

## **Buffalo County Minutes**

**Committee/Board:** Finance Committee  
**Date of Meeting:** Wednesday, January 20, 2016  
**Electronic and Hard Copy Filing Date:** Monday, January 25, 2016

Chair Douglas Kane called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

**Board Members Present:** Mr. Douglas Kane, Mr. Larry Grisen, Mr. Don Hillert, and Mr. David Eddy. Mr. David Danzinger appeared by Go to Meeting.

**Others Present for All or Part of the Meeting:** Ms. Sonya Hansen, Ms. Roxann Halverson, Mr. Jarrad Fluekiger, Mr. Brian Suchla, Ms. Marilynn Sheahan, Mr. Scott Hayes, Ms. Tammy Huber, and Sheriff Mike Schmidtknecht.

**Public Comments Regarding Posted Agenda Items:** None.

**Review/Discussion/Action regarding a CAPX2020 Funding Request from Jarrad Fluekiger:** Mr. Fluekiger spoke regarding an ice fishing contest he has set up for the weekend of January 22-24, 2016. He has invited the North American Ice Fishing Circuit, media, and vendors to help promote tourism to the Alma area during the winter. The cost is approximately \$100 per person to put on this contest. The event will be recorded for later broadcast on outdoor channels as well as YouTube. He has asked the local businesses and the City of Alma to donate, but they were unable to. He is looking for any monetary help the County would be willing to donate to recoup some of the expenses. The Committee had concerns about supporting this event and not all events in Buffalo County. They also questioned what would be the outcome of the donation and event, for example when a donation is made for trout stream rehabilitation the stream is then used for years to come by local residents and visitors. When this event is done what is left? Mr. Grisen made a motion to deny the request, seconded by Mr. Eddy. Carried.

**Review/Discussion/Action regarding the City of Mondovi Tax Deed Property:** Ms. Halverson explained the issues that have arisen with the tax deed property. Mr. Hayes was the highest bidder and tried to obtain title insurance, but was unable to because of a mortgage that was recorded against the property. The title insurance company asked the County to do a quiet title court action, which would cost approximately \$3,000.00 for our Corp. Counsel to do. If we relist the property it is unlikely that we would receive a bid that would cover our expenses since the house is in very bad repair. Mr. Hillert made a motion to proceed with the quiet title action, seconded by Mr. Eddy. Mr. Danzinger voting no. Carried.

**Review/Discussion/Action regarding the Crystal Wieczorek Tax Deed Property:** Ms. Halverson explained this property was previously discussed when the other properties were taken for back taxes, but could not be taken at that time because of a bankruptcy filing. The bankruptcy process has been completed and no payments have been made on the taxes. Ms. Halverson did get a phone call from the renter stating they were very upset and had no place to go. Ms. Halverson tried to get the name of the person and how much rent they paid to present it to the Committee, but the person did not feel it was any business of hers to know

that information. The renter was going to contact the property owner to discuss this. As of the time of the meeting the property owner still had not called to discuss the delinquent taxes. Mr. Danzinger had requested that Ms. Halverson check and see if the property is in a floodplain. The Village of Cochrane Clerk indicated that she did believe it is in a floodplain. Mr. Danzinger explained that many people in Cochrane are required to have flood insurance that costs just as much as mortgage payments making it difficult to purchase houses in that area. Mr. Danzinger made a motion to take the property by tax deed, make a rental agreement with the renter, have bids due prior to the April Finance meeting, and at the minimum bid amount of \$20,000.00, seconded by Mr. Eddy. Carried.

**Review/Discussion/Action regarding the Tax Deed Procedures and Forms:** Ms. Halverson explained she requested forms used by other counties during their tax deed process. She wanted a form that would warn potential bidders that the tax deed process comes with risks and they need to weigh out those risks prior to bidding. She would also like to be able to have title work done so that all necessary parties are notified of the upcoming tax foreclosure and that there are no surprises. Mr. Eddy made a motion to approve the forms/process and allow for title work to be obtained, seconded by Mr. Grisen. Mr. Danzinger voted no. Carried.

