

## BUFFALO COUNTY MINUTES

Committee of the Board:

Finance Committee

Date of the Meeting:

January 19, 2023

Acting Chair Mr. Max Weiss called the meeting to order at 9:47 a.m.

**Members Present:** Mr. William Bruegger, Mr. Brian Michaels, Mr. Max Weiss, and Mr. Brad Schmidtkecht. Mr. Dennis Bork was excused.

**Others Present for All or Parts of the Meeting in Person:** Mr. Lee Engfer, Ms. Lisa Schuh, Ms. Tina Anibas, Ms. Roxann Halverson, Mr. Chris Woda, Mr. Shawn Squires, Ms. Laura Gullickson, Mr. Garrett Martin, Ms. LeAnne Bulman, and Ms. Carol Burmeister.

**Public Comments regarding Agenda Items:** Mr. Squires requested the broadband resolution be moved up. He would like to discuss the option of increasing the funding to more than \$100,000.00 per project as obtaining grant funding is getting very competitive and additional funding from the county would help the project.

**Review/Discussion/Action regarding the Previous Meeting Minutes:** Mr. Michaels made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Mr. Bruegger. Carried.

**Review/Discussion/Action regarding A Resolution to Adopt a Buffalo County Broadband Award Policy:** Mr. Squires explained he would like the award amount increased above \$100,000.00 per project. Project costs have increased and it would be helpful to have additional funds towards broadband. The committee was cautious about increasing the amount as there are more municipalities that will need the funds for projects. Mr. Weiss made a motion to table the resolution, seconded by Mr. Bruegger. Mr. Schmidtkecht voting no. Carried.

**Review/Discussion regarding the Town of Canton Remonumentation Funding:** Chair Weiss indicated that he recently attended the Town of Canton meeting. They are next up for the remonumentation project to begin when Town of Milton is complete. They have asked the county to assist with funding as this would be the only way they can get the project completed. They will need approximately \$60,000.00 and can pay it back in yearly installments of \$4,000.00 to \$5,000.00. Chair Weiss would like to have the funds come from the CAPX funding as has been discussed over the years.

**Review/Discussion regarding a Broadband Funding Request from the City of Mondovi and Ntec:** Ms. Gullickson explained the request and how they are partnering with the City of Mondovi to provide fiber based broadband to the new industrial park. Having this option will draw in more businesses and residents. It will also create a larger tax base and more jobs. If the county would partner with Ntec and the City they

would have a better chance of obtaining grant funding. Without the grant funding the project cannot move forward. The application for the grant is due by February 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Review/Discussion/Action regarding a Broadband Funding Request from the Town of Buffalo and CCT:** The Town of Buffalo had requested funds last year but the grant they applied for was denied and the project did not go through. They will be applying for this round of grants with additional data to help better their chances. Mr. Schmidtknecht made a motion to approve the broadband funding of \$100,000.00, seconded by Mr. Michaels. A roll call vote was taken. All in favor. Carried.

**Review/Discussion/Action regarding a Broadband Funding Request from the Town of Montana and CCT:** Mr. Squires reviewed the project. The Town of Montana is serviced by three providers but there is a large portion of the municipality that has no service. Mr. Michaels made a motion to approve the broadband funding of \$100,000.00, seconded by Mr. Bruegger. A roll call vote was taken. All in favor. Carried.

**Review/Discussion regarding a Resolution to Support Economic Development in Buffalo County using CAPX2020 Funding:** This resolution was tabled at the Economic Development Committee.

**Review/Discussion/Action regarding Approval to Fill the Building and Grounds Janitor Position:** The current employee is retiring at the end of May. This is a full-time position that not only does cleaning but assists with maintenance duties. The position description will be reviewed by the Human Resources Committee at their March meeting. Mr. Michaels made a motion to fill the position, seconded by Mr. Bruegger. Carried.

**Review/Discussion/Action regarding Monthly Vendor Invoices/Vouchers/ Employment Payroll and Investment Report:** Invoices were reviewed. Mr. Schmidtknecht made a motion to approve the invoices and vouchers, seconded by Mr. Bruegger. Carried.

**Chairperson Report:** None.

**Administrative Coordinator Report:** Mr. Engfer reported on the USDA lease. The lease was up for renewal in September. The current Director does not want to renew any leases that have been in existence for more than 20 years until they have a chance to look into other options. Mr. Engfer will continue to work on this and bring updates back to the committee. The insurance company denied the claim against the county to repair a house involved in a standoff situation. The Town of Nelson has since asked for payment for their assistance in the situation. One of the county fleet vehicles has been having some transmission issues.

**Public Comment Unrelated to Agenda Items:** Mr. Woda thanked the committee for approving the purchase of the salt spreader. He has heard from many employees on how the blacktop is much safer.

**Next Date and Time:** The next regular meeting will be February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at 9:30 a.m. or immediately following the Economic Development Committee.

**Adjournment:** Mr. Michaels made a motion to adjourn at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Roxann Halverson  
Buffalo County Clerk