

Forestry and Recreation Committee

August 13, 2013

8:00 a.m.

Members Present: Chairman Ronald Nye, Michael Klimoski, David Solin, Rick Bina, and Richard Olsen

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Erik Rantala, Tom Lazars, Tammy Kubiacyk, Robin Stowe, Michelle Koss, Terry Poltrock, and Dave Peterson

Location: Conference Room, Forestry Office, Fairgrounds, Antigo

1. Call to Order – Chairman Nye called the meeting to order at 8:03 a.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
2. Minutes - A motion was made by Klimoski, seconded by Olsen, to approve the minutes of the July 18, 2013 meeting. All ayes. Motion carried.
3. Update on 1st Annual Splash and Dash at Veteran's Memorial Park – Michelle Koss updated the committee on the 1st Annual Splash and Dash held at Veteran's Memorial Park on July 13. Koss stated that the event went over very well and that there were 60 racers. The funds raised will be used to support the Antigo High School swim team, and this event may be the main fund raiser for them in the future. Koss stated that the event was over and cleaned up by 11:30 a.m. so did not affect picnickers and swimmers wanting to use the beach area. Koss stated that next year they are planning to offer the option of participating in the 5K only for those participants that are not comfortable swimming in the lake. Koss thanked the committee for their support of this event.
4. Discuss Process of Avoiding Potential Conflicts of Interest in Awarding Timber Sale Contracts – Some questions have arisen regarding a potential conflict of interest involving the action taken by the Forestry Committee in approving the most recent timber sales, which included a bid submitted in the name of Solin Bros. Logging. The Committee acted on all bids by taking one vote and by doing so, did not afford the opportunity for a member to abstain on any individual sale. Robin Stowe, Corporation Counsel, has reviewed this action and determined that no statutory conflict of interest existed when Supervisor Solin voted on

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the bids which included a bid submitted in the name of Solin Bros. Logging. Robin reviewed the conflict of interest statutes with the Committee, as follows. Section 19.59 entitled "code of ethics for local public officials" prohibits local government officials and certain employees from using their public position to ask for or receive any item of substantial value. What constitutes an item of substantial value has changed over time as interpreted by the Attorney General (several years ago, the value was not to exceed \$25, so what is considered "substantial" value today may be somewhat greater). Another component of Section 19.59, prevents public officials from taking any official action to obtain a financial gain for themselves, their spouse, a dependent for tax purposes or for a business with which they are affiliated. The public official may prevent violations of this civil statute by disclosing the conflict of interest and abstaining from deliberation and voting. However, with regards to entering into contracts with the government, there also exists a criminal statute (Sec. 946.13 entitled "private interest in a public contract") which prohibits any public official in his or her private capacity from negotiating, bidding or entering into a contract with the local government of which he/she is a member where the value of the contract exceeds \$15,000 in a year. Violations of this criminal statute cannot be cured by abstaining from deliberation and voting.

In the case of the Solin Bros. Logging bid, Supervisor David Solin has presented documentation to the Forest Administrator which clarifies that this bid was solely prepared by and is the sole obligation of Donald Solin and not Solin Bros. Logging. Also, although it is difficult to determine the annual value of a timber sale contract, it is likely that the total annual value of the contract awarded in this case does not exceed the \$15,000 threshold to trigger application of this statute. Robin advised that given this clarification, the timber sale contract should be issued to Donald Solin and not Solin Bros. Logging; and in the future, the Committee should use a procedure for acting on timber sale bids which would allow separating out individual bids to disclose any conflicts of interests (perceptual or statutory).

5. Recreation Update – Kubiaczyk updated the committee on several recreation items. The sled dog club is looking to expand their trail in the Town of Price; but there was concern that it was crossing the snowmobile trail in the area, which would be a safety concern. Kubiaczyk and Rantala will be working with the club with regard to expansion of their trail. There are several ATV projects ongoing at this time. There have been several washouts in the Parrish area due to the wet spring and summer including Hwy. H, West Elcho Road, and the 5 Cent Road. The White Lake ATV Club is working on trails in the eastern part of the county. Kubiaczyk and Rantala will be meeting with the ATV clubs on Friday to discuss matters of concern as well as trail work.

