

BUFFALO COUNTY MINUTES

Committee of the Board: Economic Development Committee

Date of the Meeting: Thursday July 15, 2021

Chair Mr. Max Weiss called the meeting to order at 10:24 a.m. at the Buffalo County Courthouse, County Board Room in Alma, Wisconsin.

**Board Members Present:** Mr. Max Weiss, Mr. David Danzinger, Mr. Brad Schmidtkecht, Mr. Thomas Taylor and Ms. LeeAnne Bulman (Excused).

**Others Present for All or Parts of the Meeting:** Mr. Steve Schiffli, Ms. Sonya Hansen and Dennis Bork

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

**Review/Discussion/Action – Minutes of the Previous Meeting:** A motion was made by Mr. Taylor to approve the minutes of May 5, 2021, seconded by Mr. Schmidtkecht. Motion carried.

**Review/Discussion/Action ~ (Update) Great River State Trail – Winona Connector (PH-II)**

Mr. Schiffli updated the committee on the status of the Survey and Engineering Sub Committee. The Committee selected SEH. The DOT is negotiating a scope of work contract with SHE. The County should expect a proposal to be submitted for review, acceptance and further negotiations in two weeks.

Mr. Schiffli briefed the status of the LAWCON money that has not been received.

Mr. Schiffli briefed the committee on the loss of 90k in State TAP funding for survey and engineering.

Mr. Weiss asked about a December 2020 request from the Flyway for 150K. This was a loan at 1%. Mr. Schiffli was unaware of the loan or its status, as it was prior to his hire. He will research the question and get back to the chair next week.

**Review/Discussion/Action ~ Farm Technology Day-** Mr. Schiffli will be at Farm Tech Days next week. He received very little interest from the business community on advertising at the exhibit booth.

**Review/Discussion/Action ~ Brochure-** Mr. Schiffli briefed the committee on his efforts to receive proposals from marketers within the State on the creation of a new tourism brochure. To date he has not received and estimate. He will continue to search for a vendor.

**Review/Discussion/Action ~ 2022 Budget-** A line-item budget was present to the committee for review. Salaries and benefits as well as operational costs were discussed. Further discussion on seed money for business creation was discussed. Mr. Schiffli noted he expects to have an unfunded request associated with the brochure in 2022. A discussion was held about using American Recovery Funds. A motion to accept the budget as presented was made by Mr. Taylor and seconded by Mr. Danzinger. Carried.

**Review/Discussion ~ Department Managers Report** – a written report was presented.

**Review/Discussion** ~ Chairperson Report – Mr. Weiss had no report. Did request Bug Tussle to meet with the full board along with Starlink.

**Review/Discussion/Action** ~ Next Meeting will be Thursday September 15, 2021, at 10:30 am. Finance will recess if still in session.

Motion by Mr. Danzinger and seconded by Mr. Taylor to adjourn. (11:35)

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen S. Schiffli, Economic Development Manager