

Buffalo County Minutes

Committee/Board: BUFFALO COUNTY HIGHWAY COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting: Tuesday, May 5, 2020

Location: Highway Department Committee Room

Electronic and Hardcopy Filing Date: Tuesday, May 12, 2020

Mr. Bob Platteter called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Buffalo County Highway Committee members present at the meeting were: Mr. Dwight Ruff, Mr. David Danzinger, Mr. Don Hillert, Mr. John Sendelbach, and Mr. Max Weiss (arriving at 9:07 a.m.).

Others present for all or part of the meeting were Mr. Bob Platteter, Mr. Kelly Johnston, Ms. Roxann Halverson, Ms. Sonya Hansen, and Mr. Jim Palkowski.

Consideration/Action regarding Selection of Chairman/Vice Chairman: Mr. Platteter called for nominations for Chair of the Highway Committee. Mr. Danzinger nominated Mr. Don Hillert. Mr. Platteter called for nominations three times. Mr. Ruff made a motion to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Mr. Hillert as Chair, seconded by Mr. Danzinger. Carried.

Mr. Weiss arrived at the meeting. Ms. Halverson informed him of what had taken place so far during the meeting.

Chair Hillert called for nominations of Vice Chair. Mr. Danzinger nominated Max Weiss for Vice Chair. Chair Hillert called for nominations three times. Mr. Ruff made a motion to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Mr. Weiss as Vice Chair, seconded by Mr. Sendelbach. Carried.

Recycling Committee: Mr. Weiss explained the work the Recycling Committee has been doing. There may be only 4 meetings a year as most of the big projects have been completed. Mr. Weiss, Mr. Ruff and Mr. Danzinger will serve on the Recycling Committee.

Minutes: The minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed. Mr. Weiss made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Ruff. Carried.

Public Comments: None.

Approval of Vouchers: Vouchers were reviewed. Mr. Danzinger made a motion to approve the vouchers, seconded by Mr. Weiss. Carried.

Consideration/Action regarding Staffing (Review of Department Current & Future Staffing Levels and Request for Summer Student Helper): Mr. Platteter reviewed the organizational chart showing 32 ½ staff and what areas those staff work in. Currently there are two Seasonal Truck Drivers that are assisting with the addressing sign project. Those employees may need to be pulled back to Highway Department work if the need arises. Mr. Platteter explained the need for student help at the shop. This position has been used the last several years. Mr. Weiss made a motion to approve the Summer Student position, seconded by Mr. Ruff. Carried.

Consideration/Action – Equipment (Process & Status of 2020 Equipment Purchases, Bids & Award Purchase of New Skid Steer, Bids & Award Purchase of New Zero-Turn Lawnmower, and Bids & Award Purchase of Trailer Mounted Attenuator): Mr. Platteter reviewed the 5-year plan for equipment replacement and purchases. There has been a resolution adopted that allows equipment purchases up to a certain dollar amount and if the purchase is outside that amount then it would need to come to the County Board for approval. After the purchases to be discussed today there will be \$72,000.00 left in the fund and only one piece of equipment to purchase for the year.

There are two Skid Steers in the equipment line, and one gets replaced each year. The Skid Steer that is being replaced is one that was purchased last year but has been causing issues. Mr. Weiss made a motion to purchase the John Deere Skid Steer, seconded by Mr. Ruff. Carried.

There are two zero-turn lawnmowers in the fleet. One is at the Alma Shop and one is at the Fountain City Shop. They are used for waysides and to mow the shop yards. The lawnmower that performed the best is not the lowest bid but will handle the terrain that it needs to. Mr. Ruff made a motion to approve the purchase of the Ferris lawnmower, seconded by Mr. Sendelbach. Carried.

The trailer mounted Attenuator is a piece of equipment that is required by the State. The current one is mounted on a truck but is not operating correctly. The State will reimburse us for the use at \$10.78 per hour and was approved in the budget at an estimated \$20,000.00. The actual purchase price of \$30,213.00 is higher than anticipated but will still be within the overall budgeted equipment amount. Mr. Danzinger made a motion to approve the purchase seconded by Mr. Ruff. Carried.

Consideration/Action – Buildings & Grounds (Highway Department Locations & Current Activities at Each): Mr. Platteter reviewed each location and the type of work done at each shop. The Alma Shop has been remodeled and the Mondovi Shop is the newest facility. The Waumandee Shop is shared with the Town of Waumandee. Space does get to be an issue at this location. The land is owned by the Town of Waumandee and the building is owned by the County. The County would like to construct a steel building to store equipment inside, but the Town is not in favor of this. The Town would like to remodel the old schoolhouse building and share that space with the County. A discussion was held regarding the former implement buildings in Waumandee and if this

could be used for what the County needs. The Committee asked Mr. Platteter to gather more information on this.

Consideration/Action – Roads & Bridges (2020 Road Construction & Maintenance, Project Funding, Bridge Repairs & Replacements, Bids & Award 2020 Asphalt Purchases, Bids & Award 2020 Culvert Purchases, Draft Policy for Township Work, and WiDot PBM Project): Mr. Platteter reviewed the plans for the 2020 construction season. There were two projects crossed out that will be pushed to another year. Other projects were pulled in earlier as they made more sense to complete now with other work being done in that area.

Mr. Platteter discussed project funding. There are 319 miles of roads the County maintains. Those are planned to have a 30-year lifecycle with 10.5 miles of roads reconstructed each year. With budget cuts over the years this was cut way down. Materials have improved over times and we could go to a 35-year lifecycle for our roads.

There are nine bridges that are set to be replaced over the next few years. Mr. Platteter explained how a bridge qualifies for Federal funds and how they qualify for matching funds through the County.

The bid for asphalt was reviewed. There is only one company that provides asphalt in our area, Mathy Construction. Mr. Platteter reviewed the different types of asphalt and when the plants will be set up in our area. The price was reviewed. A discussion was held on if this was the lowest price and whether or not prices could be locked in for 2021 as well. Mr. Platteter indicated this was the best Mathy would do and it cannot be locked in past this year. Mr. Danzinger made a motion to approve the asphalt bid, seconded by Mr. Weiss. Carried.

The bids for culverts were reviewed. Mr. Weiss made a motion to accept the lowest bid for each culvert size needed, seconded by Mr. Danzinger. Carried.

The draft policy for township work was reviewed. The previous committee felt a policy was needed to phase out winter maintenance work that is done for the towns. The Committee would like to have wording added that if a municipality purchases their own culvert there would still be an administrative fee added to the county invoice.

Mr. Platteter gave an overview of the Performance Based Maintenance Program. The State requires the County to bid for projects on state roads. At this time the State would like a bid on crack filling. Mr. Platteter proposed a bid of \$184,498.76 for the project. There is a cushion in the bid to cover unforeseen expenses. Any extra money left after expenses are placed in the PBM fund and can be used for any highway project. Mr. Ruff made a motion to bid on the PBM project, seconded by Mr. Sendelbach. Carried.

Commissioner's Report: Mr. Platteter discussed issues that happened last year with the chip seal. The company says they will not leave the County hanging. Things that will need to be reviewed at upcoming meetings: ATV routes, Rustic Roads, and RT Vision

time reporting. He is also working on getting AEDs for the shops and maybe some for the Foreman trucks. The fuel contract for 2021 will also need to be reviewed.

Committee Member's Report: None.

The next meeting date will be June 9th at 8:00 a.m.
Chair Hillert adjourned the meeting at 12:07 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Roxann Halverson
Buffalo County Clerk