

The regular monthly meeting for Jackson County Forestry & Parks Department was held at 8:30am on Tuesday, February 14, 2017. Those present were: Norman Stoker, Karen Thayer, John Chrest, Jerrold Schmidt, Thomas Clark, Jim Zahasky and Jon Schweitzer.

The regular meeting was called to order at 8:30am

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

Motion made by John Chrest, seconded by Jerrold Schmidt to approve the bills as presented for payment. All members voted in favor.

### **Parks & Trails Report:**

Jim, Jon and Jeremy recently met with Clark, Monroe and Eau Claire County Parks Departments to discuss fees structures for 2018 and seasonal staffing issues. The new tracks have been installed on the Kubota to be used on trail work. Boom mowing continues on the trails to prepare for the upcoming summer riding season.

Jon recently attending a training regarding the new SNARS program. SNARS stands for snowmobile automated reporting system and will be used to log grooming and submit claims. The final payment for the box tube grant totaling \$580,000.00 has been submitted to the DNR.

Derek Kunder of Doc's Bunkhouse requested the elimination of his annual lease payment for the spur trail in the amount of \$1500.00. After consideration a motion was made by Karen Thayer, seconded by Norman Stoker to leave the lease payment at \$1500.00. All members voted in favor.

Dawn Jacobson of Black River Memorial Hospital and Jackson in Action was present to discuss the annual Pace & Pedal Event at Wazee Lake County Park. After giving an update from 2016 a motion was made by John Chrest to approve the Jackson in Action Event and wave all fees into the Park on the day of the event. The motion also noted that from this time all approvals and fees would be waved for future Jackson in Action events. The motion as seconded by Norman Stoker, all members voted in favor.

A motion was made by John Chrest, seconded by Thomas Clark to approve a photo contest for Jackson County Parks. Pictures will be used to create brochures and publications in 4 categories including trails, camping, recreation and historical scenes. One winner will be drawn in each of the 4 categories and awarded a 2017 Parks sticker. The contest will be advertised on Facebook and the Parks website. All members voted in favor the motion.

Jeremy Breheim was present at the meeting to discuss the placement of a shallow dive platform in the gardens area at Wazee Lake. The platform would be 10-12 foot deep and used for training purposes. Most of the materials the Parks department has on hand. A chapter 30 permit will need to be applied for through the DNR at a cost of \$300-\$500. A motion to approve the dive platform was made by John Chrest, seconded by Jerrold Schmidt, all members voted in favor.

Jon requested approval to go out for bids for approximately 12,000 tons of material to be used on ORV trail grant projects. A motion was made by John Chrest to approve the request if Corporation Counsel decides bids need to be solicited. The motion was seconded by Norman Stoker, all members voted in favor.

Changes to Chapter 13 ordinances were reviewed. Changes included portable tree stand definitions, temperature restrictions on the ORV trails and game cameras. A motion was made by Norman Stoker to approve the chapter 13 changes, the motion was seconded by John Chrest, all members voted in favor.

A motion to go into closed session according to Wis.Stat(1)(g) conferring with legal counsel regarding likely litigation was made by Norman Stoker, seconded by John Chrest. All members voted in favor.

Motion to reconvene in open session was made by John Chrest, seconded by Thomas Clark, all members voted in favor.

### **Forestry Report:**

Jim requested the Forestry department go back to 10 hour work days after the March 10 daylight savings change. A motion to approve the request was made by John Chrest, seconded by Thomas Clark, all members voted in favor.

Two bids were received to plant approximately 78,000 trees for the 2017 planting season. A motion was made by John Chrest to award Northwoods Forestry the low bid in the amount of \$6,240.00. Superior Forestry was the other bidder coming in at \$6,614.00. The motion was seconded by Norman Stoker, all members voted in favor.

Jim requested permission to send out information for this year's \$20,000 town road grant program. Any township that has County forest land is eligible for a 50/50 matching grant. A motion to approve the request and send out information was made by John Chrest, seconded by Thomas Clark, all members voted in favor.

A timber sale sold at the fall 2016 bid opening to Lambert Forest products was discussed. Jim requested the contract be changed to add a chipping price in the amount of \$14.01/ton. The quantity of the sale would also go up due to fact that the tops would also be chipped. Lambert Forest Products would also remove and grind all remaining stumps at the price of \$1200.00 an acre. The cost to complete the clearing would be covered by the RMEF (Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation) grant. A motion to approve the contract change and finish the land clearing was made by Norman Stoker, seconded by Thomas Clark. All members voted in favor.

A motion to go into closed session pursuant to Wis.Stat 19.85(1)(c) considering employment and performance was made by Norman Stoker, seconded by Thomas Clark. All members voted in favor.

Motion to approve the performance evaluation was made John Chrest, seconded by Norman Stoker, all members voted in favor.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:00pm

Next regular meeting date: March 14, 2017

These minutes will be approved at the March Meeting