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Zoning and Conservation 01/11/2012

Minutes

Sawyer County Zoning and Conservation Committee

January 11, 2012

Committee Members Present: Fred Zietlow, Bruce Paulsen, Warren Johnson, Chuck Gunderson, Bernie Kadlec and James Bassett.

Others Present: Len Eckerly, Dick Dewhurst, Linda Zillmer, Mike Robers, Dale Beisell, Robyn Thake, Brian DeVries, Thomas J. Duffy, Dale Olson, Cindy Yackley, Eric Wellauer, and Terrell Boettcher – Sawyer County Record.

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Chairman Bassett.

Motion by Johnson second by Zietlow to approve the agenda. Motion Carried.

Motion by Gunderson, second by Zietlow to approve the December minutes. Motion carried.

Audience Recognition

None

OLD BUSINESS:

Placid Lake Diversion Canal

Olson updated the committee stating that grant funding has been received. He initially requested \$47,000.00 which was his estimate and then found that it could be up to \$50,000.00 at 100% paid, so he asked for the additional \$3,000.00. He also drafted a bid document and asked that the bids be returned by February 3rd. To date there have been 7 packets that have gone out to earth work contractors. He was also in contact with the Town of Round Lakes road maintenance person regarding that area of road being left open during the summer but stated he was told that the county would be liable for the maintenance of it while it's left open to settle and compact the soils and it might mean that the county would need to be out there every week grading the pot holes. The town was sent a bid package and Olson stated that he's hoping that the road only be closed down for a couple of days. Olson stated that October 1st would be the deadline for the project end.

Flood Plain Maps

Paulsen gave a short background on this issue and stated that the Land Records Director, Robyn Thake had some questions/concerns with the map project as to a legal issue, who would be doing the work and who would pay for it. Thake asked what the deadline for completion of the project would be and Paulsen stated that it would be within the Land Records schedule. It was also mentioned that Todd Goold, Point North Mapping had submitted a sample map and for \$3,900.00 he would map those lakes within the Couderay watershed. A lengthy discussion was held on the maps and whether it was the intention to have maps only within the Couderay watershed or the entire county. TJ Duffy had concerns regarding the existing FEMA maps verses the proposed new maps and the liability issues that may arise due to no language in the zoning ordinance addressing the new maps. It was decided that Olson is to find out what other counties are doing and bring back to the committee. Thake's other concerns were the software needed, possible consultant fees and where the funding would come from. Discussion was held and it was decided that Thake would bring back to the committee a total cost to do the project. It was also mentioned that spot checks by a surveyor/county surveyor would need to be done for accuracy. TJ Duffy was asked to create some language for the ordinance regarding the use of the new maps.

Round Lake Watershed Management Issues

Paulsen updated the committee on the progress stating that the Round Lake Property Owners Association will be having the water level gauges at the County Road B, Carlson Road and the Hausman sea wall surveyed as well as establishing two other surveyed gauges located on Osprey Lake and the northwest part of Round Lake. The Association has requested that the county pay for 1/3 of the cost or up to \$500.00. Also, Jim Purdin presented the task force a draft of alternatives to the counties recommendations. The task force will be meeting again to review their draft after getting input from the DNR. He also mentioned that during the spring and summer the RLPOA, would like to simulate at the Carlson Road dam a fixed weir with a v-notch described in the SEH report and they will submit an outline of the proposal. Paulsen also informed the committee that the task force has asked the county's attorney to draft a petition to be sent to the DNR requesting they rescind the 1941 order.

NEW BUSINESS:

NRCS Business

No representative present

DNR Business

No representative present

LCO Business

No representative present

Mike Robers – request discussion on uses in the RR-1 zone district to include farming.

Mike Robers addressed the committee regarding his request to change the zoning ordinance to allow farming in the residential zone districts stating that he owns a 5 acres plot of land which approximately 3 acres is tillable and would like to farm it but has resistance from neighbors because of it being in a residential subdivision which also has covenants on it. He submitted a copy of the 2011 Sawyer County Farm Bureau Resolution which included the support of this issue by the farm bureau. Dick Beisell spoke in favor. Discussion was held and it was decided that Olson would contact other counties to see how they handled this type of request and to bring a recommendation back to the committee next month.

Resolution for a conservation easement by the Bayfield Regional Conservancy

Johnson stated that this issue was heard at County Board, but they hadn't seen the resolution. The resolution and map was passed around for review. Motion by Johnson, second by Paulsen, to approve the resolution subject to Corporate Councils review. Motion carried.

