

## Buffalo County Minutes

**Committee/Board:** Highway Committee

**Date of Meeting:** Tuesday, January 8, 2019

**Filing Date:** Thursday, January 10, 2019

Mr. Grisen called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

**Board Members Present:** Mr. Larry Grisen, Mr. Michael Taylor, Mr. Dennis Bork, Mr. Bernard Brunkow and Mr. David Danzinger (via phone).

**Others Present for All or Parts of the Meeting:** Ms. Roxann Halverson, Mr. Bob Platteter, Mr. Kelly Johnston, Chief Deputy Lee Engfer, Mr. Roger Risler, Mr. Dale Klopp, Mr. John Bauer, Mr. Rod Harschlip, Ms. Judy Sage, and other members of the public.

**Review/Discussion/Action regarding Minutes of the Previous Meeting:** Mr. Brunkow made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Mr. Taylor. Carried.

**Public Comments Regarding Posted Agenda Items:** None.

**Review/Discussion/Action regarding Vouchers:** The committee reviewed the vouchers. A discussion was held on the purchase price of tires, the bond payment, the purchase of salt, the payment to Universal truck, the purchase of a pusher blade, the savings in costs to Riverland Energy, and the purchase of a jump jack to compact around culverts. Mr. Bork made a motion to approve all vouchers, seconded by Mr. Brunkow. Carried.

**Review/Discussion/Action regarding ATV Trail System – Mondovi ATV Club:** Mr. Risler distributed answers to the questions that Chief Deputy Lee Engfer had at the last meeting. The club is working on getting approval to ride on Highway 37 from County Road H to Water Street. The City of Mondovi is holding a meeting to lift the restriction of no ATV parking on the street. This restriction would stay in place for the business section of the City.

Chief Deputy Engfer indicated the paper distributed by Mr. Risler is not entirely correct. There is very limited enforcement in the Wisconsin State Statutes regarding ATV's. Law Enforcement cannot enforce an ordinance unless there is a Statute that governs it. If a municipality has an ordinance they would need to enforce that. Chief Deputy Engfer has reached out to the other 71 counties and received a response from nine of them. The main concern with ATV use in those areas is safety. He indicated that seven of the nine responses indicated that they have a special officer to patrol ATV use. Buffalo County does not have the funds for additional staff to patrol ATV use.

Mr. Platteter spoke regarding the topic. He indicated that most of the trails are in the northern counties and road use is allowed there to allow people to get from one trail to another. Buffalo County does not have trails that run through the county. Only a small trail that begins in the City of Mondovi and heads east towards Trempealeau County.

Ms. Sage from the Town of Canton did a phone survey of the residence in her town. There were more people opposed to the trails than in favor of them. She explained a crash her husband was involved in

when his car struck an ATV. She believes the roads are not a safe place for the ATV to drive as we have winding roads, no shoulders and steep ditch embankments.

Mr. Brunkow reviewed the Wabasha ATV Ordinance and the Pepin County ATV Ordinance. Wabasha has opened all roads to ATV use while Pepin County only allows certain roads to be used and only if the municipality approves it. Mr. Risler indicated he is on the agendas of all the towns affected by his proposed trails.

Mr. Bork is concerned with the safety, the expense to patrol the area, and would like to see a road use study on the proposed route. He would like to know how many agricultural vehicles travel on that route also.

Mr. Bork made a motion to table this item pending the outcome of the town meetings, seconded by Mr. Brunkow. A roll call vote was taken. All voting yes. Carried.

