

Buffalo County Minutes

Committee/Board: BUFFALO COUNTY HIGHWAY COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting: Tuesday, October 13, 2020

Location: Highway Department Committee Room

Chair Hillert called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

Buffalo County Highway Committee members present at the meeting were: Mr. Don Hillert, Mr. John Sendelbach, Mr. Max Weiss, Mr. Dwight Ruff, and Mr. David Danzinger.

Others present for all or part of the meeting were Mr. John Dewitt, Mr. Kelly Johnston, Ms. Roxann Halverson, Ms. Sonya Hansen, Ms. Janet LaDuke.

Minutes: The minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed. Mr. Ruff made a motion to approve the regular monthly minutes, seconded by Mr. Danzinger. Carried.

Public Comments: None.

Approval of Vouchers: The vouchers were reviewed. The cleanup of the property on Highway 35 was discussed. Zoning had worked on the project with the State DOT. The State paid for the project by reducing the amount of weed control funds the Highway Department will receive. Therefore, no late season mowing will take place on state roads. This will be reviewed to see if the money can be recouped somehow. The bill to move the reclaimer was discussed. This should be one of the last times to move this equipment. Mr. Weiss made a motion to approve the vouchers, seconded by Mr. Ruff. Carried.

Consideration/Action regarding Draft Truck Lighting Policy: Additional lighting for the pickup trucks was reviewed. The cost for the additional lights is \$400 per truck and there are two trucks that need them installed. New trucks will be equipped as they are purchased. Mr. Weiss made a motion to approve the installation of the lights and a policy to have them installed on future trucks, seconded by Mr. Sendelbach. Carried.

Consideration/Action regarding Roads & Bridges (CTH F Update, CTH E-Wall/Pavement Project Status, Paving Status, Road Construction Review, Draft Construction/Maintenance Policy for Townships): The County Road F project has not had much progress as Mr. Gruber has been working on CTH E and other projects his firm is involved in.

CTH E Wall project is progressing. Mr. Dewitt has met with the neighboring landowners to discuss the hill being taken back. This project will start next week with removal of the

wall and sloping the hillside back. The FEMA grant may need to be amended as a wall will not be put back in. The road will only be closed during the day and open each evening.

Paving projects are nearing completion. County Road Z and County Road D are what is left.

Road construction is complete and crews have been able to turn to different jobs that need to be accomplished.

The draft policy on town road work was reviewed. The culvert diameter and need to show a larger culvert is required due to flooding issues was discussed. The Commissioner with this policy can enter into temporary agreements but anything longer than 30 days would require committee approval. Mr. Ruff made a motion to approve the policy, seconded by Mr. Sendelbach. Carried. Mr. Dewitt will look and see if the winter maintenance policy was every approved.

Consideration/Action regarding 2021 Highway Budget Review: Ms. LaDuke reviewed the budget. Roads that are scheduled for maintenance or reconstruction were reviewed. There are bond funds left that need to be used for highway road projects or be given back. There was no road review done in 2020 due to COVID. It will need to be done in 2021 to make sure the roads that need the work the most are done. Equipment to be replaced was reviewed. The 2021 draft budget is higher than the 2020 request and will need to be decreased as all other departments were requested to do. Mr. Ruff made a motion to have staff review the budget and present it to Finance on October 22nd, seconded by Mr. Weiss. Carried.

Consideration/Action regarding 2021 Annual Election to Use Composite Rates for Winter Maintenance: Mr. Dewitt explained by approving these rates it allows a simpler formula to charge back for winter maintenance on state roads. Mr. Danzinger made a motion to approve the Composite Rates, seconded by Mr. Weiss. Carried.

Commissioner's Report: Mr. Dewitt reported the County Road H bridge has been ordered and delivery is delayed until December. He received 4-5 calls about the bidding process but only received 1 bid. This project may be on hold until Spring. The salt/sand operation has been set up. Rotering Ridge Road project is completed. Milling for the Town of Naples has been completed. The culvert inventory project is about 3 weeks out from completion. There will be some upcoming public hearings for bridge replacements. The bridge inspections are complete for September and October are being worked on. The staff has been talked to about completing inspections of equipment before use. The bridge on Linse Road has had rip rap completed.

Committee Member's Report: Road work and grading the edge of the roads was discussed.

The Committee May Go into Closed Session to Discuss Highway Commissioner Position: Mr. Sendelbach made a motion to go into closed session, seconded by Mr. Weiss. Mr. Sendelbach-yes, Mr. Ruff-yes, Mr. Danzinger-yes, Mr. Weiss-yes, and Mr. Hillert-yes. Carried.

The Committee May Return to Open Session: Mr. Ruff made a motion to return to open session, seconded by Mr. Danzinger. Mr. Hillert-yes, Mr. Weiss-yes, Mr. Danzinger-yes, Mr. Ruff-yes, and Mr. Sendelbach-yes. Carried.

Public Comments: None.

The next meeting date will be November 10, 2020 at 8:00 a.m.

Mr. Weiss made a motion to adjourn at 11:41 a.m., seconded by Mr. Ruff. Carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Roxann Halverson
Buffalo County Clerk