

BUFFALO COUNTY MINUTES

Committee of the Board: Economic Development Committee

Date of the Meeting: Thursday November 18, 2021

Chair Mr. Max Weiss called the meeting to order at 10:30 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: Gina Tomlinson, Shawn Squires, Buck, Craig Bursaw, Tina Anibas, Steve Schiffli and Sonya Hansen

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

Review/Discussion/Action ~ (Update) Financial Report- Mr. Schiffli presented a financial update with emphasis on training expenditures. Mr. Schiffli predicts returning \$6,500.00 to the general fund in December.

Broadband Provider Update ~ CTC, NTEC and Tri County reported to the committee on their PSC awards and project status. The committee discussed with each provider projections on start and end dates, availability of materials, financials, and expected service area.

Review/Discussion/Action ~ Resolution to Modify Broadband Funding Sources

A resolution was present to move 2021 broadband funding from CAPX funding to American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding. The resolution also requested a minimum of 200K in ARPA funding for 2022 broadband expansion projects. A discussion was held.

Based on previous public comment at the preceding Finance meeting a suggestion to modify the resolution. Based on a new round of PSC/State grants it was recommended that to amend the resolution to increase the funding to 1.5 million. A motion was made by Ms. Bulman to approve the resolution as written. A discussion was held and the motion died, do to a lack of a second.

A motion was made by Mr. Schmidtkecht and seconded by Mr. Danzinger to approve the amending of resolution to read a maximum of 1.5 million in ARPA funds for broadband expansion. A roll call vote was held, motion carried with all ayes.

A motion to approve the resolution was made Mr. Taylor and seconded by Mr. Schmidtkecht. A roll call vote was held, motion carried with all ayes.

Consideration/Action ~ The Committee May Go Into Closed Session – Employee Evaluation – A motion to go into close session was made by Mr. Taylor and seconded by Mr. Schmidtkecht. Carried.

Consideration/Action ~ the Committee May Return to Open Session - A motion to go into open session was made by Mr. Taylor and seconded by Ms. Bulman. Carried.

Review/Discussion/Action ~ Tourism and Marketing Project – Mr. Schiffli indicated he is struggling with finding a marketing firm to take on the tourism guide. Mr. Schiffli indicated that he is working with Jen Fox from the Wisconsin Tourism Bureau. A discussion was held. A motion to request the earmarking of 50K for advertising and marketing in ARPA funding was made by Mr. Danzinger and seconded by Ms. Bulman. A roll call vote was held, motion carried with all ayes.

The committee wanted us to look at a map with UTV/ATV/Snow Mobile Routes to be added to the brochure.

Review/Discussion/ ~ Managers Report- Mr. Schiffli presented an oral report. He indicated CVSO training was the priority item the last 30-45 days, and he has completed all the required training for a Deputy VSO this year.

Review/Discussion ~ Chairperson Report – Mr. Weiss had no report.

Review/Discussion/Action ~ Next Meeting will be Thursday December 16, at 10:30 am. Finance will recess if still in session. Meeting dates next year are tentatively set for Jan, Mar, May, Jul, Sep, Nov 10:30 am after Finance.

Motion by Mr. Schmidtknecht to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen S. Schiffli, Economic Development Manager