

The regular monthly meeting for Jackson County Forestry & Parks Department was held at 8:30am on Tuesday, February 9, 2016. Those present were: Merlin Fredrickson, John Chrest, Norman Stoker, Karen Thayer, Jerrold Schmidt, Jim Zahasky and Jon Schweitzer.

Chairman Merlin Fredrickson call the meeting to order at 8:30am

Motion made by Norman Stoker, seconded by John Chrest to approve the minutes from the previous meeting, all members voted in favor.

Motion made by Karen Thayer, seconded by Joh Chrest to approve the bills as presented for payment. All members voted in favor.

Chamber Report: Chris Hardie was at the meeting to present the results of the ATV Trail Economic Impact Survey. The results of the survey reflect that the dollars spent in the County are between 7.6 and 9 million dollars annually. 91% of users are from out of the County and over 80% are satisfied with their stay. Jon and Chris will be presenting the results of the survey to both the Exec and Finance Committee as well as the County Board.

Parks & Trails Report:

Jon presented the monthly parks and trail report to the Committee. Work continues on the lighting conversion and re-surfacing boat docks. Wazee has seen a significant increase in day use fees compared to other winter months and gravel royalties for 2015 were up approximately \$50,000 in 2015.

Trails continue to be groomed and over 2400 ton of base has been hauled on the Ott trail rehab project. Jon GPS'd over 87 miles of snowmobile trails and the box culvert will be ready to bid out March 1.

A motion was made by Karen Thayer to sign the resolution for the donation of land by Gil Holmstead. This parcel was discussed in closed session during the January meeting. The motion was seconded by John Chrest, all members voted in favor.

The Lake Arbutus Association would like both Jackson County and Clark County to sign a permit in regards to putting buoys in Lake Arbutus. Jon would like to show the permit to Corporation Counsel before signing. A motion was made by John Chrest to give the information to Corporation Counsel for review. The motion was seconded by Norm Stoker, all members voted in favor.

Jackson in Action Coalition would like to hold a Snowshoe event at Wazee Lake on Saturday, February 27. The event would offer participants the opportunity to try snowshoeing while enjoying hot chocolate and coffee. The Coalition was requesting the admission fee be waved for all participants. A motion was made by John Chrest, seconded by Karen Thayer to wave the fee and support the event. All members voted in favor.

Forestry Report:

Jim requested permission to advertise for the planting of 23,000 jack pine. A motion was made by Norman Stoker, seconded by Karen Thayer to go forward with advertising, all members voted in favor.

The Forestry Department recently requested bids for a pull-type grader. A motion was made by John Chrest, seconded by Karen Thayer to approve the low bid of \$14,805 to Sand Country Equipment out of Bancroft, Wisconsin. All members voted in favor.

Forestry also went out for bids on a new truck. A motion was made by John Chrest to approve the purchase of a 2016 Chevy standard cab 4X4 truck for \$25,885 from Gross Motors. The motion was seconded by Norman Stoker, all members voted in favor.

The fire towers located on Saddle Mound, Oak Ridge and Knapp are no longer in use and the DNR would like to know what the County wants to do in regards to removing them. Due to technological advances as well as liability issues other means are used to track fires. A motion was made by John Chrest to remove the towers and explore ideas to display in our Parks. The towers have been in commission for a long time and are historic. The motion was seconded by Jerry Schmidt, all members voted in favor.

Both the Forestry as well as the Parks Department are in the process of hiring an LTE (Limit Term Employee). The position would be for a period of approximately 9 month. A motion was made by John Chrest to combine the position, the motion was seconded by Norman Stoker, all members voted in favor.

Jim requested permission for the Parks Department to advertise for seasonal parks staff. A motion was made by Karen Thayer, seconded by Norman Stoker. All members voted in favor.

Last year \$20,000 was allocated for Town Road Grants. These monies were to be used on road improvement projects for townships that have roads on County Forest property. A motion was made by Norman Stoker to once again go forward with this grant project, the motion was seconded by John Chrest. All members voted in favor.

A motion to go into closed session pursuant to Wis. Stat. (1)(c) to consider employment, Promotion, compensation or performance evaluation was made by John Chrest, seconded by Jerry Schmidt. All members voted in favor by roll call.

A motion was made in open session to approve the review of Jim Zahasky with changed made by John Chrest, seconded by Norman Stoker. All members voted in favor.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:00am was made by John Chrest, seconded by Karen Thayer. All members voted in favor.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:00am

Next regular meeting date: March 8, 2016

These minutes will be approved at the March Meeting