

**REDISTRICTING PUBLIC HEARING**  
**Monday, October 25, 2021, at 6:45 p.m.**

The Board met for the Redistricting Public Hearing. Mr. Dennis Bork in the Chair.

The roll was called, and all members were present, except Mr. Don Hillert and Ms. Mary Anne McMillan Urell. Others in attendance for all or portions of the meeting were Ms. Sonya Hansen, Ms. Roxann Halverson, Ms. Barb Traun (Teams), Ms. Felicia Decker, Mr. Steve Schiffli, Ms. Tina, Anibas, and Mr. Dave Rynders.

**Public Comments Regarding the Tentative 2022 Redistricting Plan of the County Board of Supervisors:** Ms. Halverson explained she is waiting on a few municipalities to get back to her on their plans. She does not feel if anything in those municipalities would change it would affect the County Supervisory District Plan. The tentative plan was to remain with 14 districts, and it is the recommendation to continue with that plan.

Mr. Weiss made a motion to adjourn the public hearing, seconded by Mr. Taylor at 6:53 p.m.

**OCTOBER COUNTY BOARD SESSION**  
**October 25, 2021, at 6:54 p.m.**

The Board met. Mr. Dennis Bork in the Chair.

The roll was called, and all members were present. Others in attendance for all or portions of the meeting were Ms. Sonya Hansen, Ms. Roxann Halverson, Mr. Cale Severson (Teams), Ms. Tina Anibas, Ms. Felicia Decker, Mr. Steve Schiffli, Mr. Dave Rynders, Mr. Ryan VanDeWalle (Teams), Mr. Nash Weiss (Teams), Ms. Carol Burmeister (Teams), Ms. Barb Traun (Teams), Ms. Brenda Creighton (Teams), and Mr. Dave Brommerich (Teams).

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

**Public Comments:** None.

**Review/Discussion/Action regarding the Previous Meeting Minutes:** Mr. Weiss made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Ruff. Carried.

**Review/Discussion/Action regarding the Appointment of Mr. Ryan VanDeWalle as Interim Administrative Coordinator effective January 1, 2022:** Ms. Hansen explained there were 11 applications for the Administrative Coordinator position and 5 individuals were selected for interviews. The Executive Committee recommended the appointment of Mr. Ryan VanDeWalle. Mr. VanDeWalle introduced himself and gave a background of his work history and education. Mr. Grisen made a motion to approve the appointment of Mr. Ryan VanDeWalle as the Administrative Coordinator, effective January 1, 2022, seconded by Ms. McMillan Urell. Carried.

**Review/Discussion/Action regarding the Appointment of Mr. Cale Severson as County Land Conservationist:** Ms. Hansen explained there were 13 applications

received for the Land Conservationist position. Interviews were held and three individuals were called back for a second interview. The Land Conservation Committee recommends the appointment of Mr. Cale Severson as the Buffalo County Land Conservationist. He would begin employment November 8<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Ruff made a motion to approve the appointment of Mr. Cale Severson as Land Conservationist, seconded by Ms. McMillan Urell. Carried.

**Review/Discussion regarding a Managed Forest Land Presentation by Treasurer Tina Anibas:** Ms. Anibas gave a presentation on the MFL program. She explained to the Board that if MFL were eliminated we would not have more levy money, as that cannot be raised. The levy would just be more evenly spread across all taxpayers, thus making the taxes lower. She reviewed the amount of taxes each MFL classification is charged and how her Association has tried working with Legislature for changes to the program. The County Board instructed Ms. Anibas to create a resolution to express concerns with the program and urge Legislature to enact changes to the program. They would like to see a requirement of the program that the property is the owners homestead, all taxes are kept current, there is a limit of 160 acres total that can be put in the program, only one entity can enroll in the program with no name variations allowed, and the tax rate for MFL be raised to cover the costs of inspections to enforce the MFL rules. They would like to have this resolution at the December meeting.

**Review/Discussion regarding the 2020 Buffalo County Veteran Service Office Annual Report:** Ms. Decker gave her annual report. She highlighted the increase in assistance she has been able to give to Veterans in Buffalo County. The number of Veterans is increasing as younger people are leaving service. Ms. Decker's Assistant, Mr. Steve Schiffl, has attended training and has now become accredited to be a Deputy Veteran Service Officer.

**Review/Discussion regarding 2022 Draft Budget:** Ms. Hansen reviewed the budget and how it was developed. She explained the meeting held earlier in the day by HR and the work that was done on the wages and scales and the proposed health insurance plan. She discussed the goal of HR is to aid in recruitment and retention of employees. HR felt using the savings in health insurance premiums to adjust wages to a fair and equitable rate would help with that retention. The Finance Committee had wanted to keep part of the savings and set it aside for next year if health insurance would raise significantly, but HR felt it was important to approve the wage scales for the employees. A vote was taken to see how the Board wanted Ms. Hansen to proceed with finalizing the budget. The Board voted in favor of the proposed wage scales and classifications. The sales tax amount was discussed. Ms. Hansen felt this could be raised by looking at past years and the projections for this year. The Board recommended she increase the sales tax revenue to \$910,000.00. The HR Committee also recommended increasing the health insurance incentive from \$1,200.00 to \$2,400.00. The Board agreed with that recommendation. Ms. Hansen will finalize the budget and bring it to the November Budget meeting.

