

**LAND RECORDS COMMITTEE MEETING**  
 May 11, 2021  
 Oneida County Courthouse  
 Second Floor – County Board Room  
 Rhinelander, Wisconsin 54501

Committee Members	Bill Liebert	Sonny Paszak
Mike Timmons	Greg Pence	Greg Oettinger

**Call to Order. Approve agenda for today’s meeting.**

Chairman Paszak called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. in accordance with the Open Meeting Law noting that the meeting notice was properly posted and the location is handicap accessible.

Tom Barnett, Oneida County Fair Coordinator was in attendance.

Jim Winkler, Oneida County Board Supervisor for District 10, and Bob Thome, Oneida County Board Supervisor for District 11, were also present.

Motion/Timmons/Oettinger to approve today’s agenda. All ayes.

**Public comments.**

Romportl introduced new Land Information/Register of Deeds employee Jacob Piasecki. Committee member introductions were provided for the public.

Donald Hoppe, 5417 Lake Julia Road, read a written statement in opposition to the possible lease of Oneida County owned parcel PE-69 for use by the Oneida County Fair.

Craig Foster, 8315 W. Squaw Lake Road, present via Zoom, requested that Oneida County file suit against the WI Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Geographic Names Council in regards to the handling of the Squaw/Amber Lake name change.

Sue Thome, 5506 Cranes Road, present via Zoom, read a letter in opposition to the possible lease of Oneida County owned parcel PE-69 for use by the Oneida County Fair.

Ed Kelly, 5431 Lake Julia Road, present via Zoom, spoke in agreement with Donald Hoppe and Sue Thome in opposition to the possible lease of Oneida County owned parcel PE-69 for use by the Oneida County Fair.

**Approve minutes of Land Records April 13, 2021 meeting.**

Motion/Pence/Oettinger to approve minutes of the April 13, 2021 meeting. All ayes.

**Monthly bills, line item transfers, purchase orders, monthly budget summary, non-budgetary item requests, and vouchers.**

Franson reviewed monthly bills and expenses for Register of Deeds.

Motion/Timmons/Liebert to approve monthly bills, expenses, line item transfer and vouchers, as presented by the Register of Deeds Office. All ayes.

Romportl reviewed monthly bills, expenses, and line item transfers for the Land Information Office.

Motion/Timmons/Liebert to approve monthly bills, expenses, line item transfer and vouchers, as presented by the Land Information Office. All ayes.

**Staff member’s attendance at land-related meetings/seminars.**

Franson and Romportl reported no attendance.

**Discussion only on possible uses and background of Oneida County owned parcel PE-69, NE-SW, Section 7, Township 36 North, Range 9 East off Lake Julia RD, including possible lease or use of the parcel for a public or private fairgrounds. No action will be taken.**

Romportl passed out an image of PE-69 for reference. He gave directions to the parcel as well as a brief background on the history, former uses/potential uses of the land, and in 2019, there was a timber sale. Assistant Corporation Counsel Tom Wiensch is working on a lease with the Oneida County Fair for PE-69, final details have not been worked out, but it does come under the jurisdiction of the Land Records Committee to make the recommendation to the County Board regarding the use of the property. Pence informed the Committee that he received several e-mails from his constituents and a phone call from Gerald Roou, Pelican Town Chair, and all were in opposition to the potential lease. Liebert expressed concerns with wetlands in the certain areas of the parcel, and asked for further information from the fair regarding how much acreage would be needed for both fair activities and parking.

Oneida County Fair Coordinator Tom Barnett read a written statement asking for support from Oneida County of a proposed lease of PE-69 to the Oneida County Fair. Mr. Barnett cited the successes of other counties in the area and cited the positive benefits of a fair. They are looking at all options to locate a fair near the County seat with PE-69 being one option. Mr. Barnett would like the Committee to help find a place for the fair if PE-69 does not work. Discussion among the Committee about the agenda item as posted and Corporation Counsel Mike Fugle reminded participants to keep to the topic specifically as it relates to PE-69.

Bob Thome, Oneida County Supervisor for District 11, informed the committee that he has received e-mails from citizens in his district and all are in opposition to the lease of PE-69 to the Oneida County Fair.

Jim Winkler, Oneida County Supervisor for District 10 and liaison to the Oneida County Fair, spoke in support of the lease of PE-69 to be used as fairgrounds. Mr. Winkler referenced PE-69's location, size, and accessibility to support the possible lease for a fair.

Timmons recommend that if the Fair wants to come back with a proposal specific to the use of this property (PE-69) they should request to get back on the agenda.