**Review/Discussion/Action regarding Fuel Management:** Mr. Platteter reviewed the diesel and fuel usage of the Highway Department, Sheriff's Office, county fleet vehicles, Alma Schools, and Mondovi Schools. A discussion was held on whether or not there was any savings by adding in the schools. The system quoted at the last meeting is a high end system. The original thought behind having a fuel management system was to save money. With that system it would be a few years before any savings could be realized. If the fuel management system was kept to county offices and the same procedure that is in place now was used a savings could be realized right away. Mr. Engfer reviewed the daily logs that officers must keep regarding fuel. It seems very similar to the logs the Highway employees must keep. Mr. Taylor made a motion to move forward with the fuel management system for Highway, Law Enforcement, and the county fleet vehicles at this time, seconded by Mr. Brunkow. A roll call vote was taken. All voting yes. Carried.

**Review/Discussion/Action regarding the Town of Waumandee Use Agreement:** Mr. Platteter indicated this agreement is what he received back from Corp. Counsel. It is a bare bones agreement and he is not sure if the Town of Waumandee will approve of it. The original agreement was put into place in 1978 with an addendum for insurance in 1984. This addendum covers maintenance costs. A discussion was held on insurance and if both the building and liability were covered. A further discussion was held on items outside of the building. The committee instructed Mr. Platteter to request those items be moved due to safety concerns. Mr. Bork made a motion to approve the addendum and send it to the Town of Waumandee, seconded by Mr. Brunkow. A roll call vote was taken. All voting yes. Carried.

**Review/Discussion/Action regarding A Resolution to Purchase One 2015 Case Dozer:** Mr. Platteter explained he was able to find a used dozer which was identical to one the operators had demoed this past summer. The cost after trading in the old dozer is \$99,000.00. Mr. Taylor made a motion to approve the resolutions, seconded by Mr. Brunkow. A roll call vote was taken. All voting yes. Carried.

**Review/Discussion/Action regarding Staffing – Draft Holiday Work Hours:** The holiday work hours are to begin February 1<sup>st</sup> and run for a one year trial. A review has been conducted of how other counties handle work hours. The majority continue working the 10-hour day during a holiday week. Pierce County works 10-hour days during the summer and 8-hour days during the winter. Mr. Brunkow made a motion to approve the holiday work hours, seconded by Mr. Bork. A roll call vote was taken. All voting yes. Carried.

**Review/Discussion regarding Department Start Times:** Mr. Platteter wanted to take this time to address concerns of what the employees are doing during the darkness of the start times. There are many days when employees are patrolling roads for issues, preparing equipment to go to job sites, or traveling to a job site.

**Review/Discussion/Action regarding the 2019 Salaries:** Chair Grisen indicated that this item has been taken care of. A calculation error was found in the scales and will be addressed at the next HR meeting.

**Review/Discussion/Action regarding Roads & Bridges – 2019 Planned Road Projects:** Mr. Platteter distributed a map showing the roads to be worked on in 2019. The green roads are funded through the regular budget process. The orange roads will be additional roads if a bond is taken out. Mr. Bork made a motion to approve by roll call vote the road projects, seconded Mr. Taylor. All voting yes. Carried.

**Review/Discussion/Action regarding Roads & Bridges – Bridge Replacement Funding:** Mr. Platteter indicated there are four bridges that are being scheduled for design and construction. The Alleman Road Bridge is set for design in 2020 with construction in 2021. The County Road D Bridge is set for design in 2020 and construction in 2021. The County Road G Bridge is set for design in 2020 and construction in 2021. The County Road OO Bridge is set for design and construction in 2021.

**Review/Discussion regarding the Commissioner's Report:** Mr. Platteter discussed the purchase of a new shop truck. The budget shows a crew cab pickup truck being purchased, but after discussion it is found that an F550 would be more beneficial for the department. The plan is to purchase a new shop truck for Alma and move the other truck to the Urne Shop.

The commissioner training conference is next week. Mr. Platteter will be attending that along with two members of the Highway Committee.

**Review/Discussion regarding Committee Member's Report:** None.

The next meeting will be February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at 9:00 a.m.

Mr. Taylor made a motion to adjourn at 11:01 a.m., seconded by Mr. Brunkow. Carried.  
Respectfully Submitted,

Roxann M. Halverson  
Buffalo County Clerk