

PLANNING, RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Monday, October 29, 2012

Administrative Center – Room 3220

5:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Marilyn Pedretti (Chair), Tina Wehrs, Richard Becker (Excused until 5:12pm), Ray Ebert, Dave Holtze, Andrew Londre, Robert Sandman

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Peg Jerome

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF & GUESTS: Nathan Sampson, Charlie Handy, Gregg Stangl, Bryan Meyer, Mary Jo Webster, Cheryl McBride, Mary Meehan-Strub, Karl Green, Bryan Jostad, Michael Weibel, Barb Kooiman, Annette Kirchhoff(Recorder)

Meeting opened with discussion concerning the power outage in the Administrative Building. Staff was instructed to make alternate accommodations while the business portion proceeded. Committee gave unanimous consent to adjust the meeting agenda to adapt to electronic needs and staff presentations.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM October 1, 2012

MOTION by Holtze/Sandman to approve the minutes.

7 Aye, 0 No, 1 Excused (Jerome). Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

REVIEW AND APPROVE LAND CONSERVATION TRUCK BIDS

Stangl gave a presentation on the truck bids for a new truck for Land Conservation Department. He explained that they had budgeted for 2012, \$25,000 to replace and oldest truck in their fleet, a 1998 Ford truck. Land Conservation enlisted the help of Bryan Jostad to get through the process.

Jostad reported that they advertised the bids and received two (2) responses, both from Brenengen Chevrolet. Bids were reviewed by Stangl, Jostad and Olson (Bruce, from Land Conservation). The difference was between 2012 and 2013. The 2012 model was more expensive and had things above and beyond the specs that were really needed so it was decided to take the lower cost 2013 model.

MOTION by Ebert/Holtze to approve the bid for 2013 truck from Brenengen for \$23,548.00.

7 Aye, 0 No, 1 Excused (Jerome). Motion carried unanimously.

Committee moved on to item number five (5).

RESOLUTION RE: DESIGNATION OF IRON OVERHEAD TRUSS BRIDGE ON OLD COUNTY TRUNK B AS A LA CROSSE COUNTY HISTORIC STRUCTURE

Barb Kooiman from the Historic Sites Preservation Commission member presented the Resolution. Kooiman went on to explain where the bridge is located and why and how it became designated as a Historical Site. It is owned by Town of Hamilton and was recognized as a historic site back in December of 1999. She explained that the Ordinance does not require that the town accept it, but they do have to be notified. The Commission was then directed to go to Hamilton Township, present it to them and get feedback. Hamilton did not give an answer one way or another as to whether or not they wanted to approve it. It's been sitting in limbo since 2004.

Ebert, as a town official from Hamilton spoke out in opposition to designating the bridge without the township's approval and indicated that he will vote against it until the township or owner makes a recommendation on it. Kooiman agreed to bring it before the Town of Hamilton again.

MOTION by Ebert/Becker to hold this item over for up to ninety (90) days until Town of Hamilton has had some input.

7 Aye, 0 No, 1 Excused (Jerome). Motion carried unanimously.

SUPERVISOR CONFERENCE REPORTS

Green attended the Frac Sand panel discussion in Eau Claire Monday, October 22, 2012. He gave a brief presentation on what was discussed at the meeting. Green has contacted several different Frac Sand companies in the area to arrange a tour of one or more of mines for the committee. Of the four (4) that he has contacted so far, three (3) said no and one (1) has not responded. The two companies from Monroe County that Green has contacted have stated there is nothing to see, they are still in the construction phase of the project and too there is too much liability. Green has toured one, Badger Mining in Chippewa Falls area, we could go up there, but he was trying to focus on ones that were closest. General consensus of the Committee was to add as a future agenda item.

O'Malley updated the committee on the power outage and indicated a room was ready in the LEC. The committee agreed to continue discussing the budget items another 15 minutes and then move to the LEC.

2013 PROPOSED DEPARTMENT BUDGETS

O'Malley gave a brief presentation and noted items that will require discussion and direction. Register of Deeds and UW-Extension budgets were outlined. O'Malley noted that under UW-Extension non-union employees did not receive the 2% increase that union employees received in 2012 and his budget recommends a 2% increase retroactive January 2012 for the four non-union Extension staff members. Committee had no questions or concerns on this budget item.

Discussion moved on Zoning, Planning and Land Information Department. O'Malley gave a brief outline of changes in the department setup. Discussion moved on to fees in the Survey and Zoning Department with recommended increases and factors supporting those increases. The Committee asked questions about the increases. Staff explained that they surveyed comparable counties on their fees and costs of the services and came up with the increases proposed.

MOTION by Londre/Sandman to recess and move the meeting to the Law Enforcement Center at 5:40 p.m.

7 Aye, 0 No, 1 Excused (Jerome). Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by to Holtze/Sandman to enter back into session at 5:54 pm.

7 Aye, 0 No, 1 Excused (Jerome). Motion carried unanimously

Discussion moved back to where it left off with the Zoning, Planning and Land Information Department fee increases. Committee and staff discussed how much revenue would be generated, what impact, if any, it would have on new construction in the County and where the money would come from if not from revenue increases.

MOTION by Wehrs/Ebert that the committee goes on record to recommend to the Executive Committee and the County Board to keep fees as is for Special Exception Permits, Zoning Petitions and Conditional Use Permits.

Discussion by committee and staff on motion ensued.

3 Aye (Wehrs, Ebert, Sandman), 4 No (Pedretti, Londre, Holtze, Becker), 1 Excused (Jerome). Motion failed.

LA CROSSE COUNTY STORMWATER UTILITY FEE REPORT

Mary Jo Webster, Storm Water Conservation Specialist with the Land Conservation Department gave a brief presentation on Storm Water Utility Fees charged to La Crosse County by the City of La Crosse. She explained who these fees are assigned to and that they are charged for impervious surfaces (rooftops, driveways, parking lots, sidewalks, etc.,) that contribute runoff water to the City's storm sewer system. Fees are generally assessed based on an impervious square footage basis. She went on to explain the role played by the Land Conservation Department and to reduce the costs of those fees to La Crosse County through her assistance to the Facilities Department and the County Landfill. The long-term savings to the County will be approximately \$22,419.70 annually.

MOTION by Becker/Wehrs to recess at 6:35 p.m.

7 Aye, 0 No, 1 Excused (Jerome). Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Sandman/Becker to move back into session at 7:24 p.m.

7 Aye, 0 No, 1 Excused (Jerome). Motion carried unanimously.

O'Malley, Committee and staff continued discussion on zoning fees increases. The general consensus was that it deserves more consideration and will get revisited at Executive Committee and again at full County Board.

O'Malley reviewed the Land Conservation Department 2013 budgets with discussion focusing on proposed 50 cents per acre from the Farmland Preservation Program. Stangl gave a brief presentation on why there is a need for the fee, what revenue would be generated, what the revenue would be used for and gave some history behind the Farmland Preservation Program.

Discussion from committee and staff in regards to the fee ensued. There was a great deal of discussion on the pros, cons and how this revenue could be generated without taking it from the farmers.

MOTION by Wehrs/Ebert to recommend to Executive Committee to eliminate the fee of 50 cents per acre from the Land Conservation Department Budget.

4 Aye, (Wehrs, Becker, Ebert, Sandman), 1 abstention (Londre), 2 No (Pedretti, Holtze), 1 Excused (Jerome). Motion carries.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Pursue Frac Sand Mining Tour

MOTION by Becker/Sandman to adjourn at 8:30am

Disclaimer: The above minutes may be approved, amended or corrected at the next committee meeting. Annette Kirchhoff, Recorder