Rantala informed the committee that he hopes to have the work begin on the Wolf River State Trail hiking/biking trail in September. He would like to have the Langlade County Highway Department work on the project as they are very familiar with it. They would plan to use the White Lake gravel pit. Work cannot proceed until the final agreement and permits are received. We will not be working outside of the footprint of the grade. Motion by Solin, seconded by Klimoski to approve having the Langlade County Highway Department work on the Wolf River State Trail hiking/biking trail. All ayes. Motion carried.

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The first batch of signs from Custom Murals have been installed. After the final signs are received and installed, a thank you will be sent to the Lumberjack RC&D.

Rantala informed the committee that he is planning to apply for a grant for the Bow and Gun Range to add an additional short range (15 yards) for pistols. The grant paperwork is due by September 1.

6. Discuss Tank Removal at Veteran’s Memorial Park – At the July forestry committee meeting, Tom Lazars provided quotes for removing the two underground fuel tanks and replacing them with two, 300-gallon above ground tanks. The quotes were:

Walts Petroleum -	\$24,904.22
Northwest Petroleum -	\$25,394.73

These prices includes all work except if any material had to be pumped and disposed from the underground tanks. If pumping was needed, this project would go over budget as \$25,000 was budgeted for this project. Mike Klimoski received a quote from:

Great Lakes Petroleum Service, Inc. - \$21,500.00

Motion by Solin, seconded by Bina to accept the low quote from Great Lakes Petroleum Service, Inc., of \$21,500.00 if it meets all specifications. All ayes. Motion carried.

7. Update on Jack Lake Restroom Project - Rantala reiterated that Langlade County was awarded an RTA (Recreational Trails Aids) grant of \$45,000 for the restroom project at Veteran’s Memorial Park. The grant paperwork, which will state the date when work can begin, will be received this fall. The bid that was accepted for this project was \$123,500.00. There is a difference of \$33,500.00 between the grant award and the accepted bid. The bid is only good for 90 days and will expire the end of August. Rantala inquired of the committee if they would be in agreement with beginning the project (installing footings, slab, and possibly conduit) up to a cost of \$33,500.00 until the grant paperwork is received. Motion by Bina, seconded by Olsen to allow the project to begin up to \$33,500.00. All ayes. Motion carried.
8. Discuss Kurt Goeman Access Permit – Rantala informed the committee that Kurt Goeman of West Bend, WI had contacted him requesting an access permit to use an all season logging road on county land that goes through Section 30, T33N-R12E (South Ainsworth) to access his property located in the E1/2 NE1/4 and NESE of Section 31; T33N-R12E. They have been using the existing road for many years. Motion by Klimoski, seconded by Bina to approve the access permit for Kurt Goeman. All ayes. Motion carried.
9. Update on Land Purchase – Rantala informed the committee that the project was ranked highest of six projects and was considered a very good candidate for funding in its entirety. There are 34 acres that are not grant eligible as there is an easement on the property and cannot be enrolled in the County Forest Law program. The next step is to order the appraisal. Rantala also informed the committee that Plum Creek has some additional acres for sale; and while there is good timber on the property, it is not in the county block. The committee stated that Rantala should not pursue this additional property. Rantala stated that the resolution to pursue grant funding for the original purchase needs to be updated to

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include the additional 194 acres discussed at the July committee meeting. Motion by Olsen, seconded by Klimoski to forward a resolution to county board to add the additional 194 acres to the grant request. All ayes. Motion carried.

