

The regular monthly meeting for Jackson County Forestry & Parks Department was held at 8:30am on Tuesday, August 9, 2022 at the Jackson County Courthouse. Those in attendance were: Ed Chamberlain, Jerrold Schmidt, Dale Hoff, John Higgins, James Zahasky, Jeremy Breheim and Ashley Stetzer

The regular meeting was called to order at 8:30am by Chairman Ed Chamberlain

A motion was made by John Higgins to approve the minutes from the July meeting. The motion was seconded by Dale Hoff, all members voted in favor.

A motion to approve the bills for payment was made by John Higgins, seconded by Dale Hoff. All members voted in favor.

Chamber Director Amanda Gunn was present and gave an update on the busy summer the Black River Falls area has had.

Zach Clausing from the WI-DNR talked about a 2-acre fire that recently burned mostly pine in Jackson County. New wildlife biologist Christina Maley was also present from the WI-DNR and informed the committee that an elk was killed on interstate 94 on Friday, August 5.

Jim gave a Forestry and Parks report. Work was done on Kovar road for access to a timber sale in the Town of Alma. The emergency exit road at East Arbutus has also been improved. Jeremy Breheim informed the Committee that some seasonal staff are leaving and day use fees are down from 2021.

A new truck purchase was approved in the 2022 for Parks and awarded to Gross Motors. Due to inventory shortage Gross Motors was not able obtain the truck that was specified. Nels Gunderson of Osseo had a Chevrolet 3500HD that would meet specs for the new Parks truck for \$42,800.00. A motion to go forward with purchasing the Chevrolet from Nels Gunderson was made by John Higgins, seconded by Dale Hoff. All members voted in favor.

During the July meeting moss sales were approved. Deli did submit 2 bids for sales that were not previously sold, but their bids were a day late. After discussion a motion was made by John Higgins, seconded by Dale Hoff to approve all moss sales totaling \$10,590.00. All members voted in favor.

Jim discussed the year end purchases with the Committee. A motion as made by John Higgins to approve the addition of sandblasting both the tractor backhoe and the dump truck in the amount of \$10,800.00. The motion was seconded by Dale Hoff, all members voted in favor.

Jim and Jeremy presented the 2023 budget proposals to the Committee. Items include increasing camping fees to off set the increase in utility costs. This also includes an east arbutus boat launch expansion and a new Forestry department truck. A motion to approve the 2023 budget and send to Executive and Finance Committee was made by John Higgins, seconded by Dale Hoff. All members voted in favor. More information will be brought back to the Committee in September regarding rate increases and a new bathroom facility at West Arbutus.

A motion to adjourn at 10:44am was made by Ed Chamberlain, the motion was seconded by Jerry Schmidt. All members voted in favor. The September meeting will be at the Jackson County Courthouse at 8:30am on September 13.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:44am

Next regular meeting date: September 13, 2022

These minutes will be approved at the September Meeting