

MARCH COUNTY BOARD MEETING
Monday, March 11, 2019

Ms. Mary Anne McMillan Urell in the Chair called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

The roll was called and all members were present except Mr. Nathan Nelson and Mr. John Kriesel who were excused.

Others in attendance for all or portions of the meeting were Ms. Sonya Hansen, Mr. David Brommerich, Ms. Carrie Olson, Mr. Bob Platteter, Chief Deputy Lee Engfer, Mr. Roger Risler, Mr. Jason Hayden, Ms. Lori Grossell, Mr. Bob Grossell, Mr. Evan Mercer, Mr. Dale Pittman, Mr. Chris Lindstrom, Ms. Carrie Lindstrom, Mr. Jamie Robbins, Mr. Van Swanson, Mr. Rick Loppnow, Ms. Lori Loppnow, Mr. Lavern Carothers, Ms. Donna Carothers, Mr. H. Butch Schreiner, Mr. Mike Osmond, Mr. Scott Duellman, Mr. Phil Lipinski, Mr. John Putz, Ms. Mary Noll, Mr. Matthew Smith, Mr. Paul Noll, Mr. Chad Bauer, Ms. Jenny Gleiter, Mr. Alan Gleiter, Mr. Rod Harschlip, Mr. Steve Nelson and Mr. Gene Laehn.

Public Comments regarding Agenda items: None.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding the Previous Meeting Minutes: A motion was made by Mr. Brunkow seconded by Mr. Taylor to approve the minutes as sent. Carried.

The Chair informed the members that agenda item #8 will not be discussed and was removed from the order of business as our Corporation Counsel is working with the City of Winona to finalize the agreement.

Review/Discussion/Action Appointment of Mr. Harry (Butch) Schreiner as District 5 County Board Supervisor (Term Expires April 2020): Chair McMillan Urell stated that due to the resignation of Supervisor Mr. Scott Smith, applications were being accepted to fill the vacancy. Mr. Schreiner had applied to fill the position for the remaining term. Mr. Butch Schreiner introduced himself to the members. A motion was made by Mr. Seipel seconded by Mr. Brunkow to ratify the appointment of Mr. Schreiner as District 5 County Board Supervisor to fill the vacancy on the Board. Carried. Mr. Schreiner joined the County Board as the newly appointed District 5 Supervisor.

Review/Discussion/Action Regarding a Presentation by the Buffalo County Trail Riders:

Mr. Roger Risler presented a proposed ATV/UTV trail route from Mondovi to Gilmanton to Modena to Urne to Maxville into Pepin County and back to Mondovi that would include the use of town and county roads. He was asking for consideration to approve the route for one year for riders to enjoy the beautiful scenic beauty of Buffalo County providing access to county roads. He proposed that all riders would have insurance and hold a valid driver's license, minors must be accompanied by an adult, and routes would

have signage. Riders would observe posted roadway speed limits or other restrictions that the County would deem appropriate in an ordinance. He stated that he had been working with Chief Deputy Lee Engfer in getting his safety concerns addressed. He further stated that one of his biggest obstacles is insurance concerns with the townships. Mr. Risler stated that a course could be taken to certify members to be Ambassadors to provide trail patrol with violations being issued by the DNR. He stated that some of the towns are waiting to see if the County will provide access on the county roads before making a commitment. Mr. Risler stated that the club would be willing to accept responsibility for signage.

Mr. Van Swanson gave testimony as to the success of the Dunn County ATV/UTV trail routes. He stated that their routes had a positive economic impact on their County with increased revenues generated by those establishments selling gasoline, food and beverages. Mr. Swanson stated that most machines now have break lights, taillights, and turning signals. They limit trail usage from April 1st to December 1st. They have not had any safety issues. They require all registered riders to be a member of a club. He stated anyone could report violation of the rules as all machines are required to be licensed and plates are visible mounted.

Mr. Evan Mercer addressed the Board advising them that Pepin County has opened up both town roads and county roads for ATV/UTV access and have had no issues. He stated that county roads are wide enough for two (2) vehicles and that an ATV/UTV is smaller in size than our oversized tractors that use our roads. Regulations require ATV/UTV riders to ride as far right as possible but not on the shoulders and a top speed of 35 miles per hour.

Chief Deputy Engfer stated that the Sheriff's Department is neither for nor against ATV/UTV routes having county road access. He stated that they have several safety concerns that still remain unanswered. Tires for ATV/UTV are made for off road travel and respond differently on blacktop. He stated that the County does not have sufficient staff to expand services to enforce violations of any ATV/UTV ordinance violations. Some law enforcement vehicles do not have radar units to enforce speeding violations. He recommended that if the County is looking to draft an ordinance that it considers uniformity between townships to avoid confusion among riders. He expressed that Mr. Risler has been diligently addressing these safety concerns but there still remain unresolved issues.

Mr. Bob Platteter expressed concerns that if riders are allowed access to county roads that the road shoulders would have excess wear and tear that would require maintenance. He also stated that a portion of unpaid insurance claims are the responsibility of the County. Mr. Platteter also was unclear as to who would be required to maintain the signs.

Mr. Bork made a motion to deny the application for a route trail. The motion died due to a lack of a second.

