

**FORESTRY AND PARKS COMMITTEE
MINUTES
March 11, 2014**

The regular monthly meeting for Jackson County Forestry & Parks Department was held at 8:30am, on Tuesday, March 11, 2014. Those present were: Bill Cornell, Norm Stoker, Karen Thayer, Merlin Fredrickson, Charles Jensen, Jim Zahasky, Jon Schweitzer and Ashley Stetzer.

Bill Cornell called the regular meeting to order at 8:30am

Motion made by Merlin Fredrickson, seconded by Karen Thayer to approve the minutes from the previous meeting with the addition to add Merlin Fredrickson to the roll call, all members voted in favor.

Motion made by Norman Stoker, seconded by Charles Jensen to approve the bills as presented for payment. All members voted in favor.

Forestry Report:

Jim updated the Committee on sale JC-2239 with Strzok Logging. Sale is currently at a 5% penalty and will expire on April 1, 2014. A motion was made by Charles Jensen to extend the sale until April 1, 2015 and to assess them a 10% penalty. The motion was seconded by Norman Stoker, all members voted in favor.

D&D Mechanized Pulping is currently cutting a sale for the Parks Department at Wazee Lake on land designated as special use. Because this money does not go into the general Forestry fund a motion was made by Merlin Fredrickson to continue to give 10% to the townships from the cutting of the sale. The motion was seconded by Karen Thayer, all members minus Norman Stoker voted in favor. Norman Stoker abstained from voting due to the fact that he is on the Brockway Town Board. The sale will go into the Parks fund, and the townships will receive 10% of the proceeds at the end of the year.

The Van Ert Electrical encroachment issue was discussed. Jim informed that committee that Van Ert Electric was in negotiation to buy approximately 1.5 acres at 3 times the value to resolve the encroachment issue. They would also grant a onetime access to remove mature timber. This access would be for silvicultural purposes only and would not be open to the general public. A motion was made by Merlin Fredrickson to agree to the proposal; motion was seconded by Charles Jensen. All members voted in favor.

Dairyland Power was present at the February meeting to discuss a possible reduction or removal of their lease agreement near Saddle Mound due to the emergency relief that they provide for the Sheriff's Department in regards to the use of their tower, generator and building. At the Executive and Finance Meeting on March 7, a motion was made to relieve them of \$2500.00 of their \$5,000.00 lease. A motion was made by Charles Jensen at the Forestry & Parks Department meeting to approve this resolution and reduce the lease obligation by 50%. The motion was seconded by Norman Stoker, all members voted in favor.

Parks & Trails Report:

Jon updated the Committee about current projects taking place in the parks department. Jon, Jim and Jeremy collaborated with DNR Fisheries in regards to developing a fisheries management plan for Wazee Lake. Talk is in the works to hopefully do a joint project with the Hatfield Sportsmen's Club to build fish cribs at both Lake Arbutus and Wazee Lake to improve fish habitat. Hazardous trees are being removed in the Parks and the well house at West Arbutus is about 80% complete. The 2014 application process for parks LTE employees has begun and the goal is to start doing interviews in early April. Jon informed the Committee that they hope to have East Arbutus up and running by the Youth Turkey season, weather permitting, on April 5. (Ice Crossing Information/motion)

Derek Kunding was present on behalf of Doc's Bunkhouse to discuss a possible reduction in his annual lease payment. Derek stated that he maintains the trail and would like to look into a security deposit rather than a lease payment. A motion was made by Merlin Fredrickson to reduce the lease by \$500.00, but the motion died due to lack of a second. A second motion was made by Charles Jensen to reduce the lease by \$1500.00, bringing the \$3000.00 annual lease to then \$1500.00. The motion was seconded by Norman Stoker, all members voted in favor.

The department been working together to create a sign proposal for the Wazee lake entrance. Jon passed out 2 options for the Committee to consider. A motion was made by Karen Thayer to go with the core 10, smaller sign and to stay within the \$8,000.00 budgeted for the project. The motion was seconded by Merlin Fredrickson, all members voted in favor. Jeremy stated that the stone work could be budgeted for in 2015.

Chapter 13 and 14 resolutions were discussed. The resolutions were several years old and chapter 14 needed changes to be in accordance with the 15 year plan. Motion to approve the updated Chapters 13 and 14 was made by Karen Thayer, seconded by Norman Stoker. All members voted in favor.

Jon presented a resolution to adopt the Jackson County Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP). The plan makes the department eligible to compete for stewardship funding. A motion was made by Charles Jensen to adopt the plan, seconded by Merlin Fredrickson. All members voted in favor.

The parks department is looking to trade in an older John Deere front deck lawn mower for a new zero turn mower with a 60 inch deck. A quotation for a new blade for the tractor to groom the ATV trails is also in order. A motion was made by Charles Jensen to go ahead with the mower bid and a quote for the blade with specified changes that allow other dealers to compete for the mower. The motion was seconded by Merlin Fredrickson, all members voted in favor. Because the blade is going to be under \$3,000 a quotation is acceptable.

Motion to go into closed session pursuant to Wis. Stat. 19.85(1)(c) to consider employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation was made by Norman Stoker, all members indicated with a yes.

Motion to approve personnel evaluation for Jim Zahasky made by Norman Stoker, seconded by Charles Jensen. All members voted in favor.

Motion to reconvene in open session pursuant to Wis. Stat. 19.85(2) made by Charles Jensen, seconded by Norman Stoker. All members voted in favor.

Motion to adjourn made by Norm Stoker seconded by Merlin Fredrickson, all members voted in favor.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:10am

Next regular meeting date: April 08, 2014

These minutes will be approved at the April meeting