

**JANUARY COUNTY BOARD SESSION**  
**Monday, January 25, 2020 at 7:00 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. Mr. Danzinger joined via TEAMS. Mr. Nathan Nelson joined via TEAMS at 7:08 p.m.

Others in attendance for all or portions of the meeting were Ms. Roxann Halverson, Ms. Sonya Hansen, Mr. John Kriesel, Mr. Jim Wilkie, Mr. Terry Schoonover, Mr. Craig Brooks, Mr. Dave Rynders, and Mr. David Schams attended in person. Ms. Jan Priefert, Mr. Bob Priefert, Ms. Lisa Priefert, Mr. Steve Schiffli, Mr. Paul Schollmeier, Mr. Steve Sedlmayer, Mr. John Putz, Mr. David Schmitt, Mr. Jed Olson, Mr. Steven Lavalla, and Mr. David Brommerich all joined via TEAMS.

**Public Comments:** Mr. Brooks discussed the importance of having nonpartisan legislative district maps. Mr. Paul Schollmeier spoke regarding continued support of the Flyway Trail. Mr. Ruff discussed having the meeting documents in advance of the meeting rather than the afternoon before the meeting.

**Review/Discussion/Action regarding Previous Meeting Minutes:** Ms. McMillan Urell made a motion to approve the minutes by roll call vote, seconded by Mr. Taylor. All in favor. Carried.

**Review/Discussion/Action regarding Resolution #21-01-01 A Resolution Recognizing and Honoring the Retirement of Janice Priefert:** Mr. Steve Nelson spoke about working with Ms. Priefert and her dedication to the citizens she served. Mr. Rynders spoke about how Ms. Priefert has helped citizens obtain services they need. Mr. Lavalla spoke about the awards Ms. Priefert received and how she was so supportive to him early in his career. Mr. Steve Nelson made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Ms. McMillan Urell. Carried.

**Review/Discussion/Action regarding Resolution #20-01-02 A Resolution in Support of Increased County Child Support Funding:** Mr. Rynders explained how funding has been cut and this resolution asks the State to provide more funding for the child support program. Ms. McMillan Urell made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mr. Schmidtknecht. Carried.

**Review/Discussion/Action regarding Resolution #20-01-03 A Resolution to Amend Policy No. 503 of the Buffalo County Employee Handbook-Disciplinary Action:** The handbook was updated to add language for unsatisfactory performance for employees and department managers. Mr. Hillert made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mr. Taylor. Carried.

**Review/Discussion/Action regarding Resolution #20-01-04 A Resolution to Purchase 2021 Equipment Investments for Buffalo County Highway Department:** This will allow

the Highway Department to purchase equipment as long as they do not go over the budgeted amount. Mr. Grisen made a motion to approve the resolution by roll call vote, seconded by Mr. Ruff. All in favor. Carried.

**Review/Discussion/Action regarding Resolution #20-01-05 A Resolution to Designate Funding for Buffalo County Broadband Expansion:** This resolution would extend the \$200,000 funding through 2021. Mr. Bruegger made a motion to approve the resolution by roll call vote, seconded by Ms. McMillan Urell. All in favor. Carried.

**Review/Discussion/Action regarding CARES Funding Update:** Mr. Rynders discussed the three limited term positions and the on-call wage resolutions. The funding for these was temporarily suspended in December. The state has now come back with the funding in the amount of \$431,300. No further action will be needed on this. The resolution was approved pending funding and the funding has now been allocated. Mr. Rynders discussed work that is being done on administering and obtaining vaccines. Group 1A is being worked on and 1B will be next. There will be vaccination clinics held throughout the county.

**Review/Discussion regarding Presentation on Winona Connector Trail:** Mr. David Schams, Mr. Jim Wilkie, and Mr. Rick Diermeier gave a presentation on the Flyway Trail. The project started in 2014 and phase 1 is now complete. There have been fundraising efforts to help with costs of the project and numerous grants have been applied for. The Flyway Trail Group would now like the support of Buffalo County to complete Phase 2. The design process would take about 6 months to complete and if funding is obtained the project could be completed by 2023. The cost of maintaining the trails was discussed. The Flyway Trail Group would be willing to enter into a contract to take over the maintenance duties. The City of Winona has offered to help with fundraising from maintenance and the group has other ideas for fundraising as well.

