

LAND RECORDS COMMITTEE MEETING
 December 14, 2021
 Oneida County Courthouse
 Second Floor – Committee Room 2
 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. Zoom call in option was available. Oettinger arrived at 9:48 after agenda item 7.

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

Public comments.

There were no comments from the public.

Approve minutes of Land Records meetings of November 2nd and 3rd, 2021.

Motion/Pence/Timmons to approve minutes of the November 2nd and 3rd, 2021 meetings. All ayes.

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

Franson reviewed monthly bills, expenses, and line item transfers for the Register of Deeds.

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

Romportl reviewed monthly bills and expenses for the Land Information Office.

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

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

Franson will be attending a meeting for the Wisconsin Register of Deeds Association (WRDA) in Wisconsin Rapids in January. Romportl will be attending the WI Society of Land Surveyors (WSLS) annual conference in Wisconsin Dells in January.

Motion/Pence/Timmons to approve staff’s attendance at meetings/conferences as presented by the Register of Deeds and Land Information Office. All ayes.

Update on tax bill processing

Romportl gave an update on tax bills. It was the second year using the Ascent program, and overall it went very well. The cooperation between the Land Information Office, County Treasurer, and Town Clerks & Treasurers helped to ensure the bills were on time and accurate. The bills were all sent out to the Towns in about four days.

Update on Oneida County tax foreclosed properties, Parcel #'s MI-1797-1, MI-1797-2, TL-374-11, TL-435-2, & PL-458-100.

MI-1797-1 and MI-1797-2 are awaiting a survey which should be done by the end of the month. Romportl supplied the committee with an email from Sue Harris, Three Lakes Town Clerk, explaining the Town’s intended uses of TL-374-11. The Town would like to use TL-374-11 for additional signage and parking for the adjoining bicycle trail. The Town of Three Lakes offered to pay what the County already has into the property which is \$944.13.

Motion/Liebert/Timmons to convey TL-374-11 to the Town of Three Lakes, subject to County Board approval, and to hold the big guarantees of the 1st and 2nd highest bidders until sale is approved. All ayes.

TL-435-2 is also awaiting a survey, which should be done by the end of the month. WPS will also need to be granted an easement for the structure near the edge of the property. PL-458-100 was removed from the November land sale by the Committee so the Town of Pine Lake could be contacted to see if they have interest in acquiring the property. The Town discussed acquiring the parcel at their November meeting, and postponed any decision until they could look at the property. The property is 66 feet wide and was referenced in a 1971 survey as a road easement. Liebert expressed concerns about conveying this parcel to a private party, and would like to see the Town take ownership, or the County retain the ownership to provide access to the property to the east.

Motion/Timmons/Liebert to direct Romportl to contact the Town of Pine Lake to encourage them to take ownership of PL-458-100 for access purposes, based off of the information from the 1971 survey map. All ayes.

Update on current tax foreclosed properties for sale and minimum bid for RH-1435-1.

The motion to set the minimum bid at last meeting for RH-1435-1 was for \$39,900 but there was a typo in the notes and was listed at \$39,000. Since the bid was already published for advertising, Romportl recommended rescinding the previous motion and replacing it with a minimum bid of \$39,000.

Motion/Paszak/Oettinger to rescind previous motion with the minimum bid of \$39,900 and set the minimum bid at \$39,000 for RH-1435-1. All ayes.

Access easement for County owned parcel # Rhinelander 9333-1001,1991 W Winnebago ST.

Romportl passed out a map of the area of the proposed easement and gave the background on the situation. Koinonia is leased by Options Inc from the Oneida County Human Service Center. Oneida County acquired the property in 1991, however they did not get an easement across what is considered W Winnebago St. Romportl contacted Buildings & Ground and the Highway Department who did not recall the County ever maintaining the access to Koinonia. The City of Rhinelander used to plow the access road but has since stopped after learning it may not be a city street. Most recently, Bruce Decorah from Options Inc has been plowing the road to access Koinonia. Romportl met with Michelle Riopel, the owner of the access road, who offered an easement to the County over the road, with the conditions that there is a maintenance agreement put in place, that she does not have to maintain the part of the road serving Koinonia, and that the County pay the storm water charge of approximately \$13 a quarter.

