

OCTOBER SESSION
MONDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2020 AT 7:00 P.M.

The Board Met. Mr. Dennis Bork in the Chair.

The roll was called, and all members were present, except Mr. Max Weiss, Mr. Michael Taylor, and Mr. Dwight Ruff, whom all were excused. Others in attendance for all or portions of the meeting were Ms. Roxann Halverson, Ms. Sonya Hansen, Mr. Dave Rynders, Ms. April Loeffler, Mr. David Brommerich (via TEAMS), Ms. Patricia Malone (via TEAMS) and Ms. Carol Burmeister (via TEAMS).

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Public Comment Regarding Posted Agenda Items: None.

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

Review/Discussion/Action regarding Safe Business Practices to Help Prevent the Spread of COVID-19: Mr. Rynders explained the Safe Business Practices program is a voluntary program that businesses can join to let citizens know they are practicing safe measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19. The names of these businesses will be displayed on the county website and the business will get a poster to display at their business. There was concern over listing the businesses online and how this would look for businesses that do have safe practices but choose not to be a part of the program. Mr. Rynders indicated that there could be some wording drawn up to let citizens know this is a voluntary program and that if a business is not on this list it does not mean they are not following safe practices. Mr. Grisen made a motion to support this program, seconded by Ms. McMillan Urell. Carried.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding Resolution #20-10-03 “A Resolution to Add Communicable Disease Program Duties to One Limited Term 2020 Health Position”: Mr. Rynders explained this resolution would allow flexibility in the position to allow the individual to work on other communicable disease programs in addition to COVID duties. This change does not affect the levy request. Mr. Nathan Nelson made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Ms. McMillan Urell. Carried.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding 2021 UW Extension Budget -136 Contract: Ms. Pat Malone joined the meeting via TEAMS. She explained this is a yearly contract entered into between UW Extension and Buffalo County to offer services in the courthouse. The cost of the 2021 contract is down slightly compared to 2020, but we will not be losing any services or staff. Ms. McMillan Urell made a motion to approve the contract, seconded by Mr. Bruegger. Carried.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding Preliminary 2021 Buffalo County Budget Review: Ms. Hansen reviewed the preliminary budget. The ADRC budget was added back in as Pepin County was unable to take over the fiscal duties for 2021. This however does not have any impact on the levy. Departments worked hard to keep expenses down and find revenue sources. COVID-19 has had an impact on revenue streams. Bond funds were used to balance the Highway budget as road maintenance and construction is the only things bond funds can be used for. There were unused

funds from last year that if not used in 2021 will have to be given back. Some work may need to be contracted out. The November meeting is when the levy and the budget will be approved. Ms. McMillan Urell made a motion to approve the preliminary budget, seconded by Mr. Schmidtknecht. Carried.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding Ordinance #20-10-01 An Ordinance to Amend the Official “Buffalo County Zoning District Map”, Town of Glencoe: This rezone is for a property that the owner would like to construct storage sheds. This would require the property to be rezoned from ag to commercial. The municipality had no concerns of the change. Ms. McMillan Urell made a motion to approve the ordinance, seconded by Ms. McDonough. Carried.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding Resolution #20-10-01 “A Resolution to Approve County Aid for Town Bridges and Culverts – Section 82.08 of the Statues”: This resolution was approved by the Finance Committee but needs a final approval by the Highway Committee. Mr. Bruegger made a motion to table the resolution to November, seconded by Ms. McMillan Urell. Carried.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding Resolution #20-10-02 “A Resolution to Approve Health Insurance Benefit Plan for 2021”: Mr. Grisen explained this resolution will approve the health insurance plan with an increase of 1.5%. Mr. Grisen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mr. Hillert. Carried.

Committee Chair Reports: The HR Committee will be working on Department Manager evaluation forms. The Highway Committee will be holding a round of interviews prior to its meeting on November 10th. The County Road E project will be worked on this week to remove the wall and grade the hillside for better visibility. The DHHS Committee met with Pepin County and will continue to meet with them yearly. Ms. Hager withdrew her request for additional staff for her office due to budget constraints. The Land Conservation Committee hired Ms. Kristin Foehringer as the new Land Conservationist. This will leave her Technician position vacant and needs to be filled. Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission will be assisting Buffalo County with the Recreation Plan. The Finance Committee has been focused on the budget. The Broadband Committee was notified that the Town of Cross received a grant for a pilot program. There were only 6 grants awarded in the state.

Administrative Coordinator Report: Ms. Hansen report there will be a Department Manager meeting tomorrow to review the evaluation process.

County Board Chair Report: None.

Adjournment: Ms. McDonough made a motion to adjourn at 8:50 p.m., seconded by Mr. Hillert. Carried.

Respectfully Submitted:

Roxann Halverson
Buffalo County Clerk