

The regular monthly meeting for Jackson County Forestry & Parks Department was held at 8:30am, on Tuesday, September 9, 2014. Those present were: John Chrest, Norm Stoker, Merlin Fredrickson, Karen Thayer, Jerrold Schmidt, Jim Zahasky, Jon Schweitzer and Ashley Stetzer.

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

Motion made by Norman Stoker, seconded by John Chrest to approve the minutes from the previous meeting as well as the Budget meeting with one correction to remove Karen Thayer from the Budget meeting attendance as she was not present. All members voted in favor.

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

Forestry Report:

Jim requested permission to advertise for new flooring to be installed at the Jackson County Forestry & Parks main office. A motion was made by John Chrest, seconded by Karen Thayer to go out for bids. All members voted in favor.

Jim informed the Committee that a new pull behind mower needs to be purchased for the Forestry department. The current mower is over 12 years old and no longer in good working condition. The Committee discussed the possibility of sharing this mower with the Hwy Department as they just purchased 2 new mowers. A motion was made by Karen Thayer, seconded by John Chrest to check with the Hwy department to see if their mower would be feasible and attainable for the times needed at the Forestry department. If it is proven that sharing a mower would not work then permission was granted to go out for bids. John Chrest added that Jim should come back to the Committee if he was uncertain what decision is to be made. All members voted in favor.

The overhead doors at the Forestry shop as well as the roof are also budget items for 2014 that need attention. A motion was made by Norman Stoker, seconded by John Chrest to go forth with repairs to the doors and the roof. All members voted in favor.

The Committee reviewed several logging issues that were brought forth at the August meeting. The Committee reviewed an issue that took place on Bell Mound road where the County felt excessive rutting had occurred and by the terms of the contract charged the Loggers involved. After consideration a motion was passed by John Chrest to go forward with the repair cost and require D&D Mechanized pulping to pay \$222.50 and B&M Logging to pay \$372.50 respectively for damage done to the road. The motion was seconded by Karen Thayer, all members voted in favor.

The meeting was temporarily adjourned to go on a forest tour to areas loggers felt needed attention.

The meeting was again called to order by Chairman Merlin Fredrickson. A decision was made to move the issues at hand to the October meeting.

Parks & Trails Report:

Jon informed the Committee about a section of snowmobile trail that Jackson County cannot groom. Through a joint idea with Wood County Jon asked permission to relinquish 1.5 miles of snowmobile trail back to Wood County so that area could be groomed. A motion was made by Karen Thayer to go forth with turning the 1.5 miles over to Wood County. The motion was seconded by John Chrest, all members voted in favor.

With low employee recruit for the 2014 camping season the idea to offer weekend differential pay was discussed. Jon explained that with a \$2.00 incentive to work weekends it could potentially help with staff shortages and encourage weekend help. A motion was made by John Chrest to try the differential pay on weekends and holidays for one year. After one year it will be brought back to the Committee for review. The motion was seconded by Norman Stoker, all members voted in favor.

Jon explained to the Committee that he has been partnering with the Black River Chamber of Commerce and the UW-Extension office to complete an ATV user survey for the summer of 2015. The survey would help collect accurate data in regards to spending patterns and overall impacts to the County. Total cost for the survey would be \$3,000.00 and the cost would be shared with the Chamber of Commerce putting the County's contribution at \$1,500.00. A motion was made by Karen Thayer to go forth with the survey and allow the County to pay \$1,500.00. The motion was seconded by Jerrold Schmidt, all members voted in favor.

An electrical upgrade in the back loop of East Arbutus is needed to complete the final phases of the Parks electrical updates. The upgrade would replace wiring to approximately 42 campsites. A plan will be developed by Jim Olson who is a commercial electrical inspector. The plan will then go out for bids to other contractors not including Jim Olson. A motion to go forward with the electrical upgrade bids was made by John Chrest, seconded by Norman Stoker. All members voted in favor.

A roof on the small ATV shower houses at East Arbutus needs to be replaced. The shingles currently on the roof are recalled shingles. Jon asked permission to install 40 year architectural shingles and require whoever wins the bid to help with warranty information and information regarding the recalled shingles. A motion was made by Norman Stoker to go forward with the roof replacement as noted above. The motion was seconded by John Chrest, all members voted in favor.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:30 pm was made by Norman Stoker, seconded by John Chrest All members voted in favor.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:30pm

Next regular meeting date: October 14, 2014

These minutes will be approved at the October meeting