**Review/Discussion/Action regarding Resolution #21-01-06 A Resolution to Conduct Countywide Advisory Referendum on Creation of Nonpartisan Procedure for the Preparation of Legislative and Congressional Redistricting Plans and Maps:** Mr. Schoonover spoke regarding fair maps and having a referendum on the April ballot. This referendum would give the voters a voice in having the legislative districts are drawn in a nonpartisan manner. A discussion was held on the cost and extra work for a referendum. Ms. Halverson explained there are a lot of unknowns for cost, but an estimate is around \$1,900. There would be extra work for her office, but it can be done. Mr. Bruegger made a motion to approve the resolution by roll call vote, seconded by Mr. Grisen. All in favor. Carried.

**Review/Discussion/Action regarding Approval to Designate Human Resource Committee Authority to Oversee Building Access During COVID-19:** A discussion was held regarding allowing the HR Committee to make the decision of either opening the courthouse or keeping it closed to the public since there is no February County Board meeting. Mr. Grisen made a motion to approve the HR Committee to oversee building access until the March County Board meeting, seconded by Mr. Taylor. Carried.

**Review/Discussion/Action regarding Confirmation of the Appointment of Mr. Stephen Schiffli as the Economic Development Coordinator & Grant Writer:** Mr.

Schiffli took over the role as Economic Development Coordinator and Grant Writer January 4<sup>th</sup> after returning from military leave. Mr. Schmidtknecht made a motion to approve the appointment, seconded by Mr. Grisen. Carried.

**Review/Discussion/Action regarding Confirmation of the Appointment of Mr. Bruce Fuerbringer as the Emergency Management Director and Recycling Director:** Mr. Fuerbringer had served as the Interim Emergency Management Director and Recycling Director during Mr. Schiffli's military leave. This position is a part-time position. Mr. Taylor made a motion to approve the appointment, seconded by Ms. McMillan Urell. Carried.

**Review/Discussion/Action regarding the County Board Going into Closed Session to Discuss Bug Tussel Broadband Plans for Buffalo County:** Ms. McMillan Urell made a motion to go into closed session, seconded by Mr. Schmidtknecht. Mr. Schmidtknecht-yes, Mr. Taylor-yes, Mr. Bruegger-yes, Mr. Hillert-yes, Mr. Sendelbach-yes, Ms. McDonough-yes, Mr. Weiss-yes, Mr. Steven Nelson-yes, Ms. McMillan Urell-yes, Mr. Grisen-yes, Mr. Ruff-yes, and Mr. Bork-yes. Carried.

**Review/Discussion/Action regarding the County Board Returning to Open Session:** Ms. McMillan Urell made a motion to return to open session, seconded by Ms. McDonough. Mr. Hillert-yes, Mr. Schmidtknecht-yes, Mr. Taylor-yes, Mr. Grisen-yes, Mr. Sendelbach-yes, Ms. McDonough-yes, Ms. Steven Nelson-yes, Mr. Bruegger-yes, Ms. McMillan Urell-yes, Mr. Ruff-yes, Mr. Bork-yes, and Mr. Weiss-yes. Carried.

**Committee Chair Reports:** The Land Use Committee is working on updated mapping. The Economic Development Committee received notice from the City of Mondovi that they are not able to use the CDBG funds.

**Administrative Coordinator Report:** Ms. Hansen reported that Ms. Alyssa Fort has been hired as the Administrative Assistant in the Administration Office. Mr. Poser will be out intermittently. Any work that is needed should be sent to both Mr. Poser and Ms. Hansen. The ATV/UTV draft ordinance will require a public hearing as will a land division ordinance coming from Zoning.

**County Board Chair Report:** None.

**Public Comments:** None.

**Adjournment:** Mr. Hillert made a motion to adjourn at 9:22 p.m., seconded by Ms. McMillan Urell. Carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Roxann M. Halverson  
Buffalo County Clerk