Mr. Weiss made a motion seconded by Mr. Bork to table the request for an ATV/UTV trail to allow county road access until they have the opportunity to research and review the materials presented at the meeting this evening. Carried.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding Resolution #19-03-01 A Resolution to Purchase One (1) Used 2012 Ford F550 Flatbed Crew Cab Truck:

Mr. Grisen made a motion to adopt the resolution, seconded by Mr. Taylor. Carried

Review/Discussion/Action regarding Resolution #19-03-02 A Resolution to Fund Cost Sharing for Conservation Structures in Rose Valley Watershed:

Ms. Carrie Olson stated that the Land Conservation Committee and Department propose utilizing the remaining funds available from the CAPX2020 contingency flood damage repair program (\$22,000) to support the Garden Valley (Rose Valley) Pond restoration project. A large amount of sediment had washed into our county-maintained pond since being dredged and additional sediment control ponds are needed upstream to minimize sedimentation from dropping out and accumulating in the newly restored pond. They are requesting these resources to fund a minimum of 15 new conservation dams upstream of the pond. Each new conservation dam installed would be matched 70:30 by the Town of Belvidere's Rose Valley Watershed program. The end result would be no cost to the landowner and benefit citizens and recreational visitors to the area.

Ms. Rosenow made a motion to adopt the resolution, seconded by Mr. Brunkow. Carried.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding Resolution #19-03-03 A Resolution to Add Policy No. 112 to the Buffalo County Handbook – County Credit Card Use Policy:

Ms. Hansen stated that previously individual employees had to apply personally for a credit card to be used for county business. US Bank has approved an application to allow credit cards to be issued to the County and there is no longer the need for employees to carry this risk. The policy is written to provide guidelines and safeguards for use of a county credit card.

Mr. Schreiner made a motion to adopt the resolution, seconded by Mr. Bork. Carried.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding the Village of Cochrane TIF District:

Ms. Hansen explained that the Village of Cochrane is looking to create a TID (Tax Increment District) using TIF (Tax Incremental Financing) as a funding mechanism to pay for the expenses to upgrade their water infrastructure at a cost of \$378,700. They have identified an areas to encourage expansion that is unlikely to develop without assistance. A base rate is established prior to development and the County continues to receive taxes on the base. As the property values rise, the Village will use the property tax paid on that development to pay for the projects. The one key basis for the use of TIF

is the “but for” test. The Village must believe that without the TID, the development would never happen. The current proposal contains a 20-year term. Once the TIF is repaid, the County would gain the benefit of the additional tax base on the property.

She stated that the County is part of the Joint Review Board and has a vote in whether or not we would be in favor of the Village establishing this district. There currently is no guidelines or policy. The Economic Development Committee will be looking at putting together a proposed policy but a decision needs to be made at the next Joint Review Board meeting on March 20th. Ms. Hansen stated that as part of the approval, the Village should be requiring any developer to sign an agreement that if they don’t complete the expansion that they agree to pay the taxes to fund the project.

She stated that according to our Financial Advisor that the anticipated tax on an annual basis is around \$2,080.00 if the proposed development is completed based on increased evaluation of \$500,000.

Mr. Brunkow made a motion seconded by Mr. Black to authorize Ms. Hansen to proceed with voting in favor of the TIF for the County. Carried.

Review/Discussion/Action - Committee Reports:

Mr. Brunkow provided an update on staffing and vehicle status in Law Enforcement.

Mr. Grisen requested that the Highway Committee members bring the ATV Guidelines with them to their meeting tomorrow.

Mr. Weiss reported that the Recycling Committee has been working towards creating an action plan that includes looking at the current operations (potential single stream recycling), use of the fund balance to rebuild and restore capital assets and staffing. They are looking to job share with the Highway Department. Once finalized, the plan would be shared with the municipalities.

Mr. Taylor reported that the sign project is moving forward and the Zoning Department is working with towns and citizens to complete those roads needing to be named or renamed.

Mr. Danzinger reported that the Winona Connector Trail (bike trail) is moving forward and that the next phase will require some fund raising activities. He stated that the Broadband Community Committee is scheduled to meet this week to review maps identifying potential areas that need expansion of broadband services.

Mr. Danzinger reported the Land Information Committee would like to hold a joint meeting with the Finance Committee to discuss remonumentation. The Towns of Canton and Maxville have presented a proposal for participation. A proposed date would be March 20, 2019 at 11:00 a.m.

Review/Discussion - Chair Report: Ms. McMillan Urell reported that she had met with FSA and USDA, Emergency Management and Zoning to address the recent losses due to the heavy snow on agricultural structures in Buffalo County. She stated that it is important to capture accurate data and requested each supervisor contact their municipalities that they represent to encourage reporting any losses to be used for disaster funding opportunities, if any.

Ms. McMillan Urell stated that she will be compiling information from the Committee of the Board Meeting to start developing an action plan. She is reviewing current committee assignments to see if there are efficiencies.

Review/Discussion - Administrative Coordinator Report: Ms. Hansen reported on the Highway Pilot Project for Holiday Work Hours, Correction to the Highway Class V and IV wage scales, 2018 Fiscal Status, Discussions with Pepin County on collaboration of a 4-H Coordinator, Emergency Management Flood Planning Meeting on Thursday, March 14, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. at the Courthouse, Employee Active Shooter Training, Veterans Memorial Committee Annual Meeting, District Attorney Office Status, Bond Resolution status, Overview of the Proposed State Budget, Solid Waste Hauler Permit issuance, Summer Intern Project Status and Department of Health and Human Services offering Narcan Training.

Public Comments Not Regarding Agenda Items: None.

The next meeting was scheduled for April 16, 2019 at 9:00 a.m.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sonya J. Hansen
Acting Secretary