

Buffalo County Minutes

Committee/Board: Health and Human Services and Veterans Service Committee

Date of Meeting: Monday, September 28, 2020

Electronic and Hard Copy Filing Date:

Location: Pepin County Government Center
County Board Room
740 Seventh Avenue West, Durand, Wisconsin

1. ROLL CALL/BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Meeting commenced at 5:34 pm. Members present were Larry Grisen, Carol McDonough, Mary Anne McMillan-Urell, Richard Mueller, Joette Gillett and Steve Nelson. Wendy Kleinschmidt attended via ZOOM.

OTHERS PRESENT FOR ALL OR PART OF THE MEETING

Dave Rynders and Felicia Hager. April Loeffler attended via ZOOM.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING ANY MATTERS THAT WILL BE TAKEN UP BY THE COMMITTEE AT THIS MEETING

3. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

A motion was made by Mr. Grisen and seconded by Ms. Gillett to approve the September 1, 2020 minutes as presented. Motion approved unanimously.

4. VIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – VETERANS SERVICES MONTHLY REPORT

Ms. Hager presented her Veterans Services Report. She informed that Youth Government Day, which is normally scheduled for October, will be postponed until the Spring of 2021 due to the pandemic.

5. VETERANS SERVICES MONTHLY VOUCHERS

The monthly vouchers were presented by Ms. Hager. A motion was made by Mr. Mueller and seconded by Mr. Nelson to approve the monthly vouchers. Motion approved unanimously.

6. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – VETERANS 2021 BUDGET PROPOSAL – PART-TIME ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY

Discussion occurred regarding revising the 2021 Veterans Services budget to include funding for the Part-Time Administrative Secretary. Ms. McMillan-Urell informed that, after receiving all the department budget requests, there is a \$1.7M deficit for 2021. Mr. Schmidt knecht explained the Finance Committee is calling for departments across the board to make cuts to their proposed 2021 budgets. Following further discussion recognizing the need for additional help in the Veterans Services Office, Mr. Schmidt knecht motioned and Ms. Gillett seconded to add funds for the Part-Time Administrative Secretary to the 2021 budget. Discussion occurred to explore other options including looking at capacity to assist within other Buffalo County departments.

Information gathered by this exploration would be brought to the October 22nd Finance Committee by Ms. Hager and Ms. McMillan-Urell. The motion was withdrawn and Mr. Schmidtknecht motioned and Ms. Gillett seconded to explore options for addressing the workload needs of the Veterans Services Office. Motion approved unanimously. Ms. Hager mentioned LeAnn Loesel will be receiving formal recognition for her career serving veterans at a meeting of the Northwest County Veterans Service Officer Association of Wisconsin.

7. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – VETERANS PART TIME ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY JOB DESCRIPTION

Ms. Hager presented a revised job description for the Part-Time Secretary position she is requesting. Mr. Grisen and Ms. McMillan-Urell motioned to refer the revised job description to the Human Resources Committee for review and revision. Mr. Schmidtknecht seconded. Motion approved.

8. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – PUBLIC HEALTH UNIT REPORT

Ms. Loeffler shared graphs providing local and State COVID-19 information was added to the website. Mr. Rynders shared information learned by himself and Ms. Loeffler regarding efforts by some counties in Wisconsin considering ordinances to address public health emergencies such as the current COVID-19 pandemic. Ms. Loeffler, Mr. Rynders and Corporation Counsel Tom Bilski reviewed existing public health officer authority with Chapter 252 of the Wisconsin Statutes. It was noted some ordinance examples reviewed actually overlap authority already existing in 252. Ms. Loeffler shared having reviewed the Wisconsin Counties Association’s “Guidance in Implementing Regulations Surrounding Communicable Diseases” which points out Chapter 252 describes a fairly broad authority for local public health officers to write orders. These orders can address a specific incident deemed to put people at increased health risk as well as have a county-wide scope, including setting restrictions on mass gatherings. This authority is relatively untested. Legal challenges including the lawsuits concerning the Dane County Health Department order restricting schools under review by the Wisconsin Supreme Court will help define the actual scope of authority contained within Chapter 252. Rynders advised continuing to monitor such statewide activity regarding the cause and effect of issuing a public health order should the need arise; and to update the committee monthly. This monitoring will help determine if there is need in developing an ordinance. Mr. Nelson related talking to two county board members who both recognized issuing an order or developing an ordinance at this time may actually make the community less safe by increasing resistance and reducing the current level of community cooperation. Rynders related working with local businesses on a program to recognize safe business practices to reduce the spread of COVID-19 has been a good cooperative process so far. Motion by Mr. Nelson, seconded by Mr. Mueller to table work to draft a health emergency ordinance. Motion approved unanimously.

9. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – RESOLUTION TO ADD COMMUNICABLE DISEASE PROGRAM DUTIES TO ONE LIMITED TERM 2020 PUBLIC HEALTH POSITION

Mr. Rynders reported ramping up to start providing Reproductive Health Program services necessitated reassignment of communicable disease duties to one of the limited term public health positions. These positions were approved as being 100% funded by CARES funding and the resolution before them would change this for October 1 – December 31, 2020. Estimated CARES funded activity by permanent Public Health positions should capture sufficient CARES funding to offset this shift of duties and not cause an increase in levy funding above what is budgeted. A motion was made to approve the resolution to Add Communicable Disease Program Duties to One Limited Term 2020 Public Health Position by Mr. Mueller, seconded by Ms. Gillett.

Motion approved unanimously.

10. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – 2021 DHHS BUDGET REDUCTION PLAN

Mr. Rynders explained the Finance Committee has instructed all departments to revise their 2021 budget proposals to reduce its county fund component by 7% which translates to \$88,380. Last Tuesday a Department Head meeting was held and Ms. Hansen indicated she would be asking the Finance Committee on October 6th whether projected 2020 surpluses could be considered as part of the solution to close the \$1.7M 2021 deficit. The 2020 DHHS year to date budget was analyzed and an \$80,000 surplus is projected. DHHS staff are developing a plan to meet and hopefully exceed the \$88,380 target, which includes considering the 2020 surplus. Mr. Rynders related Ms. Renchin is working intensively to see if Community Recovery Services funding could be used to help cover the costs of some current adult out of home placements; if so the county funds in the 2021 budget could be reduced. If the surplus cannot be considered as part of the solution, options are limited and may need to include staff furlough and/or closing of some Senior Nutrition meal sites. Mr. Rynders said he and his staff doing everything they can to avoid recommending either of these two actions. The current plan does not recommend furloughs or any reduction of the Senior Meal program but there is a lot of process to complete before the 2021 budget comes to the County Board for approval. Mr. Rynders and Mr. Squire will be meeting with Ms. Hansen to review the DHHS 2021 budget reduction plan prior to presenting its plan along with all other departments plans to the Finance Committee October 6th.

11. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – DHHS MONTHLY VOUCHERS

A motion was made by Mr. Nelson and seconded by Mr. Schmidtkecht to approve the monthly vouchers as presented. Motion approved unanimously.

12. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – MONTHLY UNIT REPORTS

The monthly unit reports were reviewed.

13. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – WESTERN DAIRYLAND COMMUNITY ACTION

No discussion.

14. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

15. 6:30 pm ADJOURNMENT TO JOIN JOINT BUFFALO COUNTY DEPT. HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES BOARD AND PEPIN COUNTY DEPT. OF JUMAN SERVICES BOARD MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 3rd at 6:00 PM in the County Board Room. meeting adjourned at 6:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Rynders

DRAFT