

Rusk County Land and Forestry Committee
Meeting Minutes
November 18, 2020

The monthly meeting of the Rusk County Land and Forestry Committee was called to order at 8:00 am, Wednesday, November 18, 2020.

Rusk County Land and Forestry Committee: Phil Schneider, Lyle Lieftring, Allan Rathsack and Terry Dusell. Jerry Biller absent.

Also present: Jeremy Koslowski – Forest Administrator, Connie Meyer – Clerk III, Jerrad Macholl – Assistant Forest Administrator.

Present from the Public:
Don Mansky, Bob Grunseth and Mark Schmidt

Approval of Minutes:
Motion by DuSell/Lieftring to approve October 21, 2020 meeting minutes. Motion carried

Public Comment:
Don Mansky had questions on gravel for Betty Lake Road.

Parks and Recreation:
Jeremy gave his report on the following:

- DNR Grant Award letter for Meadow Dam ATV Trail for 568,000.00.
- Campground update.

Timber Sales:
Jerrad gave his report on the following:

- Ted Strzok crews plan on working all winter.
- Ron Smugala will be working by Josie Creek.
- Justin Kreier will finish Contract #2526 and #2527.

Administrators report:
No specific report given.

Closed Session – Land Purchase Negotiation.
Chair announces closed session for deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session, WI Stats 19.85(1) (e).

Motion by Lieftring/DuSell to go into Closed Session. Roll Call voting yes: Lieftring, Rathsack, Schneider and DuSell. .

Also present: Dave Willingham and Randy Tatur.

Entered into closed session at 9:57 a.m.

Motion by Lieftring/Dusell to return to open session at 10:27 a.m. Motion carried.

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Motion Schneider/Lieffring to approve negotiations and present to the county board. Motion carried.

9:00 Fall Timber Sale Bid Opening:

Chairman Schneider called for Fall Timber Sale Bid Opening.

The Bid winners are as follows:

Tract #	Acres	Bids	High Bidder	Bid Value	Minumum Bid
2-20	155	1	Franzen , Justin	\$ 58,048.00	\$ 57,878.00
7-20	104	1	Franzen , Justin	\$ 70,225.60	\$ 69,712.50
13-20	104	1	Paul Wojcik, PAW LLC	\$ 8,280.00	\$ 8,215.00
15-20	33	2	Rejected Per Policy	\$ -	\$ 11,663.50
16-20	45	1	Theodor Strzok Logging	\$ 93,660.00	\$ 89,390.00
17-20	91	4	Theodor Strzok Logging	\$ 258,560.00	\$ 184,380.00
18-20	46	2	Rejected Per Policy	\$ -	\$ 27,905.00
19-20	92	1	Paul Wojcik, PAW LLC	\$ 49,440.00	\$ 49,390.00
20-20	100	2	Theodor Strzok Logging	\$ 70,010.00	\$ 65,740.00
21-20	130	2	Theodor Strzok Logging	\$ 104,640.00	\$ 89,240.00
22-20	186	2	Theodor Strzok Logging	\$ 211,565.00	\$ 163,770.00
23-20	111	4	Theodor Strzok Logging	\$ 94,550.00	\$ 77,350.00
24-20	37	2	Kreier Forest Product	\$ 15,965.00	\$ 15,440.00
25-20	79	4	Theodor Strzok Logging	\$ 205,350.00	\$ 149,350.00
26-20	146	6	R.M. Bay Logging	\$ 171,090.00	\$ 103,450.00
				\$ 1,411,383.60	\$ 1,162,874.00

Discussed the new bidder rule policy.

- The number of Timber Sale Contracts that any one timber producer may have will be based on a proven performance record with Rusk County.
- All new contractors will be allowed to have only 2 Contracts (Timber Sales) with Rusk County under contract until they have successfully completed (Closed Out) 1 or more contracts.
- If a new bidder is the highest bidder on more sales than allowed with Rusk County, the County will select which bids will be awarded. The awarding of sales will be done on a basis of the largest price differential between the total highest bid and the next highest bid or zero, if no other bids were received. The total bid value of the sale will be used to determine the value of the bid.

Motion by Lieffring/Rathsack to give Franzen Tract #2 and Tract#7, reject Tract #15 and Tract #18 and give Tract #24 to the next highest bidder with accordance with the County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan/Timber Sale Contract Awarding (Limiting Sales). Motion carried.

Discussion on a logger having too many bids and the risk for Rusk County.

Motion by Lieffring/Rathsack to approve all high bids and follow the New Bidder Policy listed in the County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan Chaper 500 - . TIMBER SALE CONTRACT AWARDING: (LIMITING SALES). Motion carried.

Prescriptive Easement over county forest land located in Section 15, Township 36 Range 3 West:

Mark Schmidt gave a presentation to the Committee for a request on the prescriptive easement over County Forest land located in Section 15, Township 36 Range 3 West. The Rusk County easement is 16 ½ feet that Mark is requesting prescriptive rights to which they have maintained the Rusk Counties property for many years. Rich Summerfield – Corporate Council gave advice on the legal factual basis if the County entered into litigation.

Motion by Rathsack/DuSell to approve a prescriptive easement in Section 15, T 36 - R 3 W to Mark Schmidt. Motion carried.

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2021 Forestry work Plan:

2021 Work plan was presented to the Forestry Committee.

Motion by DuSell/Lieffring to approve the 2021 work plan and forward to County Board. Motion carried.

Resolution:

Jeremy presented the 2021 County Forest Variable Acreage Resolution to the Committee.

Motion by DuSell/Schneider to approve and forward to County Board. Motion carried.

Equipment:

Truck Purchase - The Forestry Department is down a Truck. Jeremy would like permission to transfer a 2016 truck from the Sheriff's Dept. to the Forestry Fleet and auction off the 2003 Forestry Truck.

Motion by Lieffring/Rathsack to transfer the 2016 truck from the Sheriff's Dept. to the Forestry fleet and auction the 2003 Forestry truck. Motion carried.

ATV Purchase – ATV is older and is no longer in working condition. Money is available in a carry forward account to purchase a new ATV.

Motion by DuSell/Lieffring to approve the purchase of a ATV and forward to Finance/Property for approval. Motion carried.

Clerk III Replacement:

Discussion on advertising for Connie's replacement in the Forestry Office.

Motion by DuSell/Lieffring to advertise for replacement for the Clerk III position and appoint Lieffring as the Forestry Committee member to be part of the interview process. Motion carried.

Out of County Travel:

None

Budget Review:

No comment.

Review and Approve Bills:

Motion by DuSell/Lieffring to approve October and November AP report. Motion carried.

Adjourn:

Motion by Lieffring/Schneider to adjourn at 10:47 am. Motion carried.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, December 16, 2020 at 8:00 a.m. at Law Enforcement Government Center.