

BUFFALO COUNTY MINUTES

Committee of the Board: Buffalo County Finance Committee

Date of the Meeting: Thursday, August 20, 2020

Chair Mr. Dennis Bork called the meeting to order at 8:53 a.m. in the Second Floor Conference Room of the Buffalo County Courthouse.

Board Members Present: Mr. Don Hillert, Mr. Max Weiss, Mr. Dennis Bork, Mr. David Danzinger, and Mr. Brad Schmidtknecht.

Others Present for All or Parts of the Meeting: Ms. Sonya Hansen, Administrative Coordinator.

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. Don Hillert seconded by Mr. Max Weiss to approve the minutes of the prior meetings of July 16, 2020 as sent. This motion included the Joint HR & Finance Committee meeting held on the same date. Motion Carried.

Review/Discussion/Action – Review of Requests for Proposals – Corporation Counsel Services: A motion was made by Mr. Max Weiss seconded by Mr. Brad Schmidtknecht to accept the proposal from Bilski & Associates in the amount of \$60,000 and to authorize the Administrative Coordinator to prepare the resolution for action at the next regular meeting in September.

Review/Discussion/Action – Review of Requests for Proposals – Auditing Services: A motion was made by Mr. David Danzinger seconded by Mr. Don Hillert to table this item on the agenda to clarify the proposal from Kerber Rose on the preparation of the Annual Financial Report. Motion Carried.

Review/Discussion/Action – A Resolution to Designate the Official County Newspapers: A motion was made by Mr. Don Hillert seconded by Mr. Max Weiss to approve the resolution to designate the Buffalo County News as the official newspaper for publication and forward to the County Board of Supervisors for action. Motion Carried.

Review/Discussion/Action – A Resolution to Designate Additional Funding for Buffalo County Broadband Expansion: Chair Dennis Bork indicated that this resolution failed at the Economic Development Committee meeting held prior to this Finance Committee meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Don Hillert seconded by Mr. Brad Schmidtknecht to refer this resolution back to the Economic Development for further discussion. Motion Carried.

Review/Discussion/Action – A Resolution to Support Telecommuter Forward!

Certificate: A motion was made by Mr. Brad Schmidt knecht seconded by Mr. David Danzinger to support the application to apply to the Public Service Commissioner for Buffalo County to be certified as a Telecommuter Forward Community. Motion Carried.

Review/Discussion/Action – Review of COVID-19 Unbudgeted Expenditures:

Ms. Sonya Hansen reviewed a list of unbudgeted items purchased and unbudgeted items needed, mostly for the ability to telecommute, hold meetings virtually, and supplies to reduce the spread of COVID-19. The total projected expenditures were \$101,520.30. Ms. Sonya Hansen indicated that these expenditures should be covered under the Routes to Recovery funding that Buffalo County was allocated. A motion was made by Mr. Donald Hillert seconded by Mr. David Danzinger to approve up to \$133,800.00 of unbudgeted expenditures for telecommuting, virtual meeting ability and supplies to reduce the spread of COVID-19 from the Routes to Recovery funding. Motion Carried.

Review/Discussion/Action – Set Dates for Budget Reviews with

Departments/Offices: The Finance Committee set Friday, September 4th starting at 8:00 a.m. to meet with the departments/offices.

Review/Discussion/Action –Cooperative Agreement with Beaver Creek Reserve & Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Grant:

Ms. Sonya Hansen reviewed with the committee; the information presented to the Land Conservation & UW Extension Committee on a revised grant program available to counties for AIS control work. This proposal would be a collaborate effort with multiple counties and approve Beaver Creek Reserve to act as the county agent to accomplish work goals, including purple loosestrife biocontrol, wetland invasive species outreach and education, and aquatic invasive control in trout streams. No tax levy funding is required to participate in this grant. A motion was made by Mr. David Danzinger to ratify the action taken by the Land Conservation & UW Extension Committee and authorize the paperwork to be signed by the Administrative Coordinator. Motion Carried.

Review/Discussion/Action – Offer to Settle Judgment Owed to Buffalo County:

A request was received from Attorney Harry R. Hertel on behalf of his client to offer a lump sum settlement of \$4,000 on an outstanding judgment against Shane Urness in the amount of \$7,930.12 in favor of the County for court costs and restitution fees. A motion was made by Mr. David Danzinger seconded by Mr. Don Hillert to approve the lump sum settlement of \$4,000 to satisfy the outstanding judgment. Motion Carried.

Review/Discussion – Re-monumentation Project Update: Mr. Max Weiss informed the Committee that the Land Use Committee met with the township leaders for the Towns of Canton, Maxville, Nelson, Milton and Belvidere to discuss a proposal to complete the re-monumentation project. The proposal included each town contributing up to \$60,000 with the balance being paid mostly by grant funding based on the historical data of the cost share between the towns and the County. He indicated that some of the

concerns expressed by the towns were the corners located in Federal/State land, credit for prior payments made to the County for the project, how they would fund the project and written assurance from the County that the project would get completed . The towns are going to be meeting with their boards and respond back in September after their town meetings.

Review/Discussion/Action – Monthly Vendor Invoices/Vouchers/Employee Payroll/Funds Investment Report: Ms. Sonya Hansen distributed the 2017 Tax Deed properties list provided by the County Treasurer. She also advised the Committee that the cash balance is before distributing the tax settlements to our local schools and towns in the amount of \$6,748,285.50. A motion was made by Mr. Don Hillert seconded by Mr. David Danzinger to approve the monthly vouchers as presented. Motion Carried.

Chairperson Report: The Chair had nothing additional to report.

Administrative Coordinator Report – County Updates: Ms. Sonya Hansen reported that she had attended the Cochrane TID Joint Review meeting on August 19, 2020 and that the project was performing well with a change in TID value of \$2,167,300. She indicated that the second draw is coming up for the bond issuance and that the principal payment of \$530,000 plus interest of \$17,290 is being processed for payment. Ms. Sonya Hansen report that she had worked with the Land Conservation Department to purchase an additional piece of equipment that attaches to their GPS unit to independently stake and measure conservation projects in the field. They were able to find one on the State/County Surplus website for \$2,100. This piece of equipment usually costs around \$5,500. She indicated that the funds were in the budget to cover the expenditure. Ms. Sonya Hansen reported that she had received a complaint from the residents from the North Washington Street apartments in Mondovi. She indicated that these apartments are part of the Buffalo County Housing Authority and that Buffalo County does not have any control or oversight of these apartments and that she referred the complaint to the appropriate staff. Ms. Sonya Hansen distributed a copy of the Financial Report as of July 31, 2020 to the members. Actual revenues are at 60.05% and expenditures are at 46.42% with 59% of the year completed.

Public Comment Unrelated to Agenda: There were no public comments.

Review/Discussion/Action – Next Regular Meeting Date: Next meeting is scheduled for September 4, 2020 at 8:00 a.m. for budget presentations with the departments. The next regularly scheduled meeting is September 17, 2020 at 8:30 a.m.

Mr. Brad Schmidtknecht made a motion to adjourn seconded by Mr. Don Hillert at 11:04 a.m. Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Sonya J. Hansen, Recording Secretary