

***MINUTES OF THE
HIGHWAY, INFRASTRUCTURE & RECREATION COMMITTEE***

DAY & DATE: Thursday, March 3, 2016

PLACE: Wood County Courthouse, 400 Market St., Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494

MEETING TIME: 8:00 A.M.

ADJOURNMENT TIME: 10:49 A.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Al Breu, Secretary Dennis Polach, Member Marion Hokamp, Member William Winch

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: Vice Chairman Trent Miner

OTHERS PRESENT: Chad Schooley, Park and Forestry Director; Sandra Green, Park and Forestry Office Supervisor; Fritz Schubert, Park and Forestry Forest Administrator; William Peters; Don Schiller; Wood County Board Member, Joe Zurfluh; Wood County Board Member, Member Bill Clendenning; Greg Wipfli, Wood County Board Chairperson, Lance Pliml; Steve Grant, WI DNR, Vic Bertotto, Linda Peters; Baumann; Ed Dockett

1. Chairman Al Breu called the meeting to order at 8:00 A.M.
2. Public Comments: In attendance were individuals with questions and concerns regarding the firewood ordinance the committee approved at the January 7, 2016 meeting.

Discussion took place regarding several issues the individuals would like to see addressed. Greg Wipfli stated that people are wondering where the help is coming from to handle all the firewood that will be needed in order to keep up with the increased demand due to the new ordinance. A. Breu stated he and C. Schooley had discussed working with the county Forest Administrator, as there are always active timber sales where certain sections of county forest could be thinned out and the firewood brought into the county parks to sell. Currently, the Forest Administrator is working on setting up areas to be cut and thinned for the purpose of stockpiling for future firewood sales in the campgrounds. The goal would be to know where all wood is coming from that is processed into firewood for the campgrounds, and to stay as local as possible to the individual parks. The difference between a logger and a private citizen bringing the wood into the parks is we know exactly where the wood is coming from.

A constituent stated "We love our parks and we don't want to lose them, but why can't we bring our own wood in to the parks if we are residents of Wood County and revise the ordinance to indicate that?" It was also mentioned that people will be paying so much more money to buy firewood for camping.

Many campers burn wood all day and all weekend for warming, cooking and socializing. It's estimated to cost over \$100 for a family in addition to the cost of camping. Another constituent asked "What is wrong with the wood just a stone throw from the county park?"

C. Schooley commented it is still not a guarantee that the wood is coming from that property and we would have no way of monitoring and enforcing where the wood is actually coming from or where it was cut from. The existing set up of the parks does not require individuals to "check in", and many times during early and late season, there may not be any staff in the campground at all with the campers self registering.

One constituent stated a lot of private campgrounds do not have these firewood restrictions, it is only campgrounds owned and operated by the Wood County Park and Forestry Department. A. Breu stated "We need to do the best job we can to control this Emerald Ash Borer. We won't catch everything, but we can only do the best we can and in the meantime we will educate all of our campers and visitors on why it is important we bring in clean wood."

W. Winch stated he would like to work on getting this ordinance revised so that firewood can be brought in from anywhere in Wood County. A. Breu said it has to go one way or the other and not pick and choose who can bring wood in and who can't. There needs to be a level playing field between everyone. C. Schooley explained that if Wood County wanted to ensure that only Wood County firewood was brought into the campground, there would be a pretty significant cost with building a "check in" entrance, along with staffing this location from May-November from 8am to 10pm daily. W. Winch asked the committee and constituents for suggestions:

- 1) Keep the parks going just as they are and continue to allow the Wood County residents to bring in their own firewood.
- 2) L. Pliml – agrees with W. Winch. How do you ascertain the difference between tree species and what are hibernating in the trees? He also believes we should take this ordinance into further consideration for our camping residents.
- 3) Is this ordinance worth killing the County Parks System, a visitor asked.
- 4) Constituents are asking to place a large fine on bringing illegal wood in and remove the ordinance. It will only benefit those that are following the rules to keep the EAB out of our county park system.

A. Breu states we should put it on the agenda for next month and fine tune it. Possibly make exceptions that we can try to enforce for the residents of Wood County using our campgrounds.