**Request by Concerned Residents of Squaw Lake for Oneida County to consider filing a lawsuit against WI Dept of Natural Resources (DNR) Geographic Names Council regarding the Councils approval of changing the name of Squaw Lake, which is partly located in the Town of Minocqua.**

Romportl referenced an e-mail from Craig Foster that asked Oneida County to take the lead in suing the WI DNR Geographic Names Council for failing to follow Oneida County code in the Squaw/Amber Lake name change process. The Geographic Names Council's basis for not following Oneida County's process is that it was not required because it is not a duplicate of a name in the state. Corporation Counsel Fugle explained that the DNR has a valid enough defense to make a lawsuit ineffective. Liebert expressed concerns with the way the situation was handled by the DNR and the precedent it may set. Romportl will ask Mr. Foster to let Oneida County know of any lawsuits or further actions taken. A letter has been drafted to send to the Geographic Name Change Council encouraging the Council to adopt the policy of Oneida County with public hearings and a more transparent process.

Public comment from Jeff Heeren, 8269 W. Squaw Lake Road, who agreed with Mr. Foster's remarks from earlier in the meeting, opposing the DNR's handling of the situation.

**Request by adjoining landowner(s) listed below to purchase excess county lands adjacent to road(s) and act on resolutions to convey the excess lands:**

- a. Kratzke, East End RD, Town of Lynne, part of parcel # LY-417; NE-NE, Section 27, T36N-R4E.

Kratzke is a standard request for excess county lands along a road. The Forestry Department reported no concerns. The request is subject to the Town of Lynne's approval.

Motion/Timmons/Paszak to approve the resolution as presented for Kratzke requesting land adjoining East End Road and forward to County Board as a consent agenda item. All ayes.

- b. Wiezbinski, County D, Town of Newbold, part of new parcel # NE-1296-1, NE-SE, Section 27, T39N-R8E.

Romportl gave a brief background on the parcel and request. The Highway Department will be asked if they want 50 feet for the county road or just 33 feet for the centerline. Ms. Wiezbinski would like the committee to consider 33 feet instead of 50.

Motion/Liebert/Oettinger to wait to take action until the decision is made by the Highway Department. All ayes.

**Wisconsin Public Service request for easement for electric and gas service at 3375 Airport RD over City/County owned land, parcel # RH-9011-0500 in the City of Rhinelander, part of GL 2, Section 11, Township 36 North, Range 8 East.**

Romportl presented a resolution which is a similar easement request as one from June of 2020 that the Land Records Committee and County Board granted to WPS at no charge as it benefitted both the County and the City of Rhinelander who own the Airport. The Airport supports this request.

Motion/Timmons/Oettinger to approve resolution and forward to the County Board as a consent agenda item. All ayes.

**Resolution for WisDOT Real Estate proposed acquisitions of county owned lands for Project ID: 9261-07-20 Highway 32 in Section 24, Township 38 North, Range 11 East, part of parcel number TL-681-1.**

Romportl presented a resolution for WisDot Real Estate to acquire an easement over County property. At the last meeting David from Right of Way Professionals Inc. proposed \$700 to acquire the property and Committee agreed. Motion/Pence/Oettinger to approve resolution and forward to the County Board as a consent agenda item. All ayes.

**Closed session - It is anticipated that the committee may meet in closed session pursuant to Wisconsin Statute. A roll call vote will be taken to go into closed session and it is anticipated that the committee will return to open session by roll call vote to consider the remainder of the meeting agenda.**

- a) **Wisconsin Statutes, Section 19.85 (1) (e) Deliberating or negotiating the purchase of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session.**
  - Topic: Parcel off Air Park RD being part of Certified Survey Map # 5001 in GL 1 (NE-NE) Section 11 and GL 11 (SE-SE) Section 2, Township 36 North, Range 8 East, City of Rhinelander, Parcel # RH-9011-0106 & RH-9011-0102.
- b) **Wisconsin Statutes, Section 19.85 (1)(c), considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which this body has jurisdiction or responsibility.**
  - Topic: Land Information Director annual review.
- c) **Approve closed session minutes of April 13, 2021.**

Motion/Timmons/Paszak to enter into closed session at 11:06 AM. Roll call vote. All ayes.

Motion/Pence/Oettinger to approve the Closed Session minutes from April 13<sup>th</sup> meeting. Roll call vote. All Ayes.

**A roll call vote will be taken to return to open session and may ratify any matters(s) discussed in closed session.**

Motion/Timmons/Liebert to return to open session at 11:46 AM. Roll call vote. All ayes.

**Announcement of any action taken in closed session.**

None

**Public comments.**

There were no comments from the public.

**Date of next meeting and items for agenda.**

The next meeting will be June 8, 2021 at 9:30 AM.

**Adjournment.**

Adjourn the meeting at 11:50 A.M.

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Sonny Paszak

Chair Land Records Committee

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Michael J. Romportl

Staff Chair