**Review/Discussion/Action regarding the Financial Advisor Services:** There were three proposals sent to Ms. Hansen (Trust Point, Ehlers, and PMA). A discussion was held on the pros and cons of each of the proposals. Ms. Sheahan talked with a county that uses Ehlers and one that uses PMA and both are happy with the services they receive. Mr. Grisen made a motion to table this items to the February meeting, seconded by Mr. Eddy. Carried.

**Review/Discussion/Action regarding Priority and Schedule for Courthouse Improvements:** Mr. Suchla reviewed the list of projects that need to be completed in the next 2 years, beginning in March and ending in Fall of 2017. Mr. Suchla has looked at removing the wallpaper and painting that area, but with the glue that was used there will be divots in the walls. The men's bathroom on first floor will be remodeled and brought to ADA compliance. Integrating the boilers and pumps to an automated logic system with WHV is another project. There are areas of carpet that need to be replaced. The Committee would like Mr. Suchla to move forward with actual bids on each of these projects and bring them back at a future meeting.

**Review/Discussion/Action regarding a Resolution to Purchase New PSAP E-911 Answering System:** Sheriff Schmidt knecht spoke regarding the purchase of a new PSAP E-911 system for the Dispatch center. Sheriff Schmidt knecht indicates that the current system is at the end of its life and could fail at any time. Different vendors were looked at and the program closest to the one currently used is the Vesta 911 and comes with a 4-year maintenance agreement. Ms. Hansen spoke with our current vendor to verify there is no extension and the vendor did agree it would cost more but they believe they can support our current system, but are unsure of the cost to support it. She also talked with the consultant that is doing the research on combining the jail and dispatch with Pepin County. The system we currently use is used statewide and the consultant believes we should hold off until we see if there may be funds coming from the State for replacement. Pepin County is currently waiting until 2017 to look at replacing the system. Sheriff Schmidt knecht indicated Pepin County is holding off because they have spare parts and Buffalo County does not have any

spare parts. Mr. Danzinger made a motion to move this forward to County Board with no recommendation, seconded by Mr. Grisen. Carried.

**Review/Discussion/Action regarding Monthly Vendor Invoices, Vouchers, Employee Payroll and Funds Investment Report:** The Arcadia Library billing was questioned. Mr. Eddy would like to do some checking on this bill to make sure Buffalo County is not being over charged. Mr. Eddy made a motion to approve the vouchers, employee payroll, funds investment report and the invoices except for the Arcadia Library bill, seconded by Mr. Danzinger. Carried.

**Chairperson Report:** Chair Kane informed the Committee that UW-Extension is looking at reorganizing because of budget cuts. They are looking at moving to a regional system which will put Buffalo County into a region with La Crosse County, Jackson County, Trempealeau County, Monroe County and Pepin County. La Crosse County would be the main county and the State will still be looking for the same funding from each county as in the past.

**Administrative Coordinator Report:** Ms. Hansen explained that there were 4 cars placed on Wisconsin Surplus and 3 were sold in the amount of \$4,096.00. The 4<sup>th</sup> car will be placed back on the Wisconsin Surplus site as it was not paid for. Law Enforcement found a 2003 Ford Expedition that has only 73,000 miles on it for approximately \$5,000.00. Ms. Hansen reviewed the report from Corp. Counsel that shows 70.2 billable hours. The audit billing was for \$49,790.00 and only \$48,800 was budgeted. The Land Information Department has received the 2016 Base Grant for \$77,000.00 and \$50,000.00 for the Strategic Planning Grant. There has been no word yet on the LiDar Grant. Ms. Hansen reported that not all the Solid Waste Hauler permits have been applied for Ms. Halverson will place Solid Waste on the next Finance Agenda. Ms. Hansen explained that the DHHS & Veterans Committee has recommended to end the Veterans Service Contract with Pepin County due to the retirement of Ms. LeAnne Loesel. This will be placed on the County Board Agenda. Mr. Danzinger discussed having a joint meeting between the Highway Committee and Finance Committee to discuss moving forward with the Alma Highway Shop renovation. He would like the meeting to be Monday, January 25, 2016 prior to County Board.

**Public Comments:** None.

Mr. Eddy made a motion to adjourn at 6:00 p.m., seconded by Mr. Hillert. Carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Roxann M. Halverson  
Buffalo County Clerk