

MINUTES
PORTAGE COUNTY LAND RECORDS COMMITTEE
Friday, September 13, 2013 – 7:30 am, Conference Room 5, County Annex

Members Present: Rice, Hild, Hartman, Lane, Krogwold, Piesik, Voelker, Glodowski, Stokes, and Okray

Members Excused: Steinke, Patoka, Wisinski

Members Absent: Hawker

Staff Present: Cummings and Sutter, Portage County Planning and Zoning Department

Rice called the Land Records Committee meeting to order at 7:30 am in Conference Room 5.

1. Members of the Public Who Wish to Address the Committee on Specific Agenda Items Must Register Their Request at This Time, With Such Comments Subject to the Reasonable Control of the Committee Chair as Set Forth in Robert's Rules of Order - No one came forward.

2. Discussion/Action on the September 7, 2012 Minutes

With no discussion necessary, Piesik moved to approve the September 7, 2012 minutes and Krogwold seconded the motion, which passed by voice vote.

3. Review of 2013 and 2014 Land Records Modernization Budgets

Cummings referred to the budget print out mailed to members and read through the current 2013 and proposed 2014 Land Records budgets, which are zero base budgets in that revenues and expenses are projected to be equal. Revenues in excess of expenses are put into a carry-over account to support land records needs. With no discussion necessary, Lane moved to put on file the Land Records Modernization current 2013 and proposed 2014 budgets. Krogwold seconded the motion, which passed by voice vote.

4. Land Information Program Updates

Hartman referred to the County Retained Fee/Grant Report mailed to members as part of the agenda packet. Page 1 indicates grants received and fees collected through the period January 1, 2012 to December 31, 2012. Page 2 reflects land information spending/project categories and related costs, etc., which allows the State a better handle on what is done with retained fees. Hartman noted the Land Records budget carry-over account will be used to purchase 2015 orthophotos as part of a consortium effort.

Hartman went on to note the State's land information program had been providing \$300 training grants to counties, and that amount will be increased to \$1,000 beginning in 2014. Additional grant funds are available to those who retain less than \$100,000 in recording fees. Portage County has experienced only one year where recording fees fell below that figure.

Additionally, the flat fee recording rate of \$25 will be increased to \$30. The land records modernization budget receives \$8 of this fee, which funds the GIS/LIS Technician position, as well as possible Capital Improvements Program projects, when enough money is available. Lane noted improvements in the real estate arena, as far as the number of documents being recorded.

Hartman stated a Land Records Modernization Plan is required every three years by the State. This document is considered a proposed work plan for the three year period.

Rice stated the recording fee changed because State government let the Land Records Program slide with less funding, and an outside consultant came in and questioned why Wisconsin had been the leader in land records modernization and now it is backsliding. With that being said, recording fees were brought to a level to fund most counties.

5. Wisconsin Regional Orthophotography Program 2015

Hartman stated the orthophoto program cycles through every five years. Our last flight was 2010, and another will be done in 2015 in conjunction with a consortium effort resulting in an approximate 30% cost reduction. Hartman referred to a cost chart found on the Wisconsin Regional Orthophotography Consortium (WROC) handout provided with the agenda, which indicates unit pricing at \$65 a square mile, with a 12" resolution, for an approximate total cost of \$52,000. The City of Stevens Point's photos have a 3" resolution. At this time, the Village of Plover is interested in 3", but will not be ready for 2015. Hartman described 3" resolution as vastly superior to 12" and felt it would be nice to bring in the Villages of Plover and Whiting to help fund at 3", which has a much higher cost per square mile. With the urban area consisting of approximately 50 square miles, the cost doubles; therefore, it is necessary to find partners.

Hartman clarified the quote is a maximum cost and with other partners, the fee could be reduced. Other partners include municipalities (vs. counties), utilities, etc. The flight will take place in spring during leaf off. He acknowledged the flight is not done for our convenience; it is all in the timing and meeting specifications as contracted. Hartman noted the first aerial flight the County had done cost \$172,000, but has become cheaper with technology and automation.

Krogwold noted the urban area has more recording transactions, which results in more program fees. Hartman felt that a fair argument, and next budget year a discussion on what we are willing to spend on orthophotography will take place.

Rice brought up LiDAR (Laser Identification Detection and Ranging) and Hartman acknowledged the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point (UWSP) is interested in this function, which enables collection of elevations with contours. He is uncertain as to how to pitch this expense because 1" contours have a significant cost. Rice added LiDAR includes elevation and subsurface models, and you can determine building and tree height. Lane suggested from a development standpoint, people will build where there is good information. The more we know about land, the better it will be for attracting development. Lane felt the business community, as well as UWSP, would use this information. Hartman stated more and more counties are doing this to remap floodplain because there is no longer subsidized floodplain insurance. Lane added there is a significant cost related to floodplain insurance coverage.

Rice asked Hartman to obtain LiDAR specifications and associated costs. Hartman replied he would research this.

6. Adjournment

With no further business to come before the Committee, Krogwold moved to adjourn and Glodowski seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 8:05 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Keith Rice, Chair

Paula Cummings, Rec. Secretary

Date