

JUNE COUNTY BOARD SESSION
Monday, June 28, 2021, 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, except Mr. Michael Taylor and Mr. Nathan Nelson. Others in attendance for all or portions of the meeting were Ms. Sonya Hansen, Ms. Roxann Halverson, Ms. Jackie Dregney, Ms. Carol Burmeister, Mr. Dave Rynders, Mr. Andy Goss, Ms. Brenda Berning, Judge Thomas Clark, Ms. Roselle Schlosser, Mr. Dennis Olson, Mr. Brett Cole, Ms. Mary Segerstrom, Ms. Gina Tomlinson, and Mr. David Brommerich (via TEAMS).

Public Comments: None.

Items #13 and 14 were moved up on the agenda.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding the American Rescue Act Funding: Ms. Hansen explained funding has been given to municipalities and counties as part of the American Rescue Act. These funds can only be used for certain things. Examples are broadband, loss of revenue, premium pay for essential workers, and public health response. Revenue from 2016 through 2020 was reviewed. It is estimated that the loss of revenue for Buffalo County is \$150,140.51, but this will be further reviewed by the Auditors. The Committee of the Board will review guidelines for expending these funds on July 26th. The resolution to follow has been expedited due to no County Board meeting in July and the federal grant deadline fast approaching the end of July.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding Resolution #21-06-04 A Resolution to Approve American Rescue Act Funding for Broadband Project – Town of Naples: Cheryl from TCC in Strum spoke to the Board regarding the Town of Naples project. This project will bring internet to 171 locations with fiber being buried to the homes. They are looking for a 65% match in funding the cost of the \$1.75 million project. The town contribution will be estimated at \$320,000 and they have \$70,000 in ARPA funds to put towards this. The \$100,000 request from the county will only be paid out upon completion of the project. Mr. Hillert made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mr. Steve Nelson. A roll call vote was taken, and all were in favor. Carried.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding Previous Meeting Minutes: Ms. McMillan Urell made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Bruegger. Carried.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding the 2020 Circuit Court Annual Report: Judge Clark discussed types of cases that are heard in the court system, the 2020 budget, Teen Court, and court appointed attorneys.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding the 2020 Community Justice Services

Annual Report: Ms. Berning explained the court diversion program for nonviolent offenses with drugs as a cause of the crime. The program helps find treatment and other services as needed for the clients. She described how funding is obtained for her program and how the program continued even with the challenges of 2020.

Review/Discussion regarding the 2020 Register of Deeds Annual Report:

Ms. Burmeister explained the companies and people that access the records located in the Register of Deeds Office. She reviewed how services continued even with the challenges of COVID. She still encourages people to call and make appointments for their research projects. She discussed how the housing market is up and how e-recording is also increasing.

Review/Discussion regarding the 2020 Department of Health and Human Services

Annual Report: Mr. Rynders discussed the challenges of 2020 and how telecommuting worked to allow their department to continue offering services. He reviewed programs such as Birth to 3, Child Protective Services, Adult Protective Services, and many more. Expenses and revenues were discussed.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding Resolution #21-06-01 A Resolution to Amend

Policy 103 Overtime Compensatory Time: Mr. Grisen explained the WRS stance on a county's fiscal liability with allowing comp time to be carried over. This resolution establishes that comp time must be used before any other time off. Mr. Grisen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Ms. McMillan Urell. Carried.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding Resolution #21-06-02 A Resolution to Amend Salary Classification and Compensation System for Non-Represented

Employees: Mr. Grisen explained the wage scales are being amended to add two positions (Emergency Management & Safety Risk Director and the Public Health Specialist). The difficulty recruiting a Public Health Nurse was discussed and how recruiting a Public Health Specialist will help in the recruitment efforts. Mr. Grisen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Ms. McMillan Urell. Carried.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding Resolution #21-06-03 A Resolution to

Authorize the Purchase of Liquid Propane for the 2021-2022 Heating Season: Ms. Hansen reviewed the bids received. Landmark Countryside Coop had the lowest bid of \$1.28 per gallon for 45,000 gallons. Mr. Ruff made a motion to approve the resolution by roll call vote, seconded by Ms. McMillan Urell. All in favor. Carried.

Committee Chair Reports: Mr. Grisen explained HR is working on Law Enforcement Union negotiations. He believes this may be settled at the next meeting. Health insurance premiums will not have an update until September. Ms. McMillan Urell asked everyone to read the Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission report on their desks. It outlines what MRRPC does for the 9 counties in the organization.

Administrative Coordinator Report: Ms. Hansen gave her report.

- Mr. Nels Anderson has joined employment with Buffalo County as the GIS Technician.
- Remonumentation work is being done in the Town of Belvidere.
- SEH has been chosen as the engineer for phase 2 of the bike trail. Negotiations will not be held on the contract.
- Budget work will commence shortly.
- Sales has increased even with the challenges of 2020.
- Vaccinations are at 47% completed for Buffalo County residents. Clinics are still being held.
- There will be a booth at the fair.
- WCA conference is in La Crosse September 26th – 28th.
- A letter was sent to a few municipalities regarding ATV/UTV routes on their roads. A yes or no is needed to get signs installed and show if municipal roads are open or closed. Signs should begin being placed around August 1st.

County Board Chair Report: None.

Public Comments: None.

Adjournment: Mr. Weiss made a motion to adjourn at 8:37 p.m., seconded by Ms. McDonough. Carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Roxann M. Halverson
Buffalo County Clerk