

Buffalo County Minutes

Committee/Board: BUFFALO COUNTY HIGHWAY COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting: Tuesday, March 10, 2020

Location: Highway Department Committee Room

Electronic and Hardcopy Filing Date: Monday, March 23, 2020

Chairman Larry Grisen called the Buffalo County Highway Committee meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Buffalo County Highway Committee members present at the meeting were: Mr. Larry Grisen, Mr. David Danzinger (via telephone), and Ms. Mary Anne McMillan Urell. Mr. Dennis Bork and Mr. Mike Taylor was excused. Others present for all or part of the meeting were Mr. Bob Platteter, Ms. Roxann Halverson, Ms. Sonya Hansen, Ms. Aimee Ebersold-Schultz, Mr. Dave Brevick, Mr. Evan Mercer, and Mr. Roger Risler.

Minutes: The minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed. Mr. Grisen made a motion to approve the minutes by roll call vote, seconded by Mr. Danzinger. A roll call vote was taken and all approved. Carried.

Public Comments: None.

Approval of Vouchers: Ms. McMillan Urell made a motion to approve the vouchers by roll call vote, seconded by Mr. Grisen. All in favor. Carried.

Consideration/Action regarding History of Alma Shop Property – David Brevick and Aimee Ebersold-Schultz: Mr. Brevick spoke regarding the history of the lease payment to the neighboring property owner and the survey Mr. Platteter had shown at the previous meeting. Mr. Bob Tenney was the previous landowner to the north of the shop and the County offered to buy a portion of the land, but Mr. Tenney did not want to sell it. A lease agreement was worked out for \$100 per year for 75 years. Ms. Ebersold-Schultz had hired a Surveyor to locate the property line and would like to continue this lease. Mr. Platteter has spoken with her about purchasing the property, but she would like to keep the farm together and does not want the land to have buildings expanded on it. At this time the lease has been in effect for 18 years and the only foreseeable expansion would be for a 3-sided shed. At this time the lease payments will continue as will discussion of purchasing the .9 acres of land.

Consideration/Action regarding ATV Routes/Policy: The Administration Office is working on drafting a policy based on the State DNR template. They are also working on an application. The Highway Committee will review applications, suspend or close routes, and consider renewals of routes. The applicant for the route must be a municipality and can contain multiple routes in one application. The application fee is

\$150 and would require a map of the route, notification to all landowners, and a public hearing at the municipal level and at the county level. Renewing the route has a fee of \$50 each year. Applications will be reviewed by the Highway Committee and then passed to the County Board for approval. The municipality would be responsible for all signage and damage caused by ATV/UTV usage. There will be an ordinance drafted that will show hours of operation and for how many months the route can be used. Ms. McMillan Urell made a motion to approve the policy by roll call vote, seconded by Mr. Danzinger. All in favor. Carried.

RT Vision Demonstration: Mr. Platteter talked with RT Vision and they sent a link to view a video of their system. He will send the video to everyone for review.

Consideration/Action regarding Staffing:

Review Draft Part-Time Support Specialist Description: Mr. Platteter worked more on the Support Specialist position description. He will have Ms. Creighton review it and bring it back to the next meeting.

Review Draft Shop Mechanic/Patrolman Description: This description will also be brought back to the next meeting.

Request to fill up to 4 Seasonal Mowing Personnel: Mr. Platteter explained in previous years he has had four Seasonal Mowing Personnel. This year he would like to still have four Seasonal Mowing Personnel, but only have some of them full-time and some part-time. He knows at this time that two of the previous Mowing Operators will not be back. He would like to get this advertised soon. Mr. Danzinger made a motion to approve four Seasonal Mowing Personnel positions by roll call vote, seconded by Mr. Grisen. All in favor. Carried.

Request to Backfill Alma Highway Patrolman Position: Mr. Platteter explained that they had an opening a few days ago after an employee was let go. The position was in Mondovi, but this position would be based out of the Alma shop. Ms. McMillan Urell made a motion to approve filling the position by roll call vote, seconded by Mr. Danzinger. All in favor. Carried.

Consideration/Action regarding Equipment:

Purchase of One Used 2013 Ford F-550 Dump Truck, One Used 2013 Ford F-250 Crew Cab Pickup, and One Used 2017 Ford F-250 Crew Cab Pickup: The budget contained two new trucks. The purchase of those trucks were reviewed and it was decided that used trucks would fulfill the need so that this smaller dump truck could be purchased. This purchase and the two used trucks would put the budget over by \$2,722.00 but would be made up on another purchase. Ms. McMillan Urell made a motion to approve by roll call vote, seconded by Mr. Danzinger. All in favor. Carried.

