

APRIL COUNTY BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, April 16, 2019

Ms. Mary Anne McMillan Urell in the Chair called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

The roll was called and all members were present except Mr. Nathan Nelson and Mr. Jon Seipel, who were excused. Others in attendance for all or portions of the meeting were Ms. Sonya Hansen, Ms. Roxann Halverson, Mr. David Schmidt, Ms. Jeannie Franz, Mr. Dave Schams, Mr. Mike O'Connor, Ms. Marcy O'Connor, Mr. Brian Della, Mr. Dale Klopp, Ms. Carrie Olson, Mr. Barry Drazkowski, Ms. Renee Pronschinske, Ms. Roselle Schlosser, Mr. Bruce Fuerbringer, Mr. James Wilkie, Mr. Wes Domine, Mr. Gary LeMasters, Mr. Richard Michaels, Mr. Dave Rynders, Sheriff Mike Schmidtknecht, and Mr. Mike Owecke.

Public Comments regarding Agenda items: Mr. O'Connor spoke regarding the connector trail and how he is hopeful the Board will act favorably as this is good use of the CAPX funds. He explained how the trail will connect Buffalo County with other areas and help to promote Buffalo County.

Mr. Michaels spoke regarding the connector trail and how people from the metro area come to ride in Buffalo County. He discussed how this trail would give them a safe way to explore Buffalo County as they usually ride on the roads with vehicle traffic.

Ms. O'Connor discussed the special landscape and natural environment that Buffalo County has and how the trail will bring in people from other areas to enjoy what Buffalo County has to offer.

Mr. Schams has been working on the trail project since 2014. He has seen many stores in Buffalo County close because they cannot compete with the large box stores in other cities. He believes with the help of the tourism dollars the trail would bring in some stores would be able to make it. He used the trail system in Lanesboro as an example. The revenue brought in from the trail system has helped that city thrive.

Mr. Wilkie has tried to rally support from other towns for this project. He does have a resolution of support from Fountain City and the City of Alma. He believes this trail is crucial for small river towns.

Mr. LeMasters spoke on both the ATV usage and bike trails. He is not in favor of the ATV use on the roads due to safety reasons. He had questions on who would enforce the usage. He also explained how the manufacturer has a warning label on the machines that they are not designed for road use.

Mr. LeMasters is in favor of the bike trail. He lived in Madison where there were many bike trails and has seen the benefit of having them. He has seen not only bike riders use

the trails, but also hikers and people who roller blade. He feels this would be a wonderful thing for Buffalo County.

Mr. Domine agrees with the other speakers that the bike trail is a good thing to support. He has served on the Conservation Congress for Buffalo County for over 10 years and believes we need to find new ways to support conservation and natural resources. He explained that not everyone is interested in hunting or fishing, but the connector trail is another way to get people out and enjoying nature.

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

Review/Discussion/Action Presentation by Crescendo Fundraising Professionals (Winona Connector Trail): Mr. Dave Schmidt reviewed the fundraising potential for the connector trail. He has worked with Crescendo on different projects and has seen that they are good at what they do. Crescendo has done a study to see what the fundraising potential is for this project and feels \$1.2 million is a safe goal to aim for. They do need \$150,000 of seed money to begin the fundraising project and show investors that Buffalo County is vested in getting this project done. Mr. Schmidt discussed grants that have been applied for, what grants have been awarded, and potential ways to pay for maintenance. It is the hopes that someday the trail will lead south towards Madison and north throughout the rest of the county.

Review/Discussion/Action Regarding ATV Usage on County Roads: Mr. Grisen discussed a vote the Highway Committee took to approve the DNR ATV Guidelines for approving ATV road use. Corporation Counsel is still reviewing these guidelines. Mr. Brunkow explained an ordinance will need to be passed for ATV road use showing what the steps are to get a road trail approved, regulations on speed and insurance, and enforcement of ATV road use. Ms. Halverson spoke regarding towns that have agreed to ATV use on roads. So far Town of Maxville is the only one that approved the use out of the towns that would be affected by the proposed trail. There are some that have not taken a vote to approve or deny the use yet. Mr. Klopp spoke regarding the Town of Modena. They have not voted one way or the other yet. He would like to have the DNR Guidelines sent to the towns for them to review. The Buffalo County Towns Association will be discussing this at their next meeting. Mr. Weiss made a motion to table this to a future meeting, seconded by Mr. Grisen. Carried.