10. Request to allow Forestry Chairman to oversee bid opening of Miscellaneous Timber Sale and review proposal for Moose Lake Restroom – Rantala stated that a small restroom for the Moose Lake boat landing had been budgeted for 2013. In checking with the corporation counsel, quotes or proposals must be received for the project and it must be advertised at least once as the project cost is over \$5,000. This restroom will be a year-round facility. Rantala also informed the committee that the Mattoon Sportsmen’s Club will donate \$1,000 towards the project and the Friends of Moose Lake will donate \$500 towards the project. The committee requested that Rantala contact the Mattoon Sportsmen’s Club and Friends of Moose Lake to see if one of the organizations would be willing to sponsor/oversee the project instead of Langlade County and report back.

Rantala informed the committee that the forestry department set up a timber sale on a 40 owned in the Town of Elcho. This property is not enrolled in the County Forest Program and would be on the list to be sold with those funds going to the potential Plum Creek land purchase. Langlade County does not have legal access to this property, but Rantala has been in contact with two adjacent landowners and they may approve allowing access to prospective loggers. The contract on this sale would be short in duration with no extensions in the interest of getting it cut before it is potentially sold. A condition of bidding is the logger is responsible for obtaining access. The timber sale revenue from this property would go towards the land purchase as well. Rantala would like to solicit bids and award the sale by the end of August without having a special forestry committee meeting. Motion by Solin, seconded by Olsen to allow the chairman or other committee member to oversee the bid opening. All ayes. Motion carried.

11. Review and Approve 2014 Budgets and 2015 Plans - The committee reviewed the 2014 budget and 2015 budget plan. Rantala reviewed projects planned for 2014.

**FORESTRY AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
REVENUES/EXPENDITURES SUMMARY**

	<u>2014 Budget</u>	<u>2015 Proposed Budget</u>
<u>Revenues:</u>		
County Park Fees	101,000.00	101,000.00
Forest Crop Stumpage (85%)	1,500,000.00	1,500,000.00
Forest Land Purchase (5%)	80,000.00	80,000.00
Misc. Income (Non-FCL, Wood & Bough Permits)	2,000.00	2,000.00
Interest Income	1,000.00	1,000.00
Forest Administrator Grant	45,760.00	45,760.00
Cell Tower Revenue	16,506.00	16,506.00
 Total Revenues	 \$1,746,266.00	 \$1,746,266.00

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Expenditures:

Forestry Department Expenses	468,918.00	476,446.00
Forestry Management	69,100.00	69,100.00
Tree Planting	8,000.00	500.00
V.M.P. Expenses	148,293.00	148,328.00
Recreation Program/Facilities (Range & Post Lake Dam)	21,223.00	21,223.00
Total Expenditures	\$ 715,534.00	\$ 715,597.00
Total County portion tax levy/(County Revenue)	\$(1,030,732.00)	\$ (1,030,669.00)

Motion by Klimoski, seconded by Solin, to approve the proposed draft 2014 forestry budget and proposed 2015 plan as presented and forward to the Finance Committee. All ayes.
Motion carried.

Motion by Klimoski, seconded by Solin, to approve the proposed draft 2014 parks budget and proposed 2015 plan as presented and forward to the Finance Committee. All ayes.
Motion carried.

12. DNR Liaison Report – Ave'lallemant updated the committee on Giggles, the fawn. He also stated that a new employee was hired to fill Keith Lindner's old position and that Pam Freeman-Gillen's position was being posted. The allowable cut is on target and Langlade County will have a very good sale this fall.
13. Review Payment of Paid Bills – The committee reviewed the paid Forestry and Recreation Department bills for July.
14. Review Budget Summary Report - Rantala reviewed with the committee the budget summary report of the forestry department revenues and expenditures through July 31, 2013.
15. Set Next Meeting Date - The next meeting will be scheduled for Thursday, September 12, 2013, at 8:00 a.m., in the forestry office conference room, Fairgrounds, Antigo.
16. Adjournment – Motion by Olsen, seconded by Bina to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 a.m. All ayes. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Poltrock
Recording Secretary