

FORESTRY AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

COMMITTEE: FORESTRY AND RECREATION
DATE: December 15, 2023
TIME: 1:00 P.M.
PLACE: County Board Room

CALL TO ORDER.

Chairperson Chaney called the meeting to order at 1:15 p.m.

ROLL CALL.

Members Present: Campbell, Chaney, Dehart, Karl, Lukas, Miller and Tallier.

Members Absent:

Others Present: Mary Felzkowski, Cindy Gretzinger, Scott Goode, Brian Piasini, Travis Wollenberg, Jared Oemig, and Erin Lane

DISCUSSION WITH MARY FELZKOWSKI ON LAND OPTIONS, POSSIBLE ACTION.

Lukas welcomed Mary Felzkowski and explained the situation the County is in with going for a 2-million-dollar referendum for operating expenses and wage increases to hopefully retain employees. The fact that Forest County only has 18% taxable land, current services cannot be maintained with that amount of taxable land.

The County is looking at potential land options to manage for timber harvest and recreation. If the County could get more land to manage this could increase our revenue to cover expenses. Forest Service lands make up over 55% of the land in Forest County and would it be possible for the County get some of those acres to enroll under County Forest and manage the timber for revenue.

Felzkowski explained that she cannot help when it comes to Federal Lands. She can help with State issues but not at the Federal Level. She discussed the increase to Shared Revenue payments and the increase to PILT payments, but understands that is not enough to get Forest County where they need to be.

Tom Tiffany will be meeting with the Forestry Committee on December 20th to discuss the land options.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Lukas to adjourn, second by Dehart. All Present voting AYE. Motion Carried.

Adjourned 2:30pm

These minutes are not official until approved and are subject to change. They will be officially approved at the next scheduled Forestry and Recreation Committee meeting.