

MARCH COUNTY BOARD MEETING
Monday, March 27, 2017, 7:00 P.M.

The Board met. Mr. Douglas Kane in the Chair.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

The roll was called and all members were present. Others in attendance for all or portions of the meeting were Ms. Sonya Hansen, Ms. Roxann Halverson, Mr. David Brommerich, Mr. Bob Platteter and Ms. Diane Prenot.

Public Comments regarding Agenda Items: None.

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

Review/Discussion/Action regarding the appointments to the Veterans Service Commission: Mr. Dave Ebert would have his term extended for 3-years, expiring November 30, 2019. Mr. Vern Langhorst would have his term extended for 3-years, expiring November 30, 2020. Ms. McMillan Urell made a motion to approve the appointments, seconded by Mr. Danzinger. Carried.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding Emergency Highway Funding: Mr. Platteter explained what would be needed to get all the roads caught up. There are 319 miles of roads with a 30-year rotation for reconstruction, thereby needing 10.6 miles of road to be reconstructed each year to keep current. This year there is 7.74 miles of roads budgeted to be reconstructed and we are 17.5 miles behind. Damage from the floods is approximately \$430,000.00 and there were 3.08 miles of roads not reconstructed in 2016 due to those floods. If you add in all the road reconstruction, maintenance, flood damage, the miles not completed in 2016, and the list of bridges that are due for updating the cost would be \$5,649,913.00 that could be spread out over the next several years through bonding. Chair Kane explained that the Finance Committee discussed taking \$1,034,518.00 from the General Fund to repair the flood damage, reconstruct 7.74 miles of roads and the 3.08 miles that were not able to be completed last year. They would like to know the feeling of the County Board on this issue. The Finance Committee would like more time to look at ways to fund the reconstruction and maintenance of the roads. By a show of hands it was the consensus to move forward with using \$1,034,518.00 of General Fund dollars to cover the cost of the flood damage, 7.74 miles of road reconstruction, and complete the 3.08 miles of reconstruction remaining from 2016.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding the Rustic Road Designation in Buffalo County: Ms. Hansen explained that a handout was placed on each of their desks describing what a Rustic Road designation was. Designating roads as Rustic Roads helps to preserve the scenic nature of the County on less traveled rural country roads. The road is required to be at least 2 miles long and have a speed limit not to exceed 45 mph. This is used to attract tourism to Buffalo County. The County would have to pay for any signage. Trempealeau County and Pepin County have Rustic Roads and we do have some State

Roads segments designated as Rustic Roads, but no County Roads. Chair Kane asks that all members take this information back to their districts and bring suggested roads back to Ms. Hansen prior to the April meeting.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding the April 2017 Meeting Date: Chair Kane explained the April 18th meeting is set by statute, but there are many towns having their meetings the same time so that their members can take the oath of office after the April 4th election. By statute this meeting can be postponed by at least one week and up to three weeks. A roll call vote was taken to postpone the April County Board meeting to April 25th at 7:00 p.m. All voted in favor.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding Resolution #17-03-01 “A Resolution to Purchase One New Wheeled Excavator with Attachment”: Mr. Danzinger explained the equipment that is proposed to be purchased. Mr. Danzinger made a motion to approve the Resolution, seconded by Mr. Grisen. Carried.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding Resolution #17-03-02 “A Resolution to Purchase Two New All-Wheel Drive Tractors with Side Mounted Rotary Mowers”: Mr. Danzinger explained this Resolution is to replace two New Holland tractors that have had numerous problems and are 14 years old. Mr. Smith expressed concerns with one department purchasing new equipment when another department looks to purchase used to save money. Mr. Danzinger explained there is a discount to municipalities and purchasing new is cheaper. Mr. Danzinger made a motion to approve the Resolution, seconded by Mr. Bork. Carried.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding Resolution #17-03-03 “A Resolution to Adopt Amendment No. 2 to Solid Waste Disposal Agreement”: Buffalo County entered into a Solid Waste Agreement with La Crosse County in March of 1991. The original agreement was for 20 years and a yearly payment of \$9,800.00. That payment could be reduced by \$5/ton of solid waste shipped to the facility in La Crosse. The agreement was amended in 2002 to extend out another 15 years. This amendment would extend out another 7 years with the option of two additional 5 year extensions. This would put the agreement out to June of 2040. Our last payment would be in 5 years. Mr. Kriesel made a motion to approve this Resolution, seconded by Ms. Roby. Carried.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding Resolution #17-03-04 “A Resolution to Approve the Buffalo County Economic Recovery Strategy Plan”: This Resolution was returned to the Economic Development Committee by the Finance Committee.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding Resolution #17-03-05 “A Resolution to Establish the Position of Economic Development Coordinator”: Mr. Danzinger explained that the Economic Development Committee has been meeting on and off over the last year and discussing economic development in Buffalo County. The EDC believes Buffalo County needs an Economic Development Coordinator to help move economic development forward. This position would also assist in the Revolving Loan Fund program. This Resolution is to create the position only. A Resolution to fill the position will be brought forward at a later time. Mr. Hillert made a motion to approve the Resolution, seconded by Ms. McMillan Urell. Carried.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding Resolution #17-03-06 “A Resolution Authorizing Participation in DNR Snowmobile Grant Funding”: Ms. Halverson explained this Resolution is needed to obtain funding from the State for our snowmobile trails. Mr. Kriesel made a motion to approve the Resolution, seconded by Ms. Roby. Carried.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding Resolution #17-03-07 “A Resolution for Dissolution of Long-Term Care District Pursuant to Wis. Stats. 46.2895(13)”: Mr. Kriesel explained the Long-Term Care District needs to be dissolved so that the newly formed Community Link Board can function properly. Ms. McMillan Urell made a motion to approve the Resolution, seconded by Mr. Black. Carried.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding Resolution #17-03-08 “A Resolution to Modify Employee Handbook Policy 208 Leaves – Sick Leaves”: Mr. Grisen explained this brings the Communication/Corrections Officers into PSLB as other employees have. Mr. Grisen made a motion to approve the Resolution, seconded by Mr. Hillert. Carried.

