

On Thursday, January 24, 2013, at 1:00 p.m., Finance Chairman Jim Brennan called the Iron County Finance Committee to order. The meeting was held in the Commissioners Room. The Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag was recited. County Clerk Joan Luhtanen called the Roll of Members. Present were: Ray Coates, Patti Peretto and Brennan.

Don Peterson of Renewable Resource Solutions, LLC, and Brock VanOss, gave a presentation encouraging the management of the County's forest lands. Peterson said he had looked at the plat book, and estimated 1,000 acres of county land. None of the timber is being harvested, and these forest lands should be managed and harvested instead of being left stagnate. The harvest could bring income to the county, as well as decreasing the risk of forest health issues.

Peterson provided the steps needed to take in order accomplish a management plan, starting with an inventory of forest county properties. Peterson suggested a sale of timber by the county garage. This property has dense red pine, and on a main road. Loggers are always looking for a harvesting job in the spring. The revenue from that sale could be used to implement the rest of the steps.

Discussion followed. In the recent past when the properties were "deeded and/or owned" by either the county, the parks and/or the road commission, a resolution had been reached to treat all the properties as "county" properties. But, there was a formula on how any revenues that were generated, would be dispersed between the parties. Whether this formula was just for one transaction, or whether it is something that will need to be decided for subsequent transactions, was unknown.

Brennan said that there was an economic reason to harvest the timber, and the trees won't last forever, but cutting trees is also a political issue. Lind stated that nothing has been harvested in the past four years he has been a commissioner, and would like to move forward with a plan. Peretto said this should be a full board decision. Coates wanted this put on the agenda for the next regular meeting for discussion, with possible action for a request for proposals. Road commission personnel will be contacted to get their input and to invite them to the meeting.

The bills were reviewed, and Coates made a motion, seconded by Peretto, to approve payment of the bills as presented in the amount of \$168,057.12.

Roll Call Vote: AYES: Peretto, Coates, Brennan

NAYS: None

Motion carried.

County Treasurer Melanie Camps again asked for direction on how the administration fee for the county senior centers should be distributed. (See Minute Book Page T-127, January 17, 2013). Camps said the tax monies are coming in and the distribution normally should be done February 1. Brennan is gathering information from another person. Peretto said that in the past how some of the funds were dispersed was based on the number of meals served. This matter will be brought up at the next Finance meeting.

Treasurer Camps announced the hiring of Michelle Johnson as part-time staff in her office. Johnson started this past Tuesday.

Treasurer Camps said that she would need training on the computer reconciliation process of the banking module by Harris. It will take an approximate four hour block of time, at the rate of \$150.00/hour. Her deputy, Mary Dalpra, will also be learning the reconciliation program. This training will be done online. Clisch supported the training. Coates made a motion, seconded by Peretto, approving the Harris reconciliation training for the county treasurer.

Roll Call Vote: AYES: Coates, Peretto, Brennan

NAYS: None

Motion carried.

Coates made a motion, seconded by Peretto, to adjourn. On Voice Vote, the motion carried. The time was 2:00 p.m.