

# Buffalo County Minutes

**Committee/Board:** BUFFALO COUNTY HIGHWAY COMMITTEE

**Date of Meeting:** Tuesday, June 9, 2020

**Location:** Highway Department Committee Room

**Electronic and Hardcopy Filing Date:**

Chair Hillert called the meeting to order at 8:00 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.

Others present for all or part of the meeting were Mr. Bob Platteter, Mr. Kelly Johnston, Ms. Roxann Halverson (via phone), Ms. Sonya Hansen, Mr. Jim Palkowski, Ms. Janet La Duke, Mr. Roger Risler, Mr. Robert Grossell, Mr. Evan Mercer, Mr. Ray Johnston, Mr. Leonard Litscher, Ms. Wanda Putz, and Mr. Michael Hayden.

**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 for engineering and a DOT bridge were discussed. Vouchers were reviewed. Mr. Weiss made a motion to approve the vouchers, seconded by Mr. Danzinger. Carried.

## **Consideration/Action regarding Admin Fees Charged on Town Purchased**

**Materials for Joint Projects:** Mr. Platteter indicated the Town of Cross requested this be placed on the agenda. Mr. Litscher and Ms. Putz spoke regarding being charged an administrative fee on products they purchased and are having the county install. Mr. Platteter explained the amount of paperwork still required with joint projects even with municipalities purchasing their own supplies causes the administrative fee to be necessary. Mr. Weiss made a motion to table this item pending review of the draft policy the committee received, seconded by Mr. Ruff. Carried.

**Consideration/Action regarding County ATV Route Policy:** The committee reviewed the policy that was approved by the last Highway Committee. The ordinance and application presented are a draft and have not been approved yet. Ms. Hansen explained the process that has led to the creation of these documents. The policy will require the towns to apply for the route, pay an application fee, pay for installation of signs, and pay if there is any damage caused to the county road the route is approved on. Mr. Risler spoke about towns he knows will not approve routes and towns that are ready to apply.

He indicated the Town of Maxville has already submitted a letter to approve the use, Town of Canton is on board and Town of Nelson may be interested. Town of Gilmanton has told him no they are not going to allow the use of ATVs on the road as they have enough trouble with motorcycle accidents already.

Mr. Mercer asked that the paragraph referring to the reduced speed limit near a residence be removed as the DNR has found that to be a safety concern and removed it from their recommendations.

Mr. Risler wishes the entire county would be open and that towns would not need to give permission to have routes.

There was discussion over concerns of accidents on the road and who pays for them and discussion on how this is thought to be good for economic development for the county. There was discussion on jurisdiction of the road. The towns have no say regarding county roads and could not close the route once it is approved.

Ms. Halverson questioned why the towns would need to be involved if they have no jurisdiction over the road. The committee explained it was a courtesy. It was explained that the town could not close the routes after approval, this would be up to the Highway Committee. Towns do have the option of not renewing the routes the following year if they choose.

It was the consensus of the committee to forward this policy, ordinance and application to the August County Board and to get a copy to each town for their review.

**Consideration/Action regarding Rustic Roads:** Mr. Danzinger explained the work that Economic Development has done on the Rustic Roads. Routes were proposed and an application was presented to the State. The State amended one of the routes and this was brought back to the County Board for approval and it was not approved because of the traffic on the route the State proposed. Qualifications for Rustic Road designation were explained. The towns involved in these routes felt they were not included in the decision and should have had input. Mr. Weiss made a motion to not accept the Rustic Roads designation, seconded by Mr. Sendelbach. Carried.

**Consideration/Action regarding Status of Open Positions:** Mr. Platteter explained interviews will be held next week for the Highway/Recycling split position. He still has one Seasonal Mower position he would like to fill. This person would be mowing along the roads but could be pulled to help drive truck if needed.

**Consideration/Action regarding Equipment (Lo-Boy Trailer and Bids for Tractor/Backhoe):** Mr. Platteter showed the bids received for the tractor/backhoe. He explained that the new milling machine does not fit properly on the current trailer and to move it each time is \$500. He could wait on the tractor/backhoe and get a trailer, or he could purchase both and still be within budget. Mr. Weiss made motion to purchase the

tractor/backhoe and do more research on the trailer, seconded by Mr. Sendelbach.  
Carried.

**Consideration/Action – Buildings & Grounds (Waumandee Shop Operating Costs):**

A discussion was held on the history of the shared highway shop in Waumandee and how the costs are split. The committee would like to look at storage options and maybe some sort of expansion.

**Consideration/Action – Roads & Bridges (Bids for 2020 Aggregate Purchases, Bids for 2020 Seal Coat Oil Purchases, and Road Construction Schedule):**

Mr. Platteter reviewed the bids for aggregate and seal coat oil. Mr. Weiss made a motion to approve the low bid for the aggregate from Milestone, seconded by Mr. Ruff. Carried. Mr. Ruff made a motion to approve the low bid for seal coat oil from Fahrner, seconded by Mr. Weiss. Carried.

The tentative road construction schedule was reviewed. Things may change if needed, but this is how it is set at this time.

**Consideration/Action regarding 2020 & 2021 Fuel Contracts:**

Fuel contract bids were reviewed. There were two bids received (Countryside Cooperative and Pehler Oil). The committee discussed the pros and cons of contracting out for fuel. Mr. Ruff made a motion to contract 42,500 gallons for 2020 and 85,000 gallons for 2021 from Pehler Oil, seconded by Mr. Weiss. Carried.

**Review of 2019 Annual Report:**

Mr. Platteter introduced Ms. Janet La Duke as the new Office Manager. He reviewed the 2019 Annual Report and believes this will be presented to the full County Board in June. A discussion was held on work completed, financials, winter maintenance, and how the overall budget ended.

**Consideration/Action regarding Highway Department Personnel:**

**The Committee May Go into Closed Session Pursuant to Wis. Stat. 19.85(1)(c):**

Mr. Hillert made a motion to go into closed session, seconded by Mr. Danzinger. Mr. Ruff – yes, Mr. Weiss – yes, Mr. Sendelbach – yes, Mr. Hillert – yes, and Mr. Danzinger – yes. Carried.

The Committee May Return to Open Session. Mr. Hillert made a motion to return to

open session, seconded by Mr. Danzinger. Mr. Ruff – yes, Mr. Weiss – yes, Mr. Sendelbach – yes, Mr. Hillert – yes, and Mr. Danzinger – yes. Carried.

**Commissioner's Report:** Mr. Platteter reported the summer conference has been moved to August. If anyone would like to attend with him to please let him know soon.

**Committee Member's Report:** A semi hit the rail on County Road E. This is being repaired. A discussion was held on bridge width and sight distance requirements. The culvert project was placed on hold due to COVID-19 and needing to get the address sign

project completed. County Road I may need to have some of the beaver dams looked at to make sure they do not cause road damage issues in a heavy rainfall. Grading along the roads was discussed and the large clumps of rock and dirt that are being left behind.

The next meeting date will be July 14, 2020 at 8:00 a.m.

Chair Hillert adjourned the meeting at 11:10 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Roxann Halverson  
Buffalo County Clerk