C. Schooley mentioned that he would not want to wait until the April HIRC and County Board meeting to make this decision, due to the campground opening of May 1st being just around the corner. If possible, the committee could meet prior to county board, with the full board voting that same day. It is agreed the HIRC will meet prior to the next County Board meeting on March 15, 2016 and then present the resolution or revised ordinance to the County Board that day. The visiting constituents appreciated us taking the time to listen to them and their concerns and taking all of their comments into consideration.

C. Schooley is asking what the committee would like him to do at this point. L. Pliml said to move the resolution forward to rescind the ordinance and then draft another resolution, ordinance or policy to put into place and then take this to the county board. It would still take board action to amend the current ordinance. C. Schooley asked if we should draft a new ordinance or simply make this a policy. A. Breu suggested simply excluding Wood County residents from the ordinance. It was mentioned this will no longer be enforceable, and thus must be an educational opportunity.

Wood County ATV Park in Port Edwards. A constituent stated he has been riding this park for many years and agrees the park is nice however, the trails are a mess. W. Winch said he learned that when it rains the ATV trails get very soupy and there is no bottom. C. Schooley stated the ATV area has a very high water table. There are a couple of holes that we have problems with. We let the club know and they go out there with the grader and level things out. Some people love it because that is the experience they are looking for.

The constituent also brought up the possibility of having campsites at the ATV area. Also, finding a way to get there using county land is not possible as the park goes nowhere. It would be really nice if we could connect with different town and/or county roads.

A constituent mentioned crossing the bridge in Nekoosa on the WI River. Highway Commissioner Passineau stated it is possible, but there is a Statute out there that you have to follow to a "T" in order to be able to cross that bridge. L. Pliml suggested pleasing both parties and split off part of the trail so its cleaner, but leave the mud holes. Also suggested it would behoove us to be able to connect to ATV trails connected to other counties. C. Schooley stated that the HIRC and P&F Department have always been open to expanding trails if the interested parties could get other routes or trails connected for longer sections. The challenge is going to be getting road routes on the town roads and County Highways to meet up with existing trails elsewhere.

3. Approve minutes of the February 4, 2016 Highway, Infrastructure, and Recreation Committee meeting(s).

M. Hokamp made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 4, 2016 Highway, Infrastructure, and Recreation Committee meeting minutes. D. Polach seconded the motion. Motion carried.

HIGHWAY:

4. Discuss property located at CTH H and CTH V intersection.

D. Passineau stated they were looking into this property and did not negotiate. The For Sale signs are down. The property is well off the right-of-way off H and V. Until it is brought up again, we will not pursue it at this point.

5. Discuss PBMs for crack filling on STH 13 South and shoulders on STH 80.

Performance Based Maintenance. This is a DOT program they started a few years ago.

6. Discuss and possibly act on bituminous materials bid results.

Bids were opened yesterday. This is an annual occurrence. Information was handed out to each committee member regarding the bids that were placed. **D. Polach made a motion to go with the bid most advantageous to Wood County. M. Hokamp seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

7. Discuss and possibly act on milling and pulverizing bid results.

M. Hokamp made a motion to go with the bid most advantageous to Wood County. W. Winch seconded the motion. Motion carried.

8. Discuss PASER ratings.

Pavement ratings information was handed out to each committee member. The ratings show the conditions of all county roads in Wood County and helps us put together a maintenance program for them.

9. MOU with Land and Water Conservation for Forestry Shop use.

Memorandum of Understanding. How will the funding be handled to allow Land and Water to utilize this space? There is only one side of the connector door currently with a pad lock on. The other concern was there is no money/rent involved in this proposal. D. Polach states it should stay strictly for the Hwy. Dept. and allow Land and Water to utilize that space only when needed. D. Passineau said they will help them with their tree sales when needed and will not leave them hanging when the time comes.

To be used for site-prep for Land and Water Conservation Dept. B. Winch asked why we are exchanging monies Wood County Dept. to Wood County Dept. However, it is noted this is normal practice within Wood County Government. It was noted that Land Conservation shall be a part of this discussion and should be placed on the agenda for the April meeting.

10. Frac Sand update.

D. Passineau updated the committee.

11. Current projects update.

Highway is patching, fixing drainage spouts, making sign and asphalt plant repairs.

12. Approve payment of bills.

There were questions on why sales tax was included on some of the receipts. D. Passineau will follow up with his staff regarding this and have it taken care of.

