

Forestry and Recreation Committee

June 21, 2012

9:30 a.m.

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

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Steve Jackson, Robin Stowe, Ted Ave'Lallemant, Tom Lazers, Terry Poltrock, Dave Peterson, and Elmer and Sally Mulhollon

Location: Conference Room, Forestry Office, Fairgrounds, Antigo

1. Call to Order – Chairman Nye called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.
2. Minutes – A motion was made by Olsen, seconded by Klimoski, to approve the minutes of the May 17, 2012, meeting. All ayes. Motion carried.
3. Discuss Bidding Out Natural Gas for Veteran's Memorial Park – Jackson informed the committee that he had been contacted by Joe Draeger, who inquired why the propane (LP) was not bid out for Veteran's Memorial Park. Jackson explained that the tanks were put in by Master Gas (now Amerigas) before 1978 when Lazers was hired. Lazers explained that there are three tanks – one for the shop (500 gallons), one for the house (500 gallons), and one for the shower building (1,000 gallons.) After discussion, motion by Klimoski, seconded by Olsen to have Lazers investigate the cost of Langlade County purchasing their own tanks and then bidding out for propane and report back at the July meeting. All ayes. Motion carried.
4. Discuss Setting Rental Fee for Cabin at Veteran's Memorial Park - Lazers stated that the cabin should be available for rent by mid-July. The cabin sleeps five and is 16' x 20'. Lazers also hopes to add solar panels and heat so the cabin can be used during hunting season. Lazers would like to charge a rental fee of \$50-75/night with a two night minimum for weekends. Jackson would like to see the rates set at \$35-\$40/night. The cabin would be reservable. After discussion, the committee decided to wait to set a rental fee until after the tour of the cabin. After touring the cabin, motion by Solin,

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seconded by Bina to set a rental fee of \$50/night, week nights, and \$75/night for weekends with a two day minimum. All ayes. Motion carried.

5. Discuss Casual Employee Hours – Jackson explained to the committee that Resolution 77-2006 approved casual employees to work for the forestry department up to 590 hours. On April 2, 2012, an e-mail was received from Pam Resch, Finance Department, regarding changes in WRS enrollment, which stated “*Students, under age 20, that are enrolled in school full-time can work more than the 600 hours in the calendar and/or rolling year and not have to be enrolled in the WRS.*” The forestry department never had any intention of having any casual employee work more than 590 hours in a calendar year. Joseph Meyer had worked at Veteran’s Memorial Park in December, 2011 assisting with cleaning up storm damage before going to school at UW-Stevens Point in January, 2012. Joseph Meyer began working at Veteran’s Memorial Park on May 17, 2012. On June 19, 2012, another e-mail was received from Pam Resch stating that Joseph Meyer reached 619.5 hours and would now need to be enrolled in the WRS, but could not work again until county board approval was received in July. Based on the April 2, 2012 e-mail this should not have been an issue as Joseph Meyer is only 19 years old and a full-time student, but Pam Resch later clarified that this was only meant for high school students. Stowe stated that there is no need to return to county board for approval. Stowe then clarified that WRS eligibility changes had been made with the Budget Repair Bill. Prior to the Budget Repair Bill, any casual employees who were expected to work over 600 hours were required to participate in the Wisconsin Retirement System (with the exception of students under age 20 who are still attending high school). The Forestry Department wished to rehire a casual employee who is currently WRS eligible. Robin Stowe advised the Committee that the Department can rehire this employee, however, this employee is only authorized to work 590 hours or less per year. Also, because the County’s WRS contribution will also be paid from the Department’s casual employee budget – this means that less funding will be available for casual employment hours overall. For any casual employee that is not already eligible for WRS benefits, it is the Department’s responsibility to make sure that employees do not work more hours than authorized and specifically, that the casual employee does not work over 600 hours within a 12 month rolling period.
6. Distribute Information on Access Permits – Information Only – Jackson distributed information on access permits to the committee for their review prior to the July meeting when this will be discussed in more detail. Information provided was from the Langlade County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan, Oneida County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan, and Jackson County Land Use License/Permit and Agreement for Private Access.
7. Review Payment of Paid Bills - A motion was made by Olsen, seconded by Solin, to approve the paid Forestry and Recreation Department bills. All ayes. Motion carried.
8. Review Budget Summary Report - Jackson reviewed with the committee the budget summary report of the forestry department revenues and expenditures through May 31, 2012.

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9. Set Next Meeting Date - The next meeting will be scheduled for Thursday, July 19, 2012, at 8:00 a.m., in the forestry office conference room, Fairgrounds, Antigo.
10. Other Matters – Jackson distributed information to the committee for their review regarding a proposed ATV route on Hwy. H, which will be requested by the Parrish Highlanders ATV Club at the July meeting.
11. Tour of Plum Creek Land Purchase Property and Veteran’s Memorial Park – The committee toured the Plum Creek Land purchase property and Veteran’s Memorial Park. Lunch was provided at Veteran’s Memorial Park.
12. Adjournment – Motion by Klimoski, seconded by Bina to adjourn the meeting at 1:10 p.m. All ayes. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Poltrock
Recording Secretary