Review/Discussion regarding the 2018 Land Conservation Annual Report: Ms. Olson reviewed the work done by her department in 2018. There has been work done on sediment removal, work with the Farmland Preservation Program, and work on trout stream restoration. She reviewed the budget which shows Land Conservation over slightly, but Nonmetallic Mining was under.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding Resolution #19-04-01 A Resolution Recognizing and Honoring the Retirement of Mr. James Goss: Chair McMillan Urell read the resolution honoring the retirement of Mr. James Goss. The Board wished to thank him

for his service. Ms. McMillan Urell made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mr. Danzinger. Carried.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding Resolution #19-04-02 Initial Resolution of Buffalo County, Wisconsin, Relating to the Issuance of General Obligation Promissory Notes in an Amount Not to Exceed \$4,000,000.00 for the County's 2019 through 2021 Road Improvement Program: Mr. Brian Della, PMA, explained the resolution will require 11 affirmative votes to pass and move forward. A discussion was held on how the funds can be drawn all at once or the county could draw only what is needed at the time. If the money is taken all at one time it can be invested to help offset the costs of borrowing the funds. The debt mill rate would change from .39 to .71, but how this affects property taxes really depends on the municipality. A municipality with a TIF district will actually see more tax because of how that district affects the tax base. There is no easy way to tell each property owner how much their taxes will go up, you can only give them an estimate. PMA will work with local banks to see what they are willing to do before going out to the market. Mr. Grisen made a motion to approve the resolution by a roll call vote, seconded by Mr. Taylor. 12 voting yes, 2 excused. Carried.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding Resolution #19-04-03 A Resolution to Approve the Expenditure of CAPX2020 Funds to Install Private Drive and Town Road Signs as Required by the Buffalo County Uniform Addressing Ordinance: Mr. Owecke explained the process of the new address signs and how this resolution covers private drives that need to have numbers issued. If a private drive has 3 or more houses on it the drive will need to be named. He explained the naming process that the landowner will have to follow. Mr. Taylor made a motion to approve the resolution by roll call vote not to exceed \$22,000.00, seconded by Mr. Bork. All in favor. Carried.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding Resolution #19-04-04 A Resolution to Establish the Application/User Fee for Private Drive Signs and Their Installation: Mr. Owecke explained this resolution will establish a user fee for signing private drives. He discussed how the person creating the need for the private drive to be named will bear the cost of purchasing and installing all the signs. Mr. Bork made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mr. Taylor. Carried.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding Resolution #19-04-05 A Resolution to Support Funding for Great River State Trail - Winona Connector: This is a long term project that original was to be no cost to the county, but because of different issues took longer than expected and grant funding has changed. Grants for this type of project now require a 20% match for funding. A discussion was held regarding maintenance and who is responsible for the trail. This will be a crushed rock trail, not a paved trail so there should be minimal maintenance and if funding is needed there are grants available or there could be a user fee implemented. It is felt by some that having resources like this will make the county more attractive and keep people here. Mr. Danzinger made a motion to approve by roll call vote, seconded by Ms. Rosenow. 10 voting yes, 2 excused, Mr. Bork and Mr. Weiss voting no. Carried.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding Resolution #19-04-06 A Resolution to Transfer Funds from the Buffalo County Emergency Management Budget to the Sheriff's Department Budget for the Purpose of the Cooperative Use of the 2016 Ford F-150 Squad between Emergency Management and the Sheriff's Department, and for the Lease of a New Sheriff's Department Squad Vehicle: Mr. Fuerbringer discussed the work of Emergency Management and how having a vehicle equipped to respond to emergencies is crucial. By purchasing this vehicle from Law Enforcement it will be equipped for both departments to use and will be available if Law Enforcement needs a backup vehicle. Mr. Kriesel made a motion to approve the resolution by roll call vote, seconded by Mr. Schreiner. All in favor. Carried.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding Resolution #19-04-07 A Resolution to Purchase One (1) New Sign Truck: This truck will replace the old truck that is at the end of its life. This does not include any of the accessories. Mr. Grisen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mr. Taylor. Carried.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding Resolution #19-04-08 A Resolution Authorizing the Approval of the Buffalo County Land Information Plan 2019-2021: The plan was already approved by the State. Ms. Rosenow expressed concern over approving a plan that the State has already approved and would like the Board to see plans prior to being sent to the State as this affects how funds can be spent. Mr. Taylor made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mr. Bork. Ms. Rosenow voting no. Carried.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding Resolution #19-04-09 A Resolution to Authorize the Clerk of Court to Contract with the Wisconsin Department of Revenue (DOR) for the Collection of Debt: This resolution will allow Ms. Schlosser to bring debt collection back into her office and retain the 19% that it now costs for the company she contract with to provide this service. They are allowed to go back 20 years, but most counties only go back 10 years. She will be working with the Judge to see how many years he would like her office to go back. Mr. Hillert made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mr. Schreiner. Carried.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding Resolution #19-04-10 A Resolution to Create and Fill a Combination Deputy Clerk of Court and Deputy Register in Probate Position: This position will be split 50/50 between the two offices with the individual physically placed in the Register in Probate office. The position would help with State Debt Collection process and with running the equipment in the courtroom that will be installed due to the Court Reporter retiring. Mr. Grisen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mr. Taylor. Carried.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding Resolution #19-04-11 A Resolution to Add Policy No. 111 to the Buffalo County Handbook – Cell Phone Policy: Mr. Grisen made a motion to amend the resolution and policy so that all references to the policy number read as "Policy No. 110", seconded by Mr. Hillert. Carried.