Review Bids for Purchase of One New Steel Drum Roller: The Steel Drum Roller was budgeted at \$150,000.00 and the bids came in significantly less. The new roller can be delivered in 3 to 4 weeks. Ms. McMillan Urell made a motion to approve the

purchase from Miller Bradford & Risberg in the amount of \$105,244.00 by roll call vote, seconded by Mr. Danzinger. All in favor. Carried.

Review Quotes to Purchase 2 New Flail Type Mowers: The Flail mowers were budgeted at \$15,000.00 for two of them. The bid came in slightly higher and there was no offer to take the mowers we have in a trade. The bid for \$18,021.00 for a Diamond Flail Mower was from Diamond Mowers. Ms. McMillan Urell made a motion to accept the bid from Diamond Mowers and sell our old mowers online, seconded by Mr. Danzinger. A roll call vote was taken with all in favor. Carried.

Discuss Purchase of One Used Bomag Reclaimer in lieu of One New Grader: The grader was in the budget in the amount of \$275,000.00. The current grader is a 1995 and mainly used in the winter. The Highway Department has a chance to purchase a used reclaimer that is a demo model in Utah. It has 400 hours on it at a cost of \$239,000.00. The company will give us \$36,000.00 in trade for ours. The reclaimer would come with a warranty and be delivered. Mr. Platteter checked with Pepin County to see if they would be interested in going in on the purchase. Pepin County is interested in renting the reclaimer but not buying in on it. Ms. McMillan Urell made a motion to change the equipment list to purchase the reclaimer at a cost up to \$239,000.00, to try and sell the current unit if we can get more than \$36,000.00, and if we do not get that amount the Highway Department is to trade the current reclaimer in on the purchase of the new reclaimer. Mr. Danzinger seconded that motion. A roll call vote was taken, and all were in favor. Carried.

Consideration/Action -Buildings and Grounds:

Pickup Shed at Waumandee Shop: Mr. Platteter received a quote for the pickup shed at the Waumandee Shop. The quote was for \$5,800.00-\$5,900.00. The Town of Waumandee was not in favor of where the Highway Department wanted to locate the pickup shed. They discussed remodeling the old schoolhouse and using that as the pickup shed and storage. The Highway Committee discussed this but are not in favor of that option. Mr. Platteter will continue to work on this item.

Drainage Issue at Waumandee Shop: Mr. Platteter explained some issue with drainage that occurred last year. The drainage ditch is filled with silt causing runoff to go into the neighboring field. Ditching will need to be done to make this drain correctly.

Consideration/Action Roads & Bridges:

Review of Road Projects: Mathey Construction will be setting up three plants this year in Buffalo County. Two of those plants will have the setup costs paid by the State. And the County will pay for the third.

Review Draft Policy for Township Work: The draft policy was discussed. Bridge inspections, snowplowing, sanding, and brine application needs to be added. An annual report to the County Board of how much work is being done for the towns. Winter maintenance for towns may sunset after one year. This item will be brought back for approval next month.

Review of Bridge Projects: There are four bridge replacements next year. Some of those are included in the bond. If some of the bridge replacements come in at a higher expense than estimated the Highway Department will have to go to the State for additional funds.

Commissioners Report: There will be 37 miles of crack fill worked into the schedule this year. The MLS grants that Evers proposed was granted to the Town of Modena. The joint application between the County and the City of Mondovi did not get approved. There was \$25.1 million to be awarded and 105 applications. There are some trainings coming up in the next few weeks to months. The April and May meetings will need to be moved due to those trainings.

Committee Member's Report: The Committee reported on County Road E and rocks falling off the wall. Mr. Platteter explained barrels have been set up and there were three rows of rocks taken off, but more are questionable. The design company is ready to present any day. It was asked if there has been any word on the seal coating issue. Mr. Platteter indicated that the oil company wanted to do more testing. The road will need to be resealed this year. The winter maintenance budget looks okay so far. They are still working on getting defibrillator in each Foreman's truck and the big shops.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be Monday, April 13th at 1:00 p.m.

Public Comments: None.

Adjournment: Ms. McMillan Urell made a motion to adjourn at 10:40 a.m., seconded by Mr. Danzinger. Carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Roxann Halverson
Buffalo County Clerk