet work truck next year with budgeted 2023 funds. Looking to advertise for bids this fall for delivery in 2023. Recommendation to eliminate the trade-in option and have Sheriff's department sell outright on Facebook.

Motion by Winkler to approve the bid specifications as recommended and advertise for bids. Second by Schultz. All aye, motion carried.

DONATION REQUEST FROM PINE LAKE ATV CLUB – JAN BREIVOGEL, PRESIDENT

Rady received a donation request from the President of the Pine Lake ATV Club for a few logs to make into benches for the Pine Lake Park. The Forestry Department would only need to provide the logs and the ATV Club would do the rest. There are several logs available from blow down that would be suitable.

Motion by Briggs to approve the donation of a few logs to the Pine Lake ATV club as requested. Second by Schultz. All aye, motion carried.

CDBG – ALMON PARK SHELTER UPDATE

Fiene stated the old shelters were demolished and removed by the Highway department on September 6th. All demolition expenses are expected to be reimbursed by the CDBG grant. Ellis Construction is scheduled to begin prep work September 12, 2022 and completion is estimated for mid-October.

No motion made, informational only.

FRIENDS OF TOWNLINE LAKE PARK (FTLLP) UPDATE

Discuss/Approve Request for Memorial Trees – Linda Casey is requesting permission to plant a tree in memory of her son by the beach area to help provide shade for that area. If approved, would like input on location and best species of tree to plant in that area.

Motion by Schultz to approve the Friends of Townline Lake to work with Fiene regarding planting location and species of the requested memorial tree. Second by Sorgel. All aye, motion carried.

Discussion regarding the fishing pier/kayak launch fundraising sign posted by the beach on County property. After consulting with Corporation Counsel, the posting of the sign is considered solicitation and in violation of County Code.

Recommendation to move the sign to adjacent property (with Fireside's approval) until Fiene can confirm with Corporation Counsel who the authorizing agent is to provide approval of the sign on County property.

REVIEW/APPROVE 2023 FORESTRY DEPARTMENT BUDGET

Fiene provided the committee with a summary of the 2023 Forestry Department budget.

- County Land account shows a reduction in revenue due to the expected sale of the Hwy Q parcel in 2022 and no anticipated land sales for 2023.
- Parks account shows a reduction in revenue due to CDBG funding for Almon Park Shelters in 2022. Operating expenses are up 0.8% (\$300) despite increased utility costs. The majority of the increases were re-distributed throughout other line items.
- Re-allocated Maps accounts and budgeted \$2,000 into the Parks account for 2023.
- Campground shows a 6% (\$500) increase in revenue based on estimated occupancy rates.
- ATV & Snowmobile accounts are 100% grant funded – money in, money out.
- Forestry account shows a reduction in overall revenue of 18.5% (\$225,117). This is attributed to a reduction in timber sale revenue due to the Verso mill closure and decreased stumpage rates over the last few years.
- Forestry has a reduction in expenses of 15.7% (\$23,875) for 2023. The majority of this savings is related to the Town of Lynne Survey completed in 2022. Other operational expenses increased slightly to account for increased fuel and utility costs and equipment repair expenses.
- County Forest Roads and Wildlife Habitat and 100% grant funded accounts to fund maintenance of county forest roads (including gravel crushing) and wildlife management.
- Department headcount remains the same as 2023 with all permanent employees budgeted at 2080 hours.

Motion by Winkler to approve the 2023 Forestry Department budget as presented. Second by Schultz. All aye, motion carried.

VOUCHERS/LINE ITEM TRANSFERS

Vouchers - Vouchers presented totaling \$39,254.09. Approximately \$8,200 was a performance bond refund to Futurewood for a completed timber sale, \$5,250 paid for 50% of the dump trailer purchase approved by the committee, \$4,600 to Nelson Paint for tree marking paint, about \$3,400 for two months of fuel expenses, \$9,800 for a grant funded ATV trail washout repair completed by the Highway department, and approximately \$2,600 for the repair of the small John Deere tractor.

Motion by Schultz to approve the vouchers as presented. Second by Briggs. All aye, motion carried.

Line Item Transfers – Recommended line item transfers of \$1,700 to cover current negative balances within the various forestry department accounts.

Motion by Sorgel to approve the line item transfers as presented. Second by Briggs. All aye, motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Guy Hansen, RASTA wanted to thank Fiene and Rady for working with RASTA and logging contractors on timber sales within the silent sports network.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS/MEETINGS

- Next meeting – October 5, 2022
- November Timber Sale Information
- Award Bids – Hwy Q Sale & Forestry Work Truck
- Almon Shelter Update
- FTLLP Update including Director's Authority to Approve Improvements by FTLLP

ADJOURNMENT

With business completed, Chair Almekinder adjourned the meeting at 4:43 p.m.

ROBERT ALMEKINDER
CHAIR

TANYA TISCHENDORF
COMMITTEE SECRETARY

DRAFT