

JANUARY COUNTY BOARD SESSION
Monday, January 27, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

The Board met. Ms. McMillan Urell in the Chair.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

The roll was called, and all members were present except for Mr. Dennis Bork, Mr. Dwight Ruff, and Mr. Donald Hillert, who were excused. Mr. Nathan Nelson was absent. Mr. David Danzinger appeared by phone. Others in attendance for all or portions of the meeting were Ms. Sonya Hansen, Ms. Roxann Halverson, Ms. Lou Anne Roby, Mr. Dave Rynders, Mr. Thomas Schultz, Ms. Aimee Schultz, and Mr. David Brommerich.

Public Comments: None.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding the Appointment of District 3 County Board

Supervisor: Mr. Grisen made a motion to approve the appointment of Ms. Lou Anne Roby as District 3 Supervisor, seconded by Mr. Taylor. Carried. Ms. Halverson gave Ms. Roby the Oath of Office.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding Previous Meeting Minutes: Mr. Kriesel made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Schreiner. Carried.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding Resolution #20-01-01 A Resolution Recognizing the Retirement of Mr. Thomas Schultz: Ms. Hansen presented Mr. Schultz with a certificate in honor of his retirement. Mr. Schultz spoke to the Board giving a history of the Land Conservation Department and how he started working for Buffalo County part-time in 1983. He thanked the Board for using CAPX funds to repair watershed structures and expressed how important it is to be good stewards of the land. Mr. Schreiner made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mr. Kriesel. Carried.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding Resolution #20-01-02 A Resolution to Modify Employee Handbook Policy 101 Hours of Operation:

Mr. Grisen explained the Highway Department started a pilot program to work three ten hour days each holiday week and require employees to use 2 hours of PTO to meet the 40 hour work week. This has been going well with no reports of any issues. Mr. Kriesel made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mr. Taylor. Carried.

Review/Discussion regarding a Presentation by Mr. Dave Rynders regarding

Telecommuting: Mr. Rynders explained the pilot program for telecommuting and how it is now open to other Department Managers. He reviewed the policy requirements and how it has been working so far. The request must be made 48 hours in advance and the employee must provide the workspace and equipment to do the work. There is a limit of an eight hour max request that cannot be taken in consecutive days. He will be looking at expanding this in the future to allow staff to work mainly from home to open needed office space in the department.

Review/Discussion regarding Restructure of the County Board and Rules of

Government: Chair McMillan Urell reviewed proposed changes to the Rules of Government.

There will be a Committee of the Board meeting on February 17th at 9:00 a.m. to discuss these changes and finalize the draft to be sent to the March County Board meeting. Ms. Rosenow expressed concern with the number of departments under the Land Use Committee. She would like to see Land Conservation and AG & Extension grouped together separate from Land Use. Ms. Roby would like to see more than the Executive Committee have the ability to serve on some of the smaller non-standing committees (i.e. Historical, Workforce Development, or Winding Rivers Library). The per diem for the committee chair would raise to \$55 and attendance at a conference would raise to a \$50 per diem. The Rules of Government would also be passed as an ordinance so that they are more enforceable. State Statute imposes a fine for missing meetings and if passed as an ordinance this would become enforceable. Attendance has been an issue causing committees to not be able to meet the quorum requirements. Supervisors would now have to notify the Committee Chair and if not available the County Clerk. If the County Clerk would not be available, the Administration Office would need to be notified. Chair McMillan Urell urged everyone to read over the document and bring any changes or questions to the February 17th meeting.

Committee Chair Reports: Mr. Kriesel reported that DHHS is working on recruiting a Social Worker, but it is taking time. He also reported that out of home placements are steady, but not decreasing.

Administrative Coordinator Report: Ms. Hansen reported on the employee training held January 20th. Employees attended training on AED and CPR, mindfulness and stress, safety, and health insurance education. The Administration office has been working on preparing W2 forms and Affordable Care Act forms. Phase 2 of the new address signs has been completed thanks to Zoning staff. The broadband project for the Town of Milton is complete and came in under budget. The Flyway Trail is having two fundraising events in Winona, a brochure is on everyone's desk. Economic Development is working on the 2020 Visitor Guide. They will need help in distributing the guides.

County Board Chair Report: None.

The next meeting will be March 23, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

Adjournment: Chair McMillan Urell called for adjournment at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Roxann M. Halverson
Buffalo County Clerk