

## County supervisors designate snowmobile trail

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JEFFERSON — The Jefferson County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday repealed a resolution authored in the early 1970s that designated trails on county land for snowmobiling.

Resolution 1972-61 was replaced by Resolution 2016-16, which designated an amended trail.

The land designated in the old resolution included that which formerly was the site of Countryside Home and Hospital, now where the Jefferson County Highway Department facility is located. As such, the land no longer is available for snowmobile trail use.

“(This resolution) is basically getting proper authorization so that the snowmobile community has a trail on the county-owned property,” Jefferson County Administrator Ben Wehmeier said. “... Because of the buildings being placed (along the trail) and things like that, there no longer is a place. So they were utilizing the property, but we wanted to make sure (the resolution) was cleaned up and there were no questions about it.”

The Jefferson County snowmobile community requested that Jefferson County designate alternate county land that can be used for connecting existing snowmobile trails within the county.

The county land now to be designated for snowmobile trails includes trails located south of the current highway facility, west of State Highway 26, over Highway 26 by way of County Highway W and using the Glacial River Trail as a crossing point.

“We did speak with the snowmobile community about changing the trail,” Supervisor Matthew Foelker said. “Most all of them were alright with it. They just want to get trails. They’ll all be marked trails and, as far as we know, we’ve never had problems with these guys. And if there is, we’ve got a way to take care of it.”

In an unrelated action, the board approved adjustments to the Register of Deeds office’s land records fees.

The register of deeds has a new land records management system, Fidlar Land Records Management Systems, and will use a new method to calculate fees for the public for subscription and monthly data images.

Land records subscription fees for remote access charged by the Land Information office were established in 2005 and 2008 at \$45 per month for index viewing, \$30 per month plus \$1 per page fee to view document images using private remote access and internet access.

Monthly images now will be 20 cents each and monthly index, historic images and historic index will be 15 cents each.

The new system will allow customers to access information using a product called Laredo. Laredo fees are based on a monthly fee and the number of minutes utilized searching county land records instead of a flat monthly fee that did not consider the number of minutes used per month.

For zero to 250 minutes per month, the cost is \$125; 251 to 500 minutes, \$200; 501-1,000 minutes, \$300; 1,001 to 2,000 minutes, \$300; and unlimited minutes, \$500.

The fee for monthly sale of optical images by the Register of Deeds Office was established in 1998 at \$400 for each monthly CD of document images recorded.

The new system uses a product called Monarch that offers copies of the images and indexes for sale to the public based on the number of images and documents recorded in the Register of Deeds office each month.

The estimated increase in revenue from fees is \$10,000 for 2016 compared to revenue from existing fees. The fiscal impact for future years will be contingent on the number of subscriptions sold.

In addition, the board:

- Re-elected Supervisor Jim Schroeder as chairperson. Schroeder ran for the position against Supervisor James Braughler, who previously served as second vice chairperson. Supervisor Steven Nass was elected as first vice chairperson. He ran against Braughler. Supervisor Amy Rinard as second vice chairperson. She ran against Braughler.
- Voted unanimously to accept funding from the Wisconsin Department of Health Services/Center for Disease Control and Prevention in the amount of \$5,298 from an Adult Immunization Grant for comprehensive, sustainable, effective and evidence-based communicable disease control and prevention and for protecting the lives and well-being of Jefferson County residents.

The funding will be used to meet Jefferson County's objective of having 58 percent of adults aged 19 or older residing in the county vaccinated with the Tdap (Tetanus, Diphtheria and Pertussis) vaccine by June 30, 2017.

Acceptance of the funding increased both grant funding and program expenditures in the Health Department budget by \$5,298.

- Unanimously authorized the use of approximately \$15,000 in rebates for purchases made by the county using P-Cards (Purchasing Cards) in 2015 to upgrade the three employee break rooms, including painting, carpeting and furnishings.

- Unanimously authorized the Jefferson County Highway Department to contract with Zenith Tech for \$40,890 for concrete curb and gutter work on County Highway J in 2016.
- Unanimously authorized the Jefferson County Highway Department to purchase eight 2017 Model International 7500 single-axle trucks from Lakeside International from Madison for the bid price of \$708,800 and to purchase the equipment for the trucks from Monroe Truck Equipment for the net bid price of \$723,326.

The Highway Department solicited bids, beginning March 29, for eight 2017 model single-axle trucks, dump boxes and winter maintenance equipment including truck box, plow, wing, spreader, hydraulic controls, pre-wet tank, lights and set-up.

Four bids for the trucks were received with Lakeside International being the lowest and the highest coming from Kriete Truck/Mak at \$814,400. Two bids were received from truck equipment vendors, the lowest being from Monroe Truck Equipment and the highest from Casper Truck Equipment at \$792,462.

The department also will be trading or selling 10 existing single-axle trucks with this purchase. The trade values of the 10 trucks are \$680,000.

- Unanimously approved, for the Jefferson County Highway Department, sealcoat oil vendor quotes, asphalt pulverizing and milling bids and pre-mixed asphaltic concrete vendor quotes for 2016.
- Unanimously authorized changing the fee for cremation permits from \$220 to \$200 so that Jefferson County will be in compliance with Wisconsin Assembly Bill 662. The fiscal impact is unknown and is based on the number of cremation permits issued.
- Unanimously eliminated a part-time Elder Benefits Specialist position, a vacant part-time Disabled Benefit Specialist position, a vacant part-time Aging and Disability Resource Specialist I position and creation of one full-time Elderly and Disabled Benefit Specialist position at the Jefferson County Human Services Department.

The elimination of the part-time positions and creation of the full-time position was requested by Human Services director Kathi Cauley, with the support of the Human Services Board and the county administrator, due to a high level of turnover in the non-benefited, part-time positions. The turnover hindered the ability to provide consistent continuity of care.

The new position will provide services to both the elderly and disabled adult residents of Jefferson County.

Eliminating the three part-time positions and creating the full-time position has a fiscal impact of a cost of \$2,673 per year. However, the position is fully funded by federal and state dollars and therefore no tax levy is required to cover the cost.

- Unanimously approved the dissolving of the Jefferson County Sustainability Task Force and the Jefferson County Farmland Conservation Easement Commission.

The Sustainability Task Force was created to study the issue of systems-based sustainability in Jefferson County and to make recommendations to the board of supervisors through the Infrastructure Committee, report to the board at least once a year and file a comprehensive report within two years containing its recommendations for consideration by the board.

The duties and responsibilities of the Farmland Conservation Easement Commission are to administer the voluntary Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easements (PACE) program created by the county board and to permanently protect high quality farmland and working farms through donated and purchased agricultural conservation easements on privately-owned land.

At its March 30, 2016 meeting, the Administration and Rules Committee discussed the duties and responsibilities of the Sustainability Task Force and the Farmland Conservation Easement Commission and decided that those duties and responsibilities should be incorporated into the duties of the Infrastructure Committee and the Land and Water Conservation Committee respectively.

- Proclaimed May 19, 2016, as Jefferson County Peace Officers Memorial Day “in honor of those law enforcement officers who, through their courageous deeds, have made the ultimate sacrifice in service to their community or have become disabled in the performance of duty.”
- Proclaimed April 10-16, 2016 to be National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week in Jefferson County “in honor of the men and women whose diligence and professionalism keep our city and citizens safe.”