

Buffalo County Minutes

Committee/Board: Highway Committee

Date of Meeting: Tuesday, September 10, 2019

Electronic and Hard Copy Filing Date: Thursday, September 12, 2019

Mr. Larry Grisen called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Board Members Present: Mr. Larry Grisen, Mr. David Danzinger, Mr. Dennis Bork, and Mr. Michael Taylor.

Others Present for All or Parts of the Meeting: Mr. Bob Platteter, Mr. Kelly Johnston, Ms. Roxann Halverson, Mr. Ray Johnston, Mr. Roger Risler, and others.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding Minutes of the Previous Meeting: Mr. Bork made a motion to approve the previous meeting minutes, seconded by Mr. Danzinger. Carried.

Public Comments Regarding Posted Agenda Items: None.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding Approving Vouchers: The invoices for the trucks, repeaters, and Bauer's Excavating were reviewed. Mr. Danzinger made a motion to approve the vouchers, seconded by Mr. Bork. Carried.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding ATV Routes: Mr. Risler is asking the County to open up 9/10 of a mile from the Pepin County line to the City of Mondovi. He indicated he spoke with the Town of Mondovi last night and they are not interested due to liability issues and the extra work they would have to do to collect on accidents. Mr. Risler would also like some roads open in the Town of Maxville and Town of Canton that match up with other roads in Pepin County. Angie (Ron & Angies Northside Bar) would like the trails open so customers can reach the City of Mondovi and the state trail system. Mr. Risler would like the County to grant the permission without him having to obtain permission from the towns. He also asked if this could be done on a town by town basis because getting the entire county to agree would be near impossible. Ms. Halverson explained that as the Town of Mondovi Clerk the town will be checking on the liability issues and may discuss a temporary approval, but first they need to check with an attorney and insurance carrier. Mr. Bork questioned opening the roads when there is more of an advantage for citizens from other counties rather than our own citizens. He feels we need to stay with the previous decision and have the town approval before moving forward. Angie questioned why the towns get a say on county roads. Chair Grisen explained this was done to work in cooperation with the towns and not just tell the towns they have to allow the use in their area. He further explained that towns have the possible liability when an accident occurs. Evan (from Pepin County) has worked with different municipalities in Pepin County and their usage is limited to a time period

each year. They are allowed to run from April 1 to December 1. Mr. Johnston has issues with the end date as this could cause safety issues with plow trucks. Mr. Danzinger made a motion to recommend that the clubs go back to the towns to get approval and bring this back in the spring for review, seconded by Mr. Taylor. Carried.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding Staffing (Split Position): Mr. Platteter discussed the split position. The advertisement runs through Thursday. There may be one person internally that would be interested in the position. This would cause a vacancy that he would like to be allowed to backfill. Mr. Danzinger made a motion to allow a vacant position to be backfilled should someone from within be placed into the split position, seconded by Mr. Bork. Carried.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding Equipment (Salt Brine System Project): The project is larger than expected. Originally the State said the current building and well would meet the specs to install the salt brine equipment. They have now found out this is not the case. A new well needs to be installed just for this system so that water pumps in faster. The cost of a new well is \$10,309.00. The building needs to be expanded which then causes the heating system to need updating. Overall cost of the well and building updates is about \$30,000.00. This could be taken from PBM funds that the County receives from the State. The salt brine will then be sold to other agencies and those funds put back into machinery funds. Mr. Danzinger made a motion to proceed with the building expenses for the salt brine system and to take the funds from the PBM account, seconded by Mr. Bork. Carried.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding Building and Grounds (Fuel Tanks, Waumandee Building):

- Fuel Tanks: Bids came in for new tanks for the Mondovi shop and Fountain City shop. It was higher than anticipated. The current pumps and tanks are inspected regularly and are in good shape. To have the fuel company drop fuel at each shop would cost \$.08 more per gallon. Most of the shop pickup trucks are now equipped with transfer tanks so this should not be an issue. The Committee would like Mr. Platteter to check on prices to drop fuel at each shop and bring this back.
- Waumandee Building: The building has been painted brown with white trim to match the Alma and Mondovi Shops. The cost will be split 60/40 with the Town of Waumandee.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding Roads and Bridges (Paving Schedule, Chip Seals, CTH E Wall):

- Paving Schedule: Mathy Construction will not have the paving plant set up until the week of the 23rd. There are 11 miles of paving to be done and a bridge that needs to be replaced. The bridge deck is set to arrive next week and will take three days to install. Pepin County is willing to help with paving as they have no paving to do this year. Mr. Platteter discussed this with Chris Reinhardt and thought it best to use both pavers on the same stretch of road. This helps the seams stay hot while rolling together and creates a better seal. Mr. Taylor made

a motion to work with Pepin County on these paving projects, seconded by Mr. Bork. Carried.

- Chip Seals: Chip sealing is done, with a few issues. Mr. Platteter needed to order additional product for the Town of Nelson after the initial order. Wabasha told him that they were out of the regular product, but had more of the round pea gravel for the town road. When the product was delivered they received more of the round pea gravel than the fractured granite they normally get. They also found the fractured granite they did receive did not seem to work as well as product they had previously gotten from Milestone. He indicated that when bidding next year this would need to be taken into consideration.
- CTH E Wall: Mr. Platteter is working to obtain design bids so that the project can be let out in February and constructed next year. Some of the wall is hanging and will need to be looked at and possibly removed for safety. He would like to move up the County Road F project and hold off on the County Road OO project to move funds around so that County Road E can be repaved next year after the wall is complete. This will not save any funds, but rather shift things around to get high priority projects done.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding 2020 Budget: Mr. Platteter indicated he reviewed the budget again and there is not much that can be changed and keep the maintenance schedule where it needs to be. He did get notification that he will be receiving more funds from the CHI fund. Chair Grisen asked him to show that in the budget.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding the Commissioner's Report: Mr. Platteter reported that he would like to continue the culvert inventory project. He is confident with one of the Seasonal Mowers and the Intern this project can be completed this fall. Once the project is complete the information can be used to repair or replace any culverts that may need it. There is a Commissioners Committee Member meeting on October 15th in Eau Claire. Commissioner Fall training will be October 21 and 22 in Minocqua. Beginning January 1st all Flaggers must be certified. There is a Train the Trainer meeting on October 16th in Polk County that Mr. Kelly Johnston and Mr. Bruce Ausetz will be attending. They will then come back and train the entire staff. Chems Training is coming up. Ms. Diane Prenot, Ms. Robin Schmidtknecht, and Mr. Jim Palkowski will be attending this. The next meeting will be held on October 9th.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding the Committee Member's Report: Chair Grisen would like to see defibrillators at the shop and in the Foreman vehicles. He also would like to see training on how to use them. Work needs to be done on doing construction and snowplowing work for townships. The storm cameras were discussed. Not all are working yet.

Next Meeting Date and Time: The next meeting date will be October 9th at 10:00 a.m.

Public Comments: None.

Mr. Bork made a motion to adjourn at 10:51 a.m., seconded by Mr. Taylor. Carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Roxann Halverson
County Clerk