

Buffalo County Minutes

Committee/Board: Finance Committee

Date of Meeting: Thursday, August 8, 2019

Electronic and Hard Copy Filing Date: Tuesday, August 13, 2019

Mr. Don Hillert called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Board Members Present: Mr. Don Hillert, Mr. David Danzinger, Ms. Mary Anne McMillan Urell, Ms. Nettie Rosenow, and Mr. Larry Grisen.

Others Present for All or Parts of the Meeting: Ms. Roxann Halverson, Ms. Sonya Hansen, Ms. Cindy Giese, Ms. Carrie Olson, Mr. Kelly Herold, Mr. Gary Schlosstein, Mr. Lee Gehrke, Mr. Tom Bilski, Ms. Mackenzie Dregney, Sheriff Mike Schmidtknecht, Ms. Melissa Brunner, Ms. Felicia Hager, Mr. Bob Platteter, and Ms. Lisa Schuh.

Public Comments Regarding Posted Agenda Items: None.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding 2020 Budget Presentations:

Coroner: Ms. Giese presented the budget for the Coroner's Office. She explained that they have about 50-60 cases per year, but are on call 24/7. She explained her budget shows an increase in the number of autopsies, a request for uniform shirts for the Deputies and herself, and a possibility of increasing per diem.

Land Conservation and Nonmetallic Mining: Ms. Olson reviewed the Nonmetallic Mining budget. The fees have been reduced to match expenses. Land Conservation will need a new truck in 3-4 years. Additional funds will be needed to repair and maintain PL-566 (dam) structures in the county. A discussion was held on applying for grants for different projects.

District Attorney and Victim Witness: Mr. Bilski and Ms. Dregney discussed their budgets. The basic changes would be the increase in wages and benefits as the DA Administrative Assistant and Victim Witness Coordinator are now county employees.

County Clerk: Ms. Halverson explained revenues will be down. The DMV services were discontinued as programming for the service from the third party vendor was cumbersome to work with and the service was not being utilized as often. She explained kennel licenses will be moved from the Treasurer's Office to her office and dog tags will be sold from her office after the first settlement of taxes with the municipalities. Election expenses will be up due to four elections in 2020. Ms. Hansen explained that this office is the only one without full-time help. Ms. Halverson is not sure her staff would want full-time status, but would like to maintain the flexibility to pull in this staff for extra hours when needed.

A break was taken from 10:25 a.m. until 10:30 a.m.

Law Enforcement & Jail: Sheriff Schmidtknecht spoke regarding projects needing to be done in the jail, trainings, and the jail health contract. He reviewed grants and expenses for the patrol, as well as equipment that is needed in 2020. The Patrol Sergeant positions were discussed and seem to be taking some of the work from the Sheriff and Chief Deputy.

Veteran Services: Ms. Hager reviewed the proposed 2020 budget. Expenses are up due to health insurance. Phone and mileage costs were also increased to help with Veteran outreach.

Historical: Mr. Herold presented the Finance Committee with a request of a \$10,500 donation. He explained the support the Historical Society has received since it started in 1982. His report also showed how other counties support the historical programs in their counties.

Highway: Mr. Platteter reviewed the revenues and budget requests for the Highway Department for 2020. The department is looking at a 32% increase and already has \$171,000 in joint bridge and culvert petitions.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding the 2020 Budget

Questions/Concerns/Recommendations: Ms. Hansen will put together a spreadsheet showing the 2019 budget, the 2020 budget request and percent of change.

Chair Hillert adjourned the meeting at 1:07 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Roxann Halverson
County Clerk