This policy will make how cell phone reimbursement occurs more uniform. Mr. Taylor made a motion to approve the amended resolution, seconded by Mr. Schreiner. Carried.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding Resolution #19-04-12 A Resolution Authorizing Participation in DNR Snowmobile Grant Funding: This resolution is a housekeeping resolution that is necessary when applying for grants regarding snowmobile trail funding. Mr. Hillert made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mr. Brunkow. Carried.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding Resolution #19-04-13 A Resolution in Support of Increased County Child Support Funding: This resolution is an advisory resolution to encourage the state to increase funding for the Child Support Agency. Mr. Rynders explained that costs have continued to increase, but funding has not changed for a few years. Mr. Krisel made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Ms. Rosenow. Carried.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding Resolution #19-04-14 A Resolution to Create a Nonpartisan Procedure for the Preparation of Legislative and Congressional Redistricting Plans: Mr. Kriesel had a request from a citizen to have the Board approve the resolution to make redistricting a nonpartisan procedure. With the census coming up it is important to have redistricting done impartially. Mr. Kriesel made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mr. Grisen. Carried.

Review/Discussion/Action - Committee Reports: CJS and CJCC have made good progress with clients and changing habits.

Workforce Development will have eight juveniles that will be working in their summer program. The program helps to advance work skills and work ethic.

Law Enforcement is moving along to replace a squad. Ryan Vollmer has joined Law Enforcement as a Communications/Corrections Officer. A new female Communications/Corrections Officer will be brought on in July.

Western Dairyland had a hard time filling their financial/accounting position after the main person retired, but were finally able to get this filled.

Review/Discussion - Chair Report: None.

Review/Discussion - Administrative Coordinator Report: Ms. Hansen reported that interviews were held for the Administrative Assistant and Veteran Service Office. Alert Sense is expanding to allow community members to receive alerts. The tornado drill went well. Auditors will be here in a few weeks to audit 2018 financials. The DA should be moved into the courthouse by April 24th. The Fair Association has asked for their first payment on the bathrooms. They believe the bathrooms will be completed in time for the fair in August. Finance will be reviewing the 2020 budget directives.

Public Comments Not Regarding Agenda Items: None.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:31 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roxann Halverson
Buffalo County Clerk