

Buffalo County Minutes

Committee/Board: Economic Development
Date of Meeting: Thursday, September 22, 2016
Electronic and Hard Copy Filing Date: Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. David Danzinger called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. David Danzinger, Ms. Mary Anne McMillan Urell, Ms. Nettie Rosenow, Mr. Dennis Bork, and Mr. Douglas Kane.

OTHERS PRESENT FOR ALL OR PART OF THE MEETING: Ms. Sonya Hansen, Ms. Roxann Halverson, Mr. Carl Duley, Mr. Steve Deller, Mr. Steve Weiss, Mr. Greg Wise, Mr. David Brommerich, Mr. Matt Kures, Mr. Brian Dounda, Mr. Jim Wilkie, and Ms. Kathy Goodman.

Public Comments Regarding Posted Agenda Items: None.

Minutes: Ms. McMillan Urell made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Ms. Rosenow. Carried.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding a Report on the Economic Development Administration Grant: Mr. Wise reviewed the EDA Grant that was awarded to Buffalo County. Mr. Wise expressed that we need to build on our assets and not try to be something we are not. We need to focus on things that are sustainable and fit in with our culture. We also need to re-evaluate things consistently and see what is working and what is not. Mr. Deller reminded us of things that we have accomplished and things we need to work on. For example we had an asset inventory completed last year, now we need to look at how we can use the information to promote Buffalo County.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding Organizational Structure of the Committee: A discussion was held on whether or not the Committee should be formed as a non-profit organization or should it remain as is. Mr. Dounda reviewed advantages and disadvantages of becoming a non-profit organization.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding Promotional Materials for Buffalo County: Ms. Goodman explained work she has done with the Wisconsin Great River Road Guide. She is willing to donate her time to helping Buffalo County create promotional materials. In her experience we can sell advertising to cover the costs of the publication. The Department of Tourism will not promote the publication the first year, but will after they see it has been successful. Ms. McMillan Urell made a motion to request \$10,000.00 be budgeted to begin work needed to create a Buffalo County promotional book, seconded by Ms. Rosenow. Carried.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding an Update on Discover Wisconsin Promotion of Buffalo County: Chair Danzinger informed the Committee that all

filming has been completed. The show will air in May of 2017. Ms. Hansen inquired if anyone has contacted businesses for donations. Chair Danzinger said no one has been contacted other than the City of Alma.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding a Presentation by Ayres & Associates on an EPA Grant for Buffalo County: Ms. Lynn Scherbert has been working with the City of Alma regarding applying for a Brownfield Grant for demolition and cleanup at a site with possible contamination. She explained what services she can offer to Buffalo County. Ms. Scherbert indicated the costs for her services is between \$7,000 and \$8,000. The grants can be used towards reclaiming properties affected by natural disasters and does not need to be site specific when applying for the grant. The grant is an 80%/20% matching grant.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding the Economic Development Revolving Loan Fund: Ms. Hansen explained that she met with the State and our manual needs to be approved by the DOA. She has sent that to be approved. A job description for the Loan Administrator will be sent to the HR Committee for approval. The Economic Development Revolving Loan Committee has been established. There is one individual interested in this program, therefore Ms. Hansen would like to get things rolling. A discussion was held on whether to have a part-time employee or contracted individual provide the Administration services. Ms. Rosenow made a motion to move forward with finding an individual to serve as a contracted Loan Administrator, seconded by Mr. Kane. Carried.

Review/Discussion regarding the Next Meeting Date: The next meeting date will be Tuesday, October 11, 2016 at 1:00 p.m.

Public Comments Not Regarding Agenda Items: None.

Adjournment: Mr. Kane made a motion to adjourn at 1:35 p.m., seconded by Mr. Bork. Carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Roxann M. Halverson
Buffalo County Clerk