

Buffalo County Minutes

Committee/Board: Highway Committee

Date of Meeting: Tuesday, March 12, 2019

Filing Date: Tuesday, March 12, 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.

Others Present for All or Parts of the Meeting: Ms. Roxann Halverson, Mr. Bob Platteter, Mr. Kelly Johnston, Mr. Jim Palkowski, and Mr. Doug Yule.

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

Public Comments Regarding Posted Agenda Items: None.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding Vouchers: Vouchers for tires, garage door repairs, and the upgraded lights for the Fountain City shop were reviewed. Mr. Brunkow made a motion to approve the vouchers, seconded by Mr. Bork. Carried.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding ATV Trail System – Mondovi ATV Club: Chair Grisen indicated that the ATV trail on county roads was tabled by the County Board at last night's meeting. Ms. Hansen had distributed the DNR ATV Route Guideline and Suggestions Handbook. The handbook has a guide on how to properly approve routes on county roads. The committee discussed steps that need to be taken by any ATV club to have routes approved. There are still concerns with use on roads as the terrain in Buffalo County is not flat like other counties. The hairpin turns on some of our roads would make meeting an ATV dangerous. Mr. Brunkow made a motion to approve the ATV Route Guideline and Suggestions Handbook with review by the Corporation Counsel, seconded by Mr. Danzinger. Carried.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding Staffing/Policies (Extreme Weather Policy/Shared Staff with Recycling): Mr. Platteter checked with other counties regarding policies they may have for extreme weather. He received a policy from St. Croix County regarding shutting of facilities. He will check with Eau Claire County and put together something for review at a future meeting.

Shared staff with the Recycling Department was discussed. The employee would be split 50/50 but with flexibility during times one department needs more assistance. Mr. Bork made a motion to move forward with working the details out of the split position, seconded by Mr. Brunkow. Carried.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding Equipment (Bid & Review for One New Sign Truck, Resolution to Purchase New Sign Truck with Apparatus and Accessories, Bid Review and Award for One Patch Heater): The sign truck was discussed. This was included in the list of equipment to replace this year. Currently a bid for only the cab and chassis was received. There are only 1 or 2 companies in the area that handle the apparatus and accessories. The equipment from the old sign truck is not in good enough

shape to transfer to the new truck. Mr. Brunkow made a motion to approve the low bid, seconded by Mr. Taylor. Carried.

The resolution to approve the purchase of the sign truck cab and chassis was discussed. Mr. Bork made a motion to approve the resolution by roll call vote, seconded by Mr. Taylor. All in favor. Carried.

The purchase of a patch heater was discussed. The life expectancy of a patch heater is 10 years and we have one that is having issues. The staff is demoing a Falcon patch heater. The five we have currently are either Spalding or Step patch heaters. The low bid is for a Spalding which the staff seem to like using. Mr. Brunkow made a motion to approve the low bid from Sherwin Industry for a Spalding patch heater, seconded by Mr. Danzinger. Carried.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding Building & Grounds (Fuel Management and Town of Waumandee Use Agreement): Mr. Yule explained the advantages and disadvantages of contracting for fuel. There is always the possibility of the price going down. Currently 87 octane is running at a contract price of \$1.94 and Roadmaster fuel is \$2.28. The price of fuel goes up in the spring and during holidays when there is demand. It is best to contract early in the year to avoid these price increases. The contract price is also dependent on how many drops are done. If Countryside Coop delivers to more than one location the price would be more. The committee would like Mr. Platteter to put together costs for upgrading tanks at other sites, costs of how fuel is currently hauled to different sites, and costs for a cardtrol system. The cardtrol system was discussed. There is a system that Countryside Coop can install for approximately \$5,000 to \$6,000 for each site. There is a key fob in the system that will hold all the necessary information that can then be downloaded to a computer for how much fuel was used and by whom. Mr. Bork made a motion to allow Mr. Platteter to move forward with obtaining bids for contracting 50,000 gallons and 100,000 gallons of fuel and to accept the lowest bid, seconded by Mr. Taylor. Carried.

There has been no update by Corporation Counsel on the Town of Waumandee Use Agreement.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding Roads & Bridges (2019 Construction & Maintenance, Winter Maintenance Update): Mr. Platteter indicated with the harsh winter and predicted flooding he feels it would be hard to plan for any additional miles of road construction this year. Predictions are that the flooding could be as bad as it was in 1965. Currently staff is getting ready for the flooding and any road closures that will need to take place. Roads that will more than likely be closed are County Road B, Sand Road, County Road II, County Road F, County Road KK and possibly Highway 37 (depending on the severity of the flooding). If bonding does go through there is a possibility of bidding out any additional projects. Pepin County is interested in any projects we may have.

Winter maintenance was discussed. At the end of 2018 this budget item was \$190,000 in the hole. In 2019 with the amount budgeted and the expenses (not including material and equipment) there is about \$60,000 left in the budget. However, this does not include any expenses in March that have occurred due to weather.

A discussion was held on the number of consecutive hours employees were working during snow events. Mr. Platteter and Mr. Johnston indicated that employees worked between 17-18 hours at a time. They did not allow anyone out longer than that. A discussion was held on reports of a truck tipping over and trucks being left in the road overnight. Mr. Platter reported that the truck that tipped over was actually a truck that slid off the road and then tipped on its side when they were trying to pull

it back onto the road. No one was injured and the truck had no damage. The trucks left on the road overnight were not county trucks, but town trucks.

Review/Discussion regarding the Commissioner's Report: Mr. Platteter reported on an upcoming Commissioner Committee meeting that will be held in Menomonie. He will be attending this along with Mr. Brunkow. There is also a Commissioner Training that he will be attending Monday and Tuesday of next week. Road bands are possibly going to go into effect next week. There is no stipulation to the length of time these can be in place. Enforcement of violations is done by State Patrol. The Governor is proposing additional funding to roads. Mr. Platteter cautions that while this is a good thing it will not be a significant amount overall for Buffalo County. The WCHA is looking for anyone who is interested in being on their executive committee. There are 2 meetings a month by phone. Mr. Platteter indicated that two snow blowers were located at a cost of \$4,100 each. They did order them, but there was some issues in shipping. If the items are not located today the order will be canceled. The committee suggested canceling the order anyway as they do not feel the snow blowers would be big enough for what Mr. Platteter wants them for.

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

The next meeting will be Tuesday, April 9, 2019 at 9:00 a.m.

Mr. Bork made a motion to adjourn at 11:00 a.m., seconded by Mr. Taylor. Carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Roxann M. Halverson
Buffalo County Clerk