

BUFFALO COUNTY MINUTES

Committee of the Board: Economic Development Committee

Date of the Meeting: Thursday September 23, 2021

Chair Mr. Max Weiss called the meeting to order at 10:34 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.

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

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 July 15, 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 contract with SEH. The proposal was accepted, and contract signed. A brief discussion was held on the issue of the rail crossing associated with PH-II.

The status of the LAWCON Grant was discussed. Mr. Schiffli indicated that the administration office and the DNR will meet by TEAMS on Tuesday to work through the invoices. The maximum reimbursement for this grant is 400K.

The committee also reviewed the maintenance agreement, and a discussion was held. The committee indicated that section 6. DEFICIENCIES required modification. The committee want language added covering billing. If the Friends of The Flyway Trail (FFT) failed to complete a minor maintenance in a timely fashion. A motion was made to accept the maintenance agreement by Mr. Schmidtkecht and seconded by Mr. Danzinger with the addition of the language covering the FFT will be billed at the county highway rate for any maintenance performed by Buffalo County.

Review/Discussion/Action ~ Ducks Unlimited- Briefed the committee on the Ducks Unlimited Project in the Town of Buffalo along County Road P. Mr. Schiffli briefed the committee on his issues with this being in the Economic Development purview. ED does not own the land (Highway ROW) nor does it provide wetland permitting. A discussion was held. A motion was made by Tom Taylor and seconded by Brad Schmidtkecht to forward to the Highway Committee with recommendations for action. Carried.

Review/Discussion ~ Basic Economic Development Course- Mr. Schiffli briefed the committee on the training he received last week. He also talked to the committee about a course offered by the Wisconsin Economic Development Association for Economic Development Committees. He requested a budget adjustment of \$1,000.00 for the course in the second quarter 2022.

Review/Discussion ~ Managers Report- Mr. Schiffli presented a written report. He emphasized the Mainstreet Bounce back grants his is pursuing with local business owners and municipalities.

Review/Discussion ~ Chairperson Report – Mr. Weiss discussed a correspondence from Bug Tussle.

Review/Discussion/Action ~ Next Meeting will be Thursday November 18, at 10:30 am.
Finance will recess if still in session.

Motion by Tom Taylor and seconded by Brad Schmidtknecht to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen S. Schiffli, Economic Development Manager