

BUFFALO COUNTY MINUTES

Committee of the Board: Buffalo County Highway Committee

Date of the Meeting: Tuesday, February 9, 2021

Chairman Mr. Don Hillert called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. in the conference room of the Buffalo County Highway Department, Alma, Wisconsin.

Board Members Present: Mr. Don Hillert, Mr. Dwight Ruff and Mr. Max Weiss appeared in person. Mr. David Danzinger and Mr. John Sendelbach appeared remotely.

Others Present for All or Parts of the Meeting: Ms. Janet LaDuke, Mr. James Palkowski, Sonya Hansen and Mr. Bob Platteter.

Public Comments regarding Agenda Items: There were no public comments.

Review/Discussion/Action - Minutes of the Previous Meeting: A motion was made by Mr. Ruff seconded by Mr. Weiss to approve the minutes of the previous meeting as sent. Unanimously approved by the committee.

Review/Discussion/Action - Approval of Monthly Vouchers: Payable Vouchers #27330 through #27396 totaling \$171,484.68. A motion was made by Mr. Weiss, seconded by Mr. Ruff to approve the monthly vouchers as presented. Unanimously approved by the Committee.

Review/Discussion/Action– Staffing:

- a. Medical leaves – there is currently 1 out on medical leave as of 2/9 and will be gone for 12-16 weeks for sure. There will be 1 more going on medical leave starting 3/8 and will be out for about 8-12 weeks.
- b. Summer LTE's- Looking to hire 3 mower people, 2 truck drivers, and 1 high schooler for 2021. We would like to start the process of finding people. Mr. Ruff made a motion to start the process of finding people for these positions. Mr. Weiss Seconded. Roll call Vote: Mr. Weiss (yes), Mr. Ruff (yes), Mr. Danzinger (yes), Mr. Sendelbach (yes), Mr. Hillert (yes). Motion Carried.

Review/Discussion/Action - Equipment:

- a. **Paver Recommendations-** It is recommended that we stick to a wheeled paver and not a track paver for our operation and terrain. We will move slowly on this as we will look for a low hour/Demo unit that meets our spec. Mr. Ruff made a motion to table purchasing a paver at this time and Mr. Weiss Seconded. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Weiss (yes), Mr. Ruff (yes), Mr. Danzinger (yes), Mr. Sendelbach (yes), Mr. Hillert (yes). Motion Carried
- b. **Pick up #27-** 2012 Ford F-250 Diesel (170,000 Miles) while doing some maintenance work on this truck it was found to have some metal in the filter and pan. A remanned motor from Ford is about \$14,000.00. A used motor from a salvage yard is \$7500.00 to \$9000.00. It is suggested to run the truck for a 1000 miles and then pull an oil sample for testing. We will report back to the committee with the results.

- c. **Skid Steer Door-** February 2nd the door of the John Deere skid steer was busted due to a tree branch hitting it while brushing on CTH BB. February 3rd another branch came into the cab of the same skid steer and damaged the plastic molding that holds the switches and buttons.
- d. **ArcGIS ArcMap Software-** The cost of the software is \$10,000.00 +. Auto-CAD is the main feature and this is an add-on. Highway would be able to run this themselves. Possibility of Highway sharing in the cost of this software. Table until more information is gotten.

Review/Discussion/Action – Buildings & Grounds:

- a. **Security (Building Locks)-**We have added 2 new key pad door locks. One at the Alma facility and one at the Mondovi facility. Should we continue with this or should we think about going to a key fob system like the courthouse? Table and wait to see what the courthouse is doing.
- b. **Air Quality Testing (office) -** Seem to get some strong smells mid- afternoon. Coughing and scratchy throat while in the office during the day. We would like to do an air quality test. Mr. Ruff made a motion to do an air quality test. Mr. Ruff made a motion to do an air quality test. Mr. Ruff rescinded his motion until an estimate was received. Table until then.

Review/Discussion/Action – Roads and Bridges:

- a. **2021 Construction List-** A proposal of roads was presented. This is not a final draft as there will be changes with price estimates for materials and the budget for 2021 is gone thru again.
- b. **CTY Rd. F Bridge-** There are 5 bad pilings on this bridge. Some type of strengthening, weight restrictions, or both need to be done until this bridge can be replaced. This is an under 20ft bridge so there are no Federal fund's available. An estimate of \$125,000 - \$150,000, to replace with a Wheeler bridge package. Ban with weight restrictions to start with.
- c. **Road Design for future-** With all the bigger and heavier Ag equipment we are starting to see premature road failures. Should we be doing a heavier road design in these areas? To stay with a 10 mile per year reconstruction to keep up with a 30 year rotation, the cost would be significantly more for a heavier designed road. Talk with local farmers in the area of the construction to see what their road usages are and design the roads after.
- d. **Culverts on Palkowski Rd. (Town of Montana) -** Town of Montana took out a bridge on Palkowski Rd. and replaced it with a 7-8' culvert and a 3' overflow pipe. This was done without a hydrology study or a permit from the DNR. There is somewhere between 8000-8600 acres that drain thru there. The Town of Montana and Buffalo County are looking at having to pay fines and penalties. Even though Buffalo County did not do the work, it was a cost shared project which puts Buffalo County responsible with the township. A hydrology study will have to be done, then we will determine what it will take to replace with the correct size culverts. Trout unlimited and FEMA might possibly be interested in sharing in some of the cost for the new structures. Possibility of some Cap-X money also.
- e. **Road Bans-** Road bans go on every county road during spring thaw. CTH E & U from STH 88 to Hesch Valley Rd. use to stay open when the creamery was open. These roads were a Federal aid project which built the roads stronger, but they were also showing severe wear. We spent a lot of money to cap and then chip seal this road to try and save it for as long as possible, so with the creamery closed it was decided to ban this road just like all the other roads. We work with people for essential loads but advise to limit and deliver as early as possible during the road bans. We will revisit at the March Highway Committee meeting.

Review/Discussion/Action – ATV/UTV Ordinance Consideration- All county roads or certain roads? April 1-Dec 1 or different dates? Mr. Ruff made a motion to move forward with April 1 to Dec 1 and all county roads except CTH Y unless Tresp. Co. approves to open their CTH Y. Mr. Weiss Seconded. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Weiss (yes) Mr. Ruff (yes) Mr. Danzinger (yes) Mr. Sendelbach (yes) Mr. Hillert (yes). Motion Carried. This will be forwarded on.

Review/Discussion/Action – 2022 Fuel Contract- Countryside bid is \$1.94 per gallon w/additive. Pehler is \$1.96 w/additive plus \$.309 gallon tax. Mr. Weiss made a motion to accept Countryside’s bid for \$1.94 plus tax w/additive. Mr. Ruff Seconded. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Weiss (yes), Mr. Ruff (yes), Mr. Danzinger (yes), Mr. Sendelbach (yes), Mr. Hillert (yes). Motion Carried.

Review/Discussion/Action – Financial Reports (3rd Party Support) - Done thru September. Mr. Ramberg is going to call later today when he is able to come with the Covid restrictions (Former retired St. Croix County Commissioner).

Commissioners Report- Nothing

Committee Members Report- Nothing

Next Meeting – March 9, 2021 at 8:00am

Public Comments- None

Adjournment- Mr. Weiss made a motion to adjourn, Mr. Ruff Seconded. Motion Approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly Johnston
Recording Secretary