

Buffalo County Minutes

Committee/Board: BUFFALO COUNTY HIGHWAY COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting: Tuesday, July 14, 2020

Location: Highway Department Committee Room

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

Buffalo County Highway Committee members present at the meeting were: Mr. Don Hillert, Mr. John Sendelbach, and Mr. Max Weiss. Mr. Dwight Ruff was excused. Mr. David Danzinger joined the meeting at 8:21 a.m.

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

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

Mr. Weiss made a motion to approve the joint committee meeting minutes, seconded by Mr. Sendelbach. Carried.

Public Comments: None.

Approval of Vouchers: The invoice for tracks for the skid steer and fuel costs were discussed. Mr. Weiss made a motion to approve the vouchers, seconded by Mr. Sendelbach. Carried.

Consideration/Action regarding Staffing (Status of Open Positions, Patrolmen Absences, and Commissioner Schedule): The split Highway/Recycling position has been filled. The individual started yesterday and will work in Recycling this week so that when Randy goes on vacation they have knowledge of what needs to be done. There is a position open for one more Seasonal Driver. The position has been posted and application will be accepted through the end of the week. The fourth spot for a Seasonal Mower is vacant, but there is no need to fill it at this time.

The Patrolmen will see a few absences coming up. One individual is using up some PTO and two other individuals are looking at having surgery.

Next week will be the last full week for Mr. Platteter as Highway Commissioner. He will be on vacation then come back for a day to explain to Mr. Johnston and Mr. Dewitt what duties the Highway Commissioner has and then he will be done. Ms. Hansen explained

to the committee how the position is being split between Mr. Johnston and Mr. Dewitt while the Highway Commissioner position is being filled.

Consideration/Action regarding Equipment (Bids for Lo-Boy Trailer): The Lo-Boy trailer is not part of the original budgeted equipment, but it has been found that the new milling machine does not fit on the current trailer. A new trailer was put out for specs and bids. It will take 10-12 weeks to deliver the trailer. The Eager Beaver trailer is the low bid and could have a rust protective coating sprayed on for an additional \$1,000.00. A discussion was held on whether or not the undercoating is done at the factory or after it gets to the dealer. Mr. Weiss made a motion to approve the bid for the Eager Beaver trailer at \$39,182.00 and adding the undercoating for \$1,000.00 if it is factory sprayed, seconded by Mr. Danzinger. Carried.

Consideration/Action regarding Buildings & Grounds (Status of Neighboring Leased Property and County's Interest in Cost Sharing Neighboring Watershed Project): Mr. Platteter explained the lease agreement with the neighboring property owner. The lease is a 75 year lease at \$100 per year for 9/10 of an acre. The past committee had discussed purchasing the property instead of leasing and the property owner had thought the committee would come up with an offer. A discussion was held with Mr. Schultz regarding ideas of a price and having the property appraised. Mr. Schultz is open to having the property appraised but does not see the need to spend the estimated \$600 if both parties can agree on a value. The committee would like Mr. Schultz to come back with a price he would like to have for the property.

Mr. Platteter explained the back corner of the property has a ravine that will fill up with water when there is a heavy rain. If the county would ever want to build in that area flooding would be an issue. Mr. Schultz recently installed a watershed dam on his property and this has helped with those flooding issues. Mr. Schultz was inquiring if the county would like to share in the expenses of the watershed project since they do benefit from it. The cost for his portion of the installation was \$1,585.00. A discussion was held on the use of CAPX funds for this project. Mr. Danzinger made a motion to recommend paying 50% of the cost from CAPX funds, seconded by Mr. Sendelbach. Carried.

Consideration/Action regarding Roads & Bridges (Road Construction, Chip Sealing, CTH E Wall Repair & Erosion Repair, CTH F Erosion Repair, and Culvert Inventory Project): Road construction is going well. Paving has begun on County Road P and weather permitting should be mostly done tomorrow. Work has begun on County Road TT replacing culverts on the north end and will then move to the other end near State Road 37.

Chip sealing is going well. The Town of Maxville and Town of Modena are finished. They will continue to work on county roads and other town projects. County Road E will be redone shortly after the chip sealing did not take from last year. This year all chips were purchased from one vendor.

County Road E wall project is still being worked on. It is estimated to be \$50,000.00 for wall panels and \$35,000.00 for footings. They will first dig into the hill to see if there is rock behind there. If there is solid rock a wall would not be needed or a lower wall to prevent anything from spilling onto the roadway could be used.

The culvert inventory project will begin again shortly. The first round of mowing is just about complete and then two individuals can finish the inventory before the second round of mowing begins.

Mr. Platteter has had various people view the erosion problem on County Road F to try and find ways to stop it. One way would be to install guard rails, but over time these lean out and need to be replaced. Sheet piling could be used. We do not have the equipment to install sheet piling and this option would be costly. Another option would be to move the road over away from the creek and any springs that keep popping out of the side of the road. The DNR has given permission to install rip rap along the creek to help prevent further erosion.

Consideration/Action regarding 2021 Budget Snapshot: Mr. Platteter explained he has not had time to put a snapshot of 2021 together. With Ms. LaDuke being new and things backlogged the financials have not been closed since March. There is one year left on the bonding so 2021 should be ok. The one item to watch for is the winter maintenance as that was still behind in 2020.

Consideration/Action regarding Commissioner Conference: The Commissioner Conference is August 10-12 in Wisconsin Dells. Mr. Platteter had not planned on going due to COVID-19 concerns. Committee members are welcome to attend and should let someone know soon if they would like to attend. Some of the speakers will be attending virtually and there may be an option to others to view the conference virtually.

Consideration/Action regarding LDG Road School: Road school is generally attended by the Foreman. This is held September 15-17 and at this time is moving forward as scheduled. This can be discussed at the next meeting to see how things are going with COVID-19 to see if we want to send anyone.

Commissioner's Report: The annual Safety Day is scheduled for this Thursday, but if paving is shut down due to rain this will have to be rescheduled. This is a full day of training for staff and committee members are invited to attend.

Committee Member's Report: None.

Public Comments: None.

The next meeting date will be August 11, 2020 at 8:00 a.m.

Mr. Weiss made a motion to adjourn at 9:32 a.m., seconded by Mr. Sendelbach. Carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Roxann Halverson
Buffalo County Clerk