D. Polach made a motion to approve payment of bills. M. Hokamp seconded the motion. Motion carried.

13. Accounting Supervisor's Report.

Motion by M. Hokamp to approve the accounting supervisor's report. Seconded by W. Winch. Motion carried.

14. Correspondence.

D. Passineau stated he would be sending seven employees to training school in the future. They will be painting the underside of a bridge on N. between A and Hwy. 80 that was built in 1974. This will extend the time before it's due for replacement. D. Passineau handed out information regarding their spring meeting the "North Central Spring Meeting" and invited all to join if they are able. In addition, he mentioned that DOT had purchased a trailer about two months ago and is not big enough for them to haul their new Stop and Go lights. The Highway Department will be in discussion with the Wisconsin DOT regarding purchasing a new trailer at a reasonable price that will better suit their needs. D. Passineau stated this was a good buy and they would be able to put the old trailer to good use in hauling their crack filling routers.

W. Winch made a motion to approve correspondence. Seconded by D. Polach. Motion carried.

PARKS:

15. Parks Construction Supervisor report.

- a. Current projects update.
- b. Employee matters.

C. Schooley provided report. No questions.

M. Hokamp made a motion to approve the Parks Construction Supervisor report.

Seconded by D. Polach. Motion carried.

16. Parks Office Supervisor report.

- a. Snowmobile/ATV Reports
- b. Office update

S. Green provided report. The ATV trail expansion was mentioned again. The committee wishes to discuss this further at another meeting. However, we need to wait until we find out more information from the Towns Association Meeting that is coming up soon. It was also mentioned that perhaps we will invite the club members as well. This will be tabled for a later date.

M. Hokamp made a motion to approve the Parks Office Supervisor report. D. Polach seconded the motion. Motion carried.

17. Parks Director report.

- a. White Sands Beach project grant application resolution.
- b. Special Use Permits.

M. Hokamp made a motion to approve the resolution to apply for a grant for the Whited Sands Beach remodel project. Seconded by D. Polach. Motion carried.

D. Polach made a motion to approve the Special Use Permits. Seconded by W. Winch. Motion carried.

B. Winch made a motion to approve the Park and Forestry Director report. Seconded by D. Polach. Motion carried.

C. Schooley stated the carry over funds request was tabled by the Executive Committee until their April meeting. The delay was due to the Human Service Department not having their year-end numbers in order yet. Due to this, the Dexter maintenance shop construction project is on hold. The storage building is still scheduled for construction this upcoming summer.

FORESTRY:

18. Forester Administrator report.

- a. Timber Sale update.
- b. Possible land donation from private party to Wood County Forest.

The land donation would be a 40 acre parcel. The donation/gift was discussed and agreed this is a wonderful opportunity as this property is surrounded by county forest on 3 sides and there is a fair amount of merchantable timber on the property. Questions were raised such as what would the tax implications be? Since 25 of the 40 acres are enrolled in MFL, the taxes would not be significant.

F. Schubert will bring more information forward at the next meeting and in the meantime, will discuss with Corp. Counsel on how to proceed with the transfer of ownership for this parcel of land.

W. Winch made a motion to move forward with acquisition of property gifting. Seconded by D. Polach. Motion carried.

D. Polach made a motion to approve the Forester Administrator report. Seconded by M. Hokamp. Motion carried.

19. Correspondence.

C. Schooley asked if everyone had seen the information regarding "Discover Wisconsin" presentation in Pittsville on March 17, 2016.

C. Schooley also received a "Thank You" letter from a Mr. Dan Hobbs regarding the Multi - Metro Deer Hunt in Wisconsin Rapids. They harvested 47 deer in the urban areas this past season.

20. Approve payment of bills.

W. Winch made a motion to approve the payment of bills. Seconded by M. Hokamp. Motion carried.

21. Revenue report.

M. Hokamp made a motion to approve the Revenue report. Seconded by D. Polach. Motion carried.

22. Next meeting date: March 15, 2016 at the Wood County Courthouse, in Room 317A at 9:00 am, prior to County Board.

23. Motion to adjourn.

M. Hokamp made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by W. Winch. Motion carried.



Dennis Polach, Secretary

Minutes taken by Sandra M. Green, Wood County Park and Forestry Office Supervisor