

## BUFFALO COUNTY MINUTES

Committee of the Board: Economic Development Committee

Date of the Meeting: Thursday, February 16, 2023

The meeting was called to order by Ms. Halverson at 8:30 a.m.

**Board Members Present:** Mr. Max Weiss, Mr. Brian Michaels, Mr. Michael Taylor, and Ms. Carol McDonough. Mr. John Hadley was excused.

**Others Present for All or Parts of the Meeting:** Mr. Lee Engfer, Ms. Roxann Halverson, Mr. Brad Schmidtkecht, Mr. Bill Hedberg, Mr. Shawn Squires, Ms. Tina Anibas, and Ms. Laura Gullickson.

**Public Comments regarding Agenda Items:** None.

**Review/Discussion/Action regarding the Election of Chair and Vice Chair:**

Ms. Halverson called for nominations for Chair of the Economic Development Committee. Ms. McDonough nominated Mr. Max Weiss for Chair. Further nominations were called for three times. Mr. Taylor made a motion to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Mr. Weiss as Chair, seconded by Ms. McDonough. Carried.

Ms. Halverson called for nominations for Vice Chair of the Economic Development Committee. Mr. Taylor nominated Ms. Carol McDonough. She declined the nomination. Ms. McDonough nominated Mr. Brian Michaels. Ms. Halverson called for nominations three times. Mr. Taylor made a motion to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Mr. Michaels as Vice Chair, seconded by Mr. Weiss. Carried.

**Review/Discussion/Action regarding the Previous Meeting Minutes:** Ms. Halverson indicated she needs a correction made to correctly spell Mr. Bill Hedberg's last name. Mr. Michaels made a motion to approve the previous meeting minutes as corrected, seconded by Mr. Taylor. Carried.

**Review/Discussion/Action regarding an Update on the Revolving Loan Fund:** Mr. Engfer explained there has been some documents recovered and some of them reference a Buffalo County Rural Economic Development Corporation. The members are no longer associated with the organization but Mr. Hedberg is working on cleaning up paperwork for the entity. Criteria for the funds were reviewed but no action is needed at this time.

**Review/Discussion/Action regarding A Resolution to Support Economic Development in Buffalo County with CAPX2020 Funding:** A discussion was held regarding the amount of funds remaining in the CAPX2020 account and

what the funds can be used for. Grants for economic development were discussed but most grants are project specific. Mr. Taylor made a motion to amend the resolution to set aside \$50,000.00 of CAPX2020 funds and approve the amended resolution, seconded by Mr. Michaels. A roll call vote was taken. All in favor. Carried.

**Review/Discussion/Action regarding the BEAD Local Planning Grant:** This grant is a non-competitive grant that if the county opts into it the money will be there for broadband. Mr. Squires recommends approving the BEAD Grant. Mr. Taylor made a motion to apply for the BEAD Grant, seconded by Mr. Michaels. Carried.

**Review/Discussion/Action regarding a Flyway Trail Update:** Mr. Engfer explained there is a meeting tonight to discuss purchasing land in the Town of Buffalo for expansion and the finances for the project.

**Review/Discussion/Action regarding a Broadband Update:** Mr. Squires explained that the Town of Buffalo and Town of Montana approved moving forward with the broadband project in their municipality. Grant applications for both municipalities will be submitted this week. Projects, services, and future plans were discussed by both Mr. Squires and Ms. Gullickson.

**Review/Discussion/Action regarding the Together Farms Loan Funding:** Mr. Engfer reviewed the original request of \$30,000.00 for a glamping project at their farm. One of the requirements to receive funds is to create one full-time job. The owner did not plan on increasing employees. Mr. Engfer has had no additional requests from them.

**Review/Discussion regarding the Committee Chair Report:** None.

**Review/Discussion regarding Public Comments:** Mr. Hedberg is working on getting the past Economic Development Corporation back up and running. He will bring the bylaws to the next meeting for review. He is also working on having more web presence for tourism and working with Travel Wisconsin to become a destination county.

**Review/Discussion/Action regarding the next meeting date and time:** The next meeting will be April 20<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 a.m.

Mr. Taylor made a motion to adjourn at 9:20 a.m. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Roxann Halverson  
Buffalo County Clerk