**Resolution/Discussion/Action regarding #21-10-01 A Resolution Establishing 2022 Buffalo County Supervisory Redistricting Boundaries:** Ms. Halverson explained this resolution will need to be tabled until the November 9<sup>th</sup> meeting due to some municipalities not being ready yet. The latest this can be approved is November 9<sup>th</sup> as there are publications for elections that need to go in the newspaper and that is

dependent on these districts. Ms. McMillan Urell made a motion to table the resolution to November 9<sup>th</sup>, seconded by Ms. McDonough. Carried.

**Review/Discussion/Action regarding Resolution #21-10-02 A Resolution to Modify Policy 302 Other Insurances to Include Inclusion Under the Income Continuation Insurance Plan Offered by Wisconsin Retirement System (WRS):** This is a disability insurance offered by WRS that has no cost at this time. This is for total disability (not temporary) and is dependent on being disabled from the position you hold at the county. Mr. Hillert made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Ms. McMillan Urell. Carried.

**Review/Discussion/Action regarding Resolution #21-10-03 A Resolution to Change Three Limited Term Health Positions to Permanent Status through 2024:** Mr. Rynders explained this resolution is to extend the limited term positions through 2024 if there is enough funding and enough need for the COVID pandemic. The HR Committee voted to remove the word “permanent” from the resolution as these will not be permanent positions. Mr. Schmidtknecht made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Ms. McMillan Urell. Mr. Bruegger voting no. Carried.

**Review/Discussion/Action regarding Resolution #21-10-04 A Resolution to Extend Limited Term Public Health Worker Position to Support COVID-19 Response through 2024:** This resolution is to extend a part-time limited term position through 2024. The position works 600 hours or less per year and would end if the funding or need ends. Ms. McMillan Urell made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mr. Steve Nelson. Mr. Bruegger voting no. Carried.

**Review/Discussion/Action regarding Resolution #21-10-05 A Resolution to Authorize Repayment Agreement to Buffalo County with Tell Farms Inc.:** Tell Farms was awarded a grant to assist with bringing some of their operation into compliance. As part of the grant a new feed lot facility was built, and the milking operation is to gradually phase out. The feed lot building had curtains installed that were not covered by the grant but paid for by the county. This resolution would allow Tell Farms to pay back the \$6,021.39 over the next six months with 1% interest. The overall project was \$626,713.00. Mr. Ruff made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mr. Sendelbach. Carried.

**Review/Discussion/Action regarding Resolution #21-10-06 A Resolution to Authorize Unspent CAPX2020 Funding Under Resolutions #17-05-01 and #17-12-02 to be Reallocated to PL-566 Repairs and Maintenance Fund:** Finance Committee sent this resolution back to the Land Conservation Committee for further review. Ms. McMillan Urell made a motion to table the resolution, seconded by Mr. Taylor. Carried.

**Review/Discussion/Action regarding #21-10-07 A Resolution for County Aid for Town Bridges and Culverts – Section 82.06 Wis. Stats.:** This resolution is for bridges and culverts that the Towns petitioned the County for help with. The Towns pay half and the County pays half. The cost is placed on the tax roll outside of the levy. Mr. Danzinger made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Ms. McMillan Urell. Carried.

**Committee Chair Reports:** Mr. Cale Severson will be starting November 8<sup>th</sup> as the new Land Conservationist and DATCP has awarded Land Conservation with a grant for hazel nut production.

Highway will be using all the bond money before the end of the year. They have six days of milling left but should be done blacktopping around November 1<sup>st</sup>.

DHHS has been holding community health improvement meetings. These meetings are focusing on mental health.

Broadband grants have been awarded to Town of Mondovi, Town of Naples, and Town of Cross. Town of Alma applied but was not awarded a grant. The grants that were awarded for the towns in Buffalo County were working with cooperatives for internet services and had support from the County Board.

Human Resources approved filling the Personnel Advisor position.

**Administrative Coordinator Report:** Ms. Hansen gave her report. The Land Information Plan, Land & Water Plan, and Outdoor Recreation Plan will all need to be reviewed. She will get hardcopies to everyone. Phase 1 of the bike trail has been paid in full. The ATV/UTV road routes are now open on county roads.

**County Board Chair Report:** Chair Bork explained he has officially received Ms. Hansen's retirement letter. He thanked Ms. Hansen for all her work and reminded the Board her last day in office will be December 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Public Comments:** None.

**Adjournment:** Mr. Sendelbach made a motion to adjourn at 9:40 p.m., seconded by Mr. Grisen. Carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Roxann M. Halverson  
Buffalo County Clerk