

**OCTOBER COUNTY BOARD MEETING**  
**Monday, October 28, 2019**

Ms. Mary Anne McMillan Urell in the Chair called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

The roll was called and all members were present except Mr. Don Hillert, Mr. Jon Seipel, and Mr. Nathan Nelson, who were all excused, and Mr. Dennis Bork, who was absent.

Others in attendance for all or portions of the meeting were Ms. Sonya Hansen, Ms. Roxann Halverson, Mr. David Brommerich, Ms. Felicia Hager, Mr. Bob Platteter, Ms. Tina Anibas, Ms. Carol Burmeister, Mr. Mike Schmidtknecht, Mr. Dave Rynders, Ms. Brenda Berning, Mr. Bruce Fuerbringer, Mr. Jason Poser, Mr. Jon Hochkammer, and Mr. Rob Ganschow.

**Public Comments regarding Agenda items:** None.

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

**Review/Discussion regarding A Presentation of “Ethics 101 for Public Officials” by the Wisconsin Counties Association:** Mr. Hochkammer gave a presentation on ethics. He urged everyone to remember we serve the community we represent and we should do so in a manner that is trustworthy, fair, shows responsibility, respect, compassion, and loyalty. He talked about different ethics scenarios and how steps need to be put into place to prevent situations from occurring.

**Review/Discussion/Action regarding the 2020 Proposed Budget and Publication Notice:** Ms. Hansen reviewed the budgeting instructions given to departments, positions that are being added in 2020, and positions that were added in 2019. 2020 is a leap year which increases the number of work hours for employees and increases the wages and benefit expense. The wage scales were adjusted. A 1.8% increase was placed in step 1 and then the percentage difference between the remaining steps was turned into a dollar amount. Health Insurance is up 6.8%, but there is still a savings over the previous insurance provider. Investments handled by the Treasurer have also increased and this extra revenue has been beneficial to the county. There will be some discussion at the next Finance meeting regarding comprehensive community services, which will be an adjustment to the proposed budget. These services will be reimbursed, but it could take up to three years to realize that reimbursement.

**Review/Discussion regarding a Presentation of the ADRC Business Plan:** Mr. Rynders presented the ADRC Business Plan. They were looking for ways to save on costs and improve services. There will be some changes to staffing by having the employees become Pepin County employees. There will also be changes to the senior

meals to help make the program more efficient. This is not a mandated program, but if you offer meals on wheels you must have a congregate site.

**Review/Discussion regarding the Readdressing Project:** Mr. Poser gave an update of the readdressing project. The project is on task to be completed by November 15<sup>th</sup>, even with weather delays. A discussion was held on placement of signs and signs being moved. Mr. Poser indicated that all signs have been photographed and GPS mapped. Zoning will be working with the municipalities to enforce the movement of signs.

**Review/Discussion/Action regarding Resolution #19-10-01 “A Resolution to approve and Implement the Aging and Disability Resource Center Integrated Business Plan”:** Mr. Kriesel made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mr. Taylor. Carried.

**Review/Discussion/Action regarding Resolution #19-10-02 “A Resolution to Change a Full-Time Limited Term Case Manager Position to a Full-Time Permanent Social Worker/Case Manager”:** Mr. Rynders explained this position was created 2-years ago on a temporary basis in response to families dealing with drugs. The caseload has not lightened and is now at a spot that it needs to be made permanent. If the caseload ever does decrease the position could be discontinued. Mr. Kriesel made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Ms. Rosenow. Carried.

**Review/Discussion/Action regarding Resolution #19-10-03 “A Resolution to Change a Full-Time Adult Protection Dementia Friendly Services Social Worker Position to a Full-Time Adult Protection Services Social Worker Position”:** Mr. Rynders explained the plan for the position and the work that will be done. Mr. Schreiner made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mr. Ruff. Carried.

**Review/Discussion/Action regarding Resolution #19-10-04 “A Resolution to Approve Health Insurance Benefit Plan”:** This resolution approves and renews the current health insurance plan. It does restrict all new hires to the Mayo network only. These employees can go out of network if they so choose but they will pay extra to the provider for the services. Mr. Taylor made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mr. Black. Carried.

**Review/Discussion/Action regarding Resolution #19-10-05 “A Resolution to Amend Salary Classification and Compensation System for Non-Represented Employees”:** This resolution increases step one by 1.8% and sets a dollar amount increase between the remaining steps. The cost to the budget is approximately \$470,000, but could be less due to open positions. Mr. Kriesel made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mr. Black. Carried.

**Review/Discussion/Action regarding Resolution #19-10-06 “A Resolution for County Aid for Town Bridges and Culverts – Section 82.08 of the Statutes”:** This is outside of the levy and shows bridges or culverts that the cost is split 50/50 between

the county and towns. Mr. Grisen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mr. Taylor. Carried.

**Review/Discussion regarding a Presentation of the 2018 Audit:** Mr. Ganschow gave a presentation on the 2018 Audit. He explained the auditing procedures, fund balances, and what a healthy fund balance is. The General Fund increased \$1,048,874 and the Highway Fund increased \$144,185.

**Review/Discussion/Action - Committee Reports:** None.

**Review/Discussion - Administrative Coordinator Report:** The last invoice for the bathrooms at the fairgrounds was paid. The county paid \$135,000, the project cost was \$140,233.83, but the plumbing portion was donated. The Buffalo County Child Support Agency was awarded the Agency of the Year. The new steps have been installed in front of the courthouse. There will be a training in December for elected officials. More information will come forward later.

**Review/Discussion - Chair Report:** The WI Ethics Commission held interviews a week ago. There should be a determination in December if there was any violation. The Subcommittee of the Board will meet November 4<sup>th</sup> after the HR Committee meeting. They will be looking at combining committees and reducing the number of committee meetings. The next County Board meeting is November 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. Western Dairyland needs one more member to fill the vacancy. Chair McMillan Urell will fill that until the election in April.

**Public Comments Not Regarding Agenda Items:** Mr. Kriesel asked for an update to the Humane Society building. Ms. Halverson indicated that someone has been working on the heating system, but as far as she knows it is not open yet. Mr. Ruff has been contacted by a former employee with questions and he asked for background information. Chair McMillan Urell indicated the employee retired. Ms. Hansen explained all employees have due process options available to them.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roxann M. Halverson  
Buffalo County Clerk