

Buffalo County Minutes

Committee/Board: Finance Committee:

Finance Committee

Date of Meeting:

Friday, September 17, 2020

Chair Dennis Bork called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

Finance Committee Members Present: Mr. Dennis Bork, Mr. David Danzinger, Mr. Donald Hillert, Mr. Max Weiss, and Mr. Brad Schmidtknecht.

Others Present for All or Parts of the Meeting: Ms. Sonya Hansen, Ms. Roxann Halverson, Ms. Lisa Schuh, Mr. Kelly Herold, Mr. Dave Rynders, Mr. Bruce Fuerbringer, Ms. Samantha Gore, Mr. David Thompson, and Mr. Rob Ganschow.

Public Comments Regarding Posted Agenda Items: None.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding Previous Meeting Minutes: Mr. Hillert made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Weiss. Carried.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding the Recycling, Emergency Management and LEPC 2021 Budget Presentations: Mr. Fuerbringer presented each of the budgets. The Emergency Management budget shows a reduction of \$131. He explained this budget has grants associated with it and include purchasing six new radios to be used by Law Enforcement and Emergency Management. It also includes wages for the Emergency Management Director to return to employment from Military Leave. He has also included a Clean Sweep day in his budget as Buffalo County has not had one for a few years. He has it set up as two one day events which will be held in two different locations. The EPCRA grant has been applied for and will pay for a new computer in 2021. He reviewed training schedules and events that will be scheduled.

The Recycling budget was reviewed. The per cap fee will be increased in 2021 to help cover costs. Mr. Fuerbringer reviewed how the single stream program is working. He also reviewed an emergency purchase that was made. The compactor broke and would cost just about as much to fix it as a new machine. The new machine will take a few weeks to get here and be installed.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding the Historical Society Budget Request: Mr. Herold discussed how the office has been running with the effects of COVID. He is asking for the same \$7,000 contribution as in past years. He did inform the Finance Committee that he will be leaving employment with the Historical Society at the end of the year. He explained office hours are Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 8:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding A Resolution to Add Additional Limited Term 2020 Public Health Position for Providing Disease Investigations, Contact Tracing and Monitoring for Individuals to Contain the Spread of Covid-19: Mr. Rynders explained with the increase in cases there is a need for additional staff. The expense of the additional staff will be covered by CARES Act funds through December 31, 2020. There is a chance of additional funding for these staff positions into 2021. Mr. Danzinger made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mr. Schmidtknecht. Carried.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding Request to Increase Working Capital for Recovery & Wellness Consortium for Provider Reimbursement: Mr. Rynders explained that Buffalo County is part of a consortium for AODA and mental wellness. Being part of this consortium has reduced costs for Buffalo County significantly. Chippewa County handles all the financials, paying bills and waits for reimbursement from Medical Assistance. Each year the working capital amount is reviewed to ensure it is enough to cover our costs and keep the consortium working. If Buffalo County were to ever leave the consortium this money would be returned. The resolution passed in 2018 allows the Finance Committee to make decisions of increasing the working capital paid to Chippewa County. At this time due to an increase in cases it is necessary to increase the amount by \$84,494.23 to cover costs. Mr. Hillert made a motion to approve the increase in working capital and to take the funds from the account they were originally taken from, seconded by Mr. Danzinger. Carried.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding A Resolution to Identify Delinquent 2017 Real Estate Taxes: Ms. Halverson explained the properties on the resolution are for delinquent taxes from 2017. Mr. Daniel Wolfe sent an email requesting additional time to pay as he has had some hardships recently. He has made a payment that has not cleared the bank yet, but that payment does not pay all the taxes due.

Mr. David Thompson is at the meeting to discuss his taxes. He explained he has \$4,000.00 to pay towards his taxes and asks for a few weeks to come up with the balance of \$534.70. Ms. Halverson explained that although Mr. Thompson is on the delinquent list each year, he has always paid the amount due. Mr. Danzinger made a motion to approve the \$4,000.00 payment and extend payment for 60 days, seconded by Mr. Hillert. Carried.