Carmody update

Eric Wellauer submitted a cover letter for the committee to review stating that over a year ago, there were over 150% inventory in the county and based on errors in the system, work is being done to correct this. The reported septic systems in the county went from 17,000 in 2010 to most recently a little over 12,000 and work continues to clean up the duplicates and correcting the errors. Approximately 2,700 systems of unknown types are/will be researched. Approximately 8,000 reminder cards were sent out this fall. Wellauer stated that he thinks the system is working well and that it will take time to clean it up. About 1/4 of other counties are complete with their inventory and 3/4 are approaching completion. The State has given a deadline of October 1, 2019 to complete the inventory. When asked when he anticipated the inventory being done, Olson stated that Zoning has approximately 2,000 permits of unknown type and these will require field visits for verification. Discussion was held on the possibility of hiring a summer intern to do these field visits with the possibility of the intern also working on a lake survey project. This subject then led into the lake survey program. Property owner associations for Smith Lake, Clear Lake, Lovejoy and possibly Sand Lake have shown an interest but have not contacted the office to move forward with it. The Namekagon River and Lake Hayward areas not within the city limits were also mentioned. Olson stated that he contacted the National Park Service to see if they would help with funds for the river and the Park Service has agreed to commit money as well as offer the use of their biologist in the survey of the river. Wellauer will draft a plan and bring back to the committee. A yearly summary was handed out showing the total revenue that was brought in from the various permits with Olson adding that the total revenue was above the zoning budget.

Condo units and fire numbers

Olson stated that this agenda item was discussed at a land information meeting held earlier but the issue was that some towns were upset that if there were 5 or more fire

numbers on a driveway they had to make it a road and with the condo units, what is being reverted back to is one fire number for the entire condo property and then each cabin would be listed as a,b,c, etc. Olson stated that the zoning staff depends on the individual fire numbers for onsite inspections. Discussion was held with no action taken as ZAC is not the committee of jurisdiction. Olson stated that it was placed on the agenda prior to the meeting held by Land Records for information only. Olson stated that he will attend the next Property Address meeting to voice zonings concerns.

Invasive Species contract renewal

Olson informed the committee that this contract is signed every 2 years for Kristi Maki's position who is an independent contractor. It is the same contract as in past years and it is 100% grant funded. The grant money has been received in the amount of \$101,000.00 and is covered in the office budget. Johnson stated that the contract should be reviewed by council for any liability to the county. Olson stated that there was only one change he made to the contract adding minimum hours. Motion by Paulsen, second by Gundersen to approve the contract contingent upon Corp Council reviewing and that the next time this contract becomes due for approval, there be a prior 3 month notice. Motion carried.

County Monthly Work Report

Olson handed out the December permit totals and the receipts by payment code. He also passed out a list of impaired waters (lakes) in Sawyer County created by the DNR. The majority of the lakes on the listed are because of mercury.

Olson also informed the committee that he received an e-mail from Kurtis Straus, who is a structural engineer on the Winter Depot Project, who is asking if the small parcel of land near the depot (known as the Aksley property) will be given to the Friends Group as previously anticipated. Discussion was held on what to do with the property. Bassett stated that by it being only 0.11 acres, there is nothing that can be done with it without combining it with another property and it is basically useless to the county. More discussion was held. It was determined that Johnson will speak with the Friends Group and a plan will be drawn up to review at next month's meeting.

Olson reported that money was budgeted for a new vehicle this year. Eric Wellauer got bids on 4-door sedans that got 30-40 mpg and the estimates he's received that meet the budgeted price (which was \$18,500.00) was the Chevy Cruz, Ford Focus and Dodge Avender. He stated he's still in the process of researching, and will prepare a summary for next month's meeting.

Eric Wellauer also informed the Committee that he is proposing to hold a continuing education course for the local soil testers and plumbers, to discuss code changes, ordinance changes and how the process might change for the upcoming construction season. It was also mentioned that a public informational meeting will be held in February for the realtors, builders and excavators regarding the new shoreland ordinance, at Flat Creek.

Review and Approve Monthly Expenditures

Motion by Zietlow, second by Gundersen to approve the vouchers. Motion carried.

Closed Session: Pursuant to Section 19.85(1)(g), Wisconsin Statutes, for the purpose of discussing litigation in which the County is involved in.

Motion by Johnson, second by Zietlow to convene into closed session. Motion carried.

Motion by Paulsen, second by Zietlow to convene into open session

ADJOURN

Motion by Paulsen, second by Gundersen to adjourn. Motion carried.

Minutes prepared by Cindy Yackley