Public Comments Not Regarding Posted Agenda Items: None.

REPORTS:

Report and Discussion from Administrative Coordinator Sonya Hansen: Ms. Hansen gave her report.

- Work is continuing on the Mitigation Grant. Notification was received that application needed a couple of amendments in the timeline.
- The Community Development Block Grant-EAP has approved four applications. Three of those applications are scheduled to receive payment.
- The private flood damage donation request deadline is March 31st with distribution to happen in April.
- Mr. Todd Mau will be working with WisCorps to do cleanup of Elk Creek.
- Mr. Steve Schiffli has been coming in on a limited basis to help with requests for reimbursement through the WI Disaster Relief Fund and the Wisconsin DOT. A request was made and granted to extend the deadline from May 2017 to July 31, 2017.
- Staffing updates: There was a resignation of the part-time Public Health Nurse, an Account Clerk/Economic Support Specialist, and a Communications/Correction Officer. The WIC Director is planning on retiring the end of June. The Building and Grounds Manger position is vacant.
- The Criminal Justice Coordinator position has been filled by Ms. Brenda Berning. Her first day was March 20th. At this time DHHS is restructuring the Child Support Department by contracting out the services through the end of 2017.
- Wage scale/step increase appeals have been completed and the process went smoothly.
- Security windows have been installed. The Register of Deeds has been remodeled. The next area to be remodeled is the Zoning Office to make a reception area.
- First and second floors have been resurfaced.

- The ADRC had some carry over funds from the Buffalo, Pepin, and Clark Consortium that will be allowed to be used for a new elevator. This will bring our elevator ADA compliant.
- The generator had issues when being activated recently. The water pump failed which then caused the E911 system to fail. It will need an oil change, but has been repaired and is ready to go.
- The Law Enforcement Elevator is still having issues. Those issues are being tracked to see what can be done to fix them.
- There are still some bills and revenue coming in from 2016. The cutoff for any expenses will be March 31st.
- Departments are working on annual reports.

Reports and Discussion from Committee Chairs: Mr. Danzinger reported the bridge in Waumandee has a temporary bypass installed until the new bridge can be replaced this fall. The County Road Z Bridge should be open around April 1st. The County Road Q Bridge is open but has a weight restriction on it until it can be replaced with a culvert. The road bans will be lifted sometime next week. There are more bridges that will need rip rap repair this year due to the flooding.

Ms. Rosenow will be attending a meeting on April 19th to try and obtain more funding for the Land Conservation Department.

Chair Kane explained that Finance has reviewed the readdressing. They will be putting additional information and costs together to present to the full County Board. Recycling has also been discussed. The current way recycling is done will continue through 2017 and a review of possible changes will be done during the budget process.

Reports and Discussion from County Board Chair: Chair Kane reported that the State and Federal budgets that have been proposed are not looking very favorably on counties. It will be a while before they are adopted and WI County Association will be monitoring the changes.

Adjourned: Mr. Kriesel made a motion to adjourn at 8:15 p.m., seconded by Mr. Brunkow. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Roxann M. Halverson
Buffalo County Clerk