The monthly meeting of the Rusk County Land and Forestry Committee was called to order at 9:00 A.M. on Monday, August 8, 2011. Present from the committee were: Phil Schneider, Pete Boss, Roger Svoma, Tony Hauser. Absent was Bob Nawrocki. Also present were: Paul Teska – County Forest Administrator; Randy Tatur – County Board Chair; Terry Tappon – DNR Liaison; Pete Wisdom, DNR Area Supervisor. From the public, Don Mansky.

Motion by Hauser to approve the minutes of the previous meeting and adjust the agenda as necessary 2nd by Svoma carried.

Motion by Svoma to adjust the minutes of the June meeting to read “Antczak Construction bids were per TON and the minutes read per Yard. 2nd by Boss carried.

Contract # 2363/Ted Strzok - Pat Zimmer the Assistant Forest Administrator went into this sale and observed a load of unscaled wood being loaded onto a truck. Zimmer had them unload the unscaled wood from the truck. Driver informed Zimmer that it was a mistake. Olynick is Strzok’s trucking contractor who hired Daryl Mast. In further checking 2 other loads had gone out unscaled. We can charge double stumpage for the 2 loads that went out on July 14. Double stumpage charges will be $ 1,396.24. Daryl Mast was issued a county ordinance citation for theft. Strzok and Mast are aware of these penalties. Motion by Boss to charge Ted Strzok double stumpage on Contract # 2363, 2nd by Hauser, carried.

Contract # 2376 – Butler Forest Products - Motion by Boss to close out and transfer the cash bond in the amount of $ 3,372.56 for the final stumpage payment, per Butler's request, 2nd by Hauser, carried.

Contract # 2265 – Jim Poyda – Motion by Boss to close out and cancel letter of credit, 2nd by Svoma, carried.

Certification Audit – Audit is Thursday, August 11, 2011. Teska would like at least one committee member to be at the meeting. Motion by Hauser to authorize Roger Svoma to attend, 2nd by Boss, carried.

Becker County Forest Land Access Permit – Loretta Becker wants a temporary permit to access their property T35N  R6W  Sec. 29, 3, 31, for logging purposes for the following 2 winters; frozen ground season only. It would expire March 15, 2014. Motion by Svoma to grant Loretta Becker a temporary access permit, 2nd by Hauser, carried.

County Forest Ordinance – last month the committee made the motion to allow campers to stay at a campsite for 14 days. It was already in the policy.

Non-Profit Organizations – we are getting more non-profit organizations asking to camp at the campgrounds, church groups, 4-H groups, etc. In the 15 year plan it states that the policy has been to deal with them on an individual basis. We need to have a consistent policy. Boss made the motion to charge non profit groups camping fees of $10.00 per night per site, Monday through Thursdays and full price on Weekends – Friday through Sunday, 2nd by Svoma, carried.

Refund Policy – at present the policy is NO REFUNDS. Allow a refund up to 10 days before the first day of their reservation. Bring this back with a clear-cut recommendation.
Surveillance Camera System – Teska has been checking into a camera system $1,758.00 plus accessories camera enclosures and battery banks for a total of approximately $2,700.00. Money in the State Aid Forestry Budget. Teska would like to get this ordered. Motion by Hauser to order and purchase the camera system, using State Aid Forestry money, 2nd by Svoma, carried.

Boss made the motion to pay the bills, 2nd by Hauser, carried.

DNR Cuts to County Forestry Program - Teska reported that the DNR did a strategic direction study. We have been cut approximately 5% program-wise. Impact of reduction total $276,000.00. What it means for Rusk County is that we have to come up with $12,438.00. County has to find this by either cutting DNR man hours or grants that we receive. (Administrator Grant, Wildlife Habitat. Sustainable Forestry Grants). Teska does not want them to cut man hours. Teska recommends having the DNR take the unused portion of the administrator grant and the remaining of the Rusk County sustainable Forestry Grant.

2011-12 Budgets – committee went through. Motion by Boss to approve and recommend to the Finance Committee for final approval, 2nd by Svoma, carried.

11:00 A.M. – ATV Bids Motion by boss to close the bidding, 2nd by Hauser, carried. Only one bid received from Northwest Honda $6,529.00 Motion by Svoma to accept the bid by Northwest Honda, 2nd by Hauser, money to come out of the State Aid Forestry Budget, carried.

Motion by Boss to adjourn at 11: 22 A.M., 2nd by Hauser, carried.
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