

2021 FINANCIAL BUDGET HEARING
November 10, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

The Buffalo County Board of Supervisors met for the purpose of holding a public hearing regarding the 2021 Financial Budget. Chair Bork explained the budget had been reviewed at the October County Board meeting and asked if there were any questions.

Mr. Hillert made a motion to adjourn the Public Hearing at 7:05 p.m., seconded by Mr. Weiss. Carried.

NOVEMBER COUNTY BOARD SESSION
Tuesday, November 10, 2020 at 7:06 p.m.

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

The roll was called and all members were present except for Mr. Nathan Nelson and Mr. Mike Taylor, who were excused. Mr. Brad Schmidtknecht and Ms. Mary Anne McMillan Urell attended via TEAMS. Others in attendance for all or portions of the meeting were Ms. Roxann Halverson, Ms. Sonya Hansen, Ms. Kristin Foehringer, Mr. Dave Rynders, and Mr. Evan Mercer. The following attended via TEAMS: Ms. Brenda Creighton, Ms. Carol Burmeister, Mr. Mike Osmond, Mr. David Brommerich, and Ms. Danielle Schalinske.

Public Comments: Mr. Mercer would like to speak when the ATV/UTV referendum is discussed.

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

Review/Discussion/Action regarding Appointment of Ms. Kristin Foehringer as County Land Conservationist: Mr. Ruff introduced Ms. Foehringer to the Board and reviewed her qualifications for the Land Conservationist position. Mr. Ruff made a motion to approve the appointment of Ms. Foehringer as the Land Conservationist, seconded by Mr. Steve Nelson. Carried.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding Suspension of the Rules of Government to Allow Members to Vote Remotely at County Board through December 31, 2020: A discussion was held regarding suspending the rules to allow remote participation and voting at County Board meetings for the remainder of 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Mr. Hillert made a motion to approve suspending Rule 24 of the Rules of Government, seconded by Mr. Grisen. Carried.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding the 2021 Budget Presentation: Ms. Hansen reviewed items included in the budget and items that were reduced or removed. The

levy amount including library fees, highway bridge aids, the bond, and a real estate charge back is \$7,118,806.82. Mr. Danzinger would like to see money put back in the budget to keep the Economic Development Coordinator as a part-time position and have the funds come from the General Fund to cover this expense. Mr. Danzinger made a motion to keep the Economic Development Coordinator position as funded in 2020 with additional funding not to exceed \$25,000.00 and funds coming from the General Funds, seconded by Mr. Grisen. A roll call vote was taken. 12 voting yes and 2 excused. Carried. Mr. Weiss made a motion to approve the amended budget adding back in funding for the Economic Development Coordinator and the real estate charge back, seconded by Mr. Danzinger. A roll call vote was taken. 12 voting yes and 2 excused. Carried.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding Public Access to the Courthouse during COVID-19 Pandemic: COVID-19 cases have been at an increase recently and we are now entering flu season. Currently there are 137 active cases in Buffalo County. Pepin County and Chippewa County have now gone to closing and only allowing public in if they have an appointment. Mr. Rynders spoke on how telecommuting has been working for his office and how work being completed is measured. The HR Committee voted to recommend to County Board to close the courthouse to walk-in and open by appointment only. Mr. Grisen made a motion to close the courthouse, allow appointment only services through January 25th, and have this begin on Monday, November 16th, seconded by Mr. Steve Nelson. A roll call vote was taken. 12 voting yes and 2 excused.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding Ordinance #20-11-01 An Ordinance to Update Truancy Dispositions: Mr. Rynders explained this is an update to the prior ordinance to allow different dispositions and follow state statutes. A discussion was held on the frequency of truancy and how cases are handled. Mr. Ruff made a motion to approve the ordinance by roll call vote, seconded by Mr. Bruegger. 12 voting yes and 2 excused. Carried.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding Resolution #20-11-01 A Resolution to approve the 2021 Tax Levy and Budget: Mr. Hillert made a motion to approve the resolution for the 2021 budget and tax levy of \$7,118,806.82 by roll call vote, seconded by Mr. Weiss. 12 voting yes and 2 excused. Carried.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding Resolution #20-11-02 A Resolution to Approve County Aid for Town Bridges and Culverts – Section 82.08 of the Statutes: Mr. Ruff discussed changes the Highway Committee made at their meeting this morning. It will now be required to have a hydrology study completed for a 36” culvert request under this matching fund program. Ms. Halverson advised the towns need to petition for matching funds at the end of August/beginning of September and it may not be right to change the policy after the fact. She also explained that this policy may take some of these culverts off the list and this would change the budget numbers that are already approved. Mr. Hillert made a motion to approve the resolution by roll call vote, seconded by Mr. Weiss. 12 voting yes and 2 excused. Carried.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding Resolution #20-11-03 A Resolution to Amend Policy 103 to Include Shift Differential Pay for Communications/Corrections Officers in Overtime and Compensation Section of the Employee Handbook:

There was a slight change in the language for the employee handbook making the shift time from 5:00 p.m. through 7:00 a.m. The amount of the shift differential will be \$.50 per hour. It is believed this will help with employment retention. Mr. Grisen made a motion to approve the resolution by roll call vote, seconded by Mr. Hillert. 10 yes, 2 excused, and Mr. Danzinger and Mr. Ruff voting no. Carried.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding Resolution #20-11-04 A Resolution to Amend Policy 508 of the Employee Handbook – Performance Reviews: The HR

Committee has been continuing to work on the performance review process. This process will now involve the home committee to complete the review. Mr. Grisen made a motion to approve the resolution by roll call vote, seconded by Mr. Ruff. 12 voting yes and 2 excused. Carried.

Review/Discussion regarding the Status of ATV/UTV Advisory Referendum: The Highway Committee discussed this at their meeting. They voted to have the County Board Chair set up an adhoc committee comprised of County Board Supervisors, Law Enforcement, citizens, and municipal officials. This adhoc committee would develop a plan or policy on the use of ATV/UTV on county roads. Mr. Osmond from the Town of Gilmanton expressed his support to the Board. Mr. Mercer discussed his work with Pepin County to open their roads to use. The ATV club is willing to help with the costs of the signs and feels it would be easier if the entire county is open versus certain sections. Chair Bork will put a committee together to review this further.

Committee Chair Reports: Mr. Ruff asked how the culvert policy will be handled moving forward and how the towns will be informed of the required changes. Mr. Hillert will have the Highway Committee work on a resolution and bring it forward.

Administrative Coordinator Report: Ms. Hansen reported the address inventory has been received back at Zoning. Zoning will have a complete list to Administration by Friday so that billing can be completed.

County Board Chair Report: None.

Adjournment: Mr. Weiss made a motion to adjourn at 8:38 p.m., seconded by Mr. Hillert. Carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Roxann M. Halverson
Buffalo County Clerk