

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

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

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

Motion made by Norm Stoker, seconded by Merlin Fredrickson to approve the minutes from the previous meeting, all members voted in favor.

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

**Forestry Report:**

Steve Schauer from Dairyland Power was present to discuss a possible release from their lease agreement for the tower located near Saddle Mound. The lease payment is \$5,000.00 annually. Dairyland offered the Sheriff's Department roughly \$40,000.00 in emergency relief by allowing them to use their tower, generator and building and would like to be released from their financial obligation due to this. Motion was made by Norm Stoker to send this information onto the Executive and Finance Committee for review at their March meeting. The motion was seconded by Merlin Fredrickson, all members voted in favor.

The Forestry Department received 2 bids for tree planting this spring. Motion was made by Merlin Fredrickson to go with Superior Forest Products for \$9,182.60. The motion was seconded by Karen Thayer, all members voted in favor.

Jim discussed active loggers for December and January. Logging activity has been slow, even though winter conditions have been favorable. Delaney Forest Products started a job in mid-December that was set to expire on 12/15/13. Jim recommended that the sale be extended without penalty as long as the logger remained on the job until completion as it was in progress before the actual expiration date. Motion was made by Karen Thayer to grant a free extension for Delaney Forest Products providing job is completed. The motion was seconded by Norman Stoker, all members voted in favor.

Jim updated the Committee about the pipeline being proposed by WE Energies that will run from Eau Claire to Tomah. Jim asked the Committee permission to go ahead with planning proponents and informing necessary departments, as well as Corporation Counsel about this proposal. Motion was made by Karen Thayer to authorize Jim to meet with Corporation Counsel and any necessary affiliates to start the negotiating process. The motion was seconded by Merlin Fredrickson, all members voted in favor.

There will be a 2 day GIS/GPS Training in Stevens Point that Jim would like Jason Wood and Dave Spaude to attend. Jim also asked permission to upgrade the current GIS software as it is 5 years old to align with the software that will be used at the training. Cost to attend the training is \$1450.00 a person; with the software update being an additional \$1200.00 Motion was made by Karen Thayer to approve attendance to the training and the software update. The motion was seconded by Norman Stoker, all members voted in favor.

Motion to approve the Forestry Department to return to 4, 10 hour day work schedules, after daylight savings, was made by Norman Stoker, seconded by Merlin Fredrickson. All members voted in favor.

**Parks & Trails Report:**

Jon updated the Committee on several things that were taking place in the Parks Department for the month of January. Firewood cutting continues, with around 45 cords cut to date. The new well pump has been installed at West Arbutus and East Arbutus has been closed due to drifts. Jon has been working on several revisions to Chapter 13 of the County Code of Ordinances and asked the Committee to bring back their updates at the March meeting after passing out copies for them to review. Jon also asked to send the document to Corporation Counsel to get their review. The Homstad Land purchase is has been finalized, and once the cancelled check has been received in our office Jon will process the grant.

Jon and Jeremy have been working on finalizing a Special Events Permit for the Parks Department. The permit would cover a host of different items if an agreement needs to be made. Motion was made by Norman Stoker to approve the permit in draft form and send to Corporation Counsel for review. The motion was seconded by Karen Thayer, all members voted in favor.

Nicole Schweitzer was present at the meeting on behalf of the Jackson In Action Coalition to discuss the Wazee Pedal and Stride Event to be held at Lake Wazee on June 28<sup>th</sup>. The event will be a 5 mile run followed by an 11 mile bike ride. A youth race and a separate walking event will also be featured. The Coalition was looking for permission to go forward with the planning aspects

of the wellness event as well as asking for the daily fee to be waived for those participating. Motion was made by Karen Thayer, seconded by Merlin Fredrickson to approve the proposal upon completion of the special events permit. Motion was also to waive the \$3.00 entrance fee for the event. All members voted in favor.

Nathon Vandeberg and Derek Kunding were present at the meeting to discuss the lease agreement between Doc's Bunkhouse and the County for the spur access trail. The lease is \$3,000 annually and owner of Doc's Bunkhouse, Derek Kunding, was asking for this to be lowered or eliminated because he has kept up his end of the agreement to keep the trail in good standing over the last 2 years. Decision was made to table this discussion until the March meeting.

A Memorial Policy brochure was passed out to the Committee members outlining what the department would like to do when situations arise in regards to Memorials. The policy would offer individuals the option to purchase either a 4 or 6 foot bench to be placed in a park of their choice. Final placement would be at the discretion of the Parks Department. It was noted that something should be added regarding perpetual care in case the bench was to become damaged. Motion was made by Karen Thayer, seconded by Merlin Fredrickson to approve the policy with additions. All members voted in favor.

Motion to adjourn made by Norm Stoker seconded by Karen Thayer, all members voted in favor.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:45am

Next regular meeting date: March 11, 2014

These minutes will be approved at the March meeting