Motion/Timmons/Pence to direct Romportl to work with Corporation Counsel and Riopel to finalize an agreement for an access easement over the 30 foot strip. All ayes.

Geographic Name Proposal, to request name or change the name of the following islands:

- a) Request for name change of Big Island to Marshall Island, located in Section 13, T36N, R7E
- b) Request for name change of Little Island to Scrub Oak Island, located in Section 24, T36N, R7E

These are requests to change the names of Big Island and Little Island on Squash Lake submitted by Dan Butkus. The committee did not receive the application or fee to act on this proposal. Romportl recommends sending back a memo to the DNR stating that since they did not follow the proper procedures, the Committee cannot make a recommendation to support the name changes.

Motion/Timmons/Paszak to direct Romportl to send a response to the DNR stating that since they did not comply with Oneida County ordinance regarding name changes, no recommendation will be given. All ayes.

- c) Update on Amber Lake formerly known as Squaw Lake in Town of Minocqua.

Romportl gave an update on the situation. The Town of Minocqua will not take action on any changes until January. Romportl has contacted Dispatch Emergency Services that the road signs in Vilas County have already been changed to Amber Lake.

Register of Deeds and Land Information Long Range Plan.

Romportl and Franson supplied the committee with drafts of long range plans for the Land Information Office and Register of Deeds to be reviewed. Liebert noted concerns with the Land Information plan regarding the use of the word tracking for the Health Department. Romportl explained that the Health Department had used GIS to track the spread of COVID-19 throughout the County. Liebert further expressed his concerns with data collection and tracking, and the implications it has on individuals' inalienable rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Motion/Timmons/Paszak to accept the long range plans as presented by the Land Information Office and Register of Deeds, and to note the comments from Liebert. All ayes.

Update on Land Council meeting and submission of 2022 Wis Land Information Program Grant Requests and Final 2022 – 2024 Land Information Plan.

Romportl updated the committee on the December 10th Land Council meeting. The council approved the 2022-2024 Land Information Plan and authorized the submission to the state. The council also supported the designation of \$50,000 of the WI Land Information Program funds to public land survey work and \$10,000 towards a new GPS unit.

Motion/Paszak/Oettinger to submit the final 2022-2024 Land Information Plan to the State. All ayes.

Oneida County Relief Funding Program, FEMA maps.

The update to request the FEMA maps with pandemic relief funds was initially given low priority from the County Funding Opportunities Committee. The committee is now requesting re-submittal of ideas for funding and is pushing for the plans to be submitted with an RFP (request for proposal). Romportl would re-submit the updating of the FEMA maps to the committee, but he does not see acquiring a formal quote as a realistic option because there is no funding guarantee and to put contractors through the process would not be well received. Romportl discussed the project with a potential vendor and the best they could do is provide a range of cost. Liebert brought up the idea of putting money into a fund to be used by landowners to do LOMAs (Letter of Map Amendments), but the committee believed that to be unlikely to be approved. Romportl suggested just re-submitting the proposal and explaining to the committee that it is not reasonable to acquire a request for proposal unless there is more a commitment to funding the project from the county.

Motion/Timmons/Liebert to direct Romportl to re-submit the proposal to update Oneida County FEMA maps to the Funding Opportunities Committee. All ayes.

Public Comments

There were no comments from the public.

Date of next meeting and items for agenda.

The next meeting will be January 11, 2022.

Adjournment.

Adjourn the meeting at 11:02 am.

Sonny Paszak

Chair Land Records Committee

Michael J. Romportl

Staff Chair