

BUFFALO COUNTY MINUTES

Committee of the Board: Buffalo County Highway Committee

Date of the Meeting: August 11, 2020

Chair Mr. Don Hillert called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. in the conference room of the Buffalo County Highway Department, Alma, Wisconsin.

**Board Members Present:** Mr. Don Hillert, Mr. Max Weiss, Mr. John Sendelbach, Mr. David Danzinger, and Mr. Dwight Ruff.

**Others Present for All or Parts of the Meeting:** Ms. Sonya Hansen, Ms. Janet LaDuke, Mr. John Dewitt, Mr. Dennis Bork and Mr. Jim Palkowski.

**Public Comments regarding Agenda Items:** There were no public comments.

**Review/Discussion/Action Regarding Minutes of the Previous Meeting:** A motion was made by Mr. David Danzinger seconded by Mr. Dwight Ruff to approve the minutes of the prior meeting as sent. Motion Carried.

**Review/Discussion/Action – Read and Approve Vouchers:** A motion was made by Mr. Max Weiss seconded by Mr. David Danzinger to approve the vouchers as presented. Motion Carried.

Ms. Janet LaDuke informed the committee that they are hoping to get May closed by the end of the month. She was attempting to get the bills on a disbursement schedule for the 10<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> of each month. She indicated that contracted staff had assisted her with several of the reports due to the State.

**Consideration/Action – ATV/UTV County Routes:**

Ms. Sonya Hansen shared the public comments from the meeting with the Towns Association which included concerns over a route versus trail, liability to the Towns in the event of an accident, making the Towns be the “bad guys”, costs for notification, damage and signage. Law Enforcement expressed concern over enforcement and safety.

**Resolution to Place Referendum Question on November Ballot Regarding Usage of County Roads as ATV/UTV Routes:** A motion was made by Mr. David Danzinger seconded by Mr. John Sendelbach to strike the work “all” from the proposed resolution. A motion was made by Mr. Dwight Ruff seconded by Mr. Max Weiss to approve the resolution to place the referendum question on the November ballot as amended. Motion Carried.

**Consideration/Action – Staffing – Highway Commissioner Replacement:**

Chair Mr. Don Hillert informed the members that a screening committee consisting of himself, Mr. Dennis Bork, Mr. Larry Grisen and Ms. Sonya Hansen are meeting to review the applications. Interviews will then be scheduled to include the members of the Highway Committee on Friday, August 21, 2020 starting at 11:45 a.m.

**Consideration/Action – Equipment:**

**Tractor-Backhoe:** Mr. Jim Palkowski informed the committee that the tractor-backhoe was being delivered today and that they had traded-in the old equipment for \$34,000.

**Skid Steer Trade/Replacement:** Mr. Jim Palkowski informed the committee that the unit had arrived without high flow hydraulics and had to be returned. It was an error by the vendor as this requirement was on the bid specification. Mr. Jim Palkowski stated that the vendor is in the process of replacing it with the correct unit.

**Consideration/Action- Buildings and Grounds:**

**Neighboring Property Lease/Purchase:**

No action was taken by the committee. The current owner has not responded with an offer price.

**Road Construction Review:**

**CTH E Wall/Pavement Project:** Mr. John DeWitt informed the committee that he and Mr. Kelly Johnston met with Reglin Construction to assess options and develop a plan for replacement of the wall. He also obtained information and distributed block and cement options from various vendors to get an estimate of the cost and ability to obtain the product needed to complete the project. This project is funded by FEMA and one extension had already been granted. Mr. John DeWitt indicated that this project needs priority attention as they also would like to see the work completed before resurfacing the road, which is scheduled this year. The Committee instructed Mr. John DeWitt to meet with the landowners to discuss the project.

**CTH TT:** Mr. John DeWitt informed the members that he decided with to have the blacktop coming from the Eau Claire plant versus coming from Arcadia. He was able to reduce the cost from \$45.65 per ton to \$39.95 per ton. Paving was planned for the 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> of this month.

**CTH F Erosion – Road Adjustment:** Mr. John DeWitt indicated that this road has erosion issues due to natural springs and it may require the road to be moved. He stated that he contacted Jewell Associates Engineers to provide a quote on the slope repair to stabilize the embankment. A motion was made by Mr. David Danzinger seconded by Mr. Dwight Ruff to have Mr. John DeWitt to explore engineering work and get estimates pertaining to plans from Jewel and to bring this project back to the Highway Committee. Motion Carried.

**CTH H (North) Bridge Deck:** The bridge deck needs replacement. The option of using the Wheeler Kit was presented. A motion was made by Mr. Max Weiss seconded by Mr. John Sendelbach to bid out this project using the Wheeler Kit. Motion Carried.

**Consideration/Action – Commissioner Conference – Virtual Sessions:**

Mr. John DeWitt indicated that he was planning to attend this conference through virtual means as the in-person sessions are not being held.

**Consideration/Action – LDG Road School, September 15-17, Green Bay, Wisconsin:**

A motion was made by Mr. John Sendelbach seconded by Mr. David Danzinger to approve staff to virtually attend this training. Motion Carried.

**Culvert Inventory Project:** Mr. John DeWitt informed the members that they are working on completing this project and plan to use a current seasonal employee.

**Commissioner’s Report:** Mr. John DeWitt reported that the bridge inspection contract with MSA is up for renewal and they are looking to extend the contract for an additional two (2) years. Inspections need to be completed by a qualified bridge inspector every two (2) years.

He stated that there were \$1,000 worth of culverts stolen and theft reports were filed.

**Committee Member’s Report:** Members of the committee would like to see an update of the construction projects and financial status on a monthly basis.

Next Meeting is scheduled for September 8, 2020 at 8:00 a.m.

Mr. Max Weiss made a motion to adjourn seconded by Mr. John Sendelbach at 10:04 a.m. Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Sonya J. Hansen  
Recording Secretary