Ms. Samantha Gore discussed her tax payment. She does craft for her occupation and due to COVID there has been no outlets for her products. Her husband recently started a new job and she feels she can pay \$500 every two weeks and have the balance paid by December 31st. Ms. Halverson indicated that Ms. Gore is regularly on the delinquent list, but Ms. Gore has previously paid the amount due and she would have no problem with accepting a payment plan. Mr. Danzinger made a motion to approve the payment plan of \$500 every two weeks with the entire balance to be paid by December 31, 2020, seconded by Mr. Hillert. Carried.

Ms. Halverson explained she has had no response to letters she sent to Mr. Anderson or Mr. Watts. Mr. Watts had been making payments, but those have stopped. She would recommend taking these properties for nonpayment of 2017 taxes. Mr. Danzinger made a motion to foreclose on the Anderson and Watts properties, seconded by Mr. Schmidtknecht. Carried.

Mr. Danzinger made a motion to allow Mr. Wolfe until December 1st to secure funding for his delinquent taxes, seconded by Mr. Schmidtknecht. Carried.

Mr. Hillert made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mr. Danzinger. Carried.

Mr. Danzinger called for a 5 minute recess at 10:48 a.m., seconded by Mr. Schmidtknecht. Carried.

The meeting resumed at 10:52 a.m.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding A Resolution to Authorize Contract for Audit Services for 2021-2024: Ms. Hansen reviewed the bids. Kerber Rose had submitted a bid but indicated it would charge more if there were any changes to reporting requirements which would mean the bid amount could possibly be more than the company we currently use. Wipfli has been good to work with and very responsive to questions. Mr. Rob Ganschow was in attendance to answer any questions the committee may have. Mr. Hillert made a motion to approve the resolution to approve Wipfli as the auditing firm, seconded by Mr. Danzinger. Carried.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding A Resolution to Cost Share Using CAPX2020 Funding on Watershed Project on Land Adjacent to Alma Buffalo County Highway Shop: The neighboring landowner had a dam structure installed to help with runoff of large rains. He feels this structure has helped the Highway Shop with water issues on their property and wondered if the County would be willing to pay for half the structure cost. Mr. Weiss expressed concerns of a cost share payment after the structure is already installed. Mr. Hillert made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mr. Danzinger. Carried.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding A Resolution to Authorize Contract for Corporation Counsel Services for 2021 and 2022: Ms. Hansen explained she put out for bids the Corporation Counsel services and only received 1 bid back and it was from our current Corporation Counsel. The bid would be for \$60,000.00 each year for the years 2021 and 2022. Mr. Danzinger made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mr. Schmidtknecht. Carried.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding Employer Social Security Tax Deferral: Ms. Hansen discussed how the tax is only postponed and not forgiven. The funds are already budgeted for and HR voted in favor of not deferring the payment. Mr. Danzinger made a motion to pay the tax as normal, seconded by Mr. Weiss. Carried.

Review/Discussion regarding the Preliminary 2021 Budget Review: Ms. Hansen reviewed the proposed revenues and expenditures for 2021 and the budget shortfall of \$1.7 million. The health insurance was budgeted for 5% but was negotiated to 1.5% so there will be some savings there. A discussion was held on other items that could be taken out of the budget and using some bond funds for the Highway Department. Ms. Hansen will meet with Department Managers to see if there are things that could be taken out of their budgets or revenues increased.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding Monthly Vendor Invoices/Vouchers/Employee Payroll/Funds Investment Report: Bills were reviewed. Mr. Hillert made a motion to approve the vouchers, seconded by Mr. Weiss. Carried.

Chairperson Report: None.

Administrative Coordinator Report: Ms. Hansen gave her report.

- Weld Riley S.C. who have represented the county in personnel matters will no longer be doing so. She will be working on a contract with Von Briesen Law Firm.
- WEDC has a broadband connector pilot program that has a grant open from September 21st through 30th. She will have Mr. Schmidt apply for this grant.
- The DOJ has a grant for COVID expenses for Law Enforcement and the court system. The grant is for up to \$58,000.
- Committee of the Board meeting is set for October 6th at 8:30 a.m.
- Finance Committee meeting for review of the budget is set for October 6th at 10:30 a.m.

Public Comments: None.

Mr. Weiss made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Hillert.

Respectfully Submitted,

Roxann Halverson
County Clerk