

APRIL COUNTY BOARD SESSION

Tuesday, April 18, 2023, at 9:00 a.m.

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

The roll was called and all members were present. Others in attendance for all or portions of the meeting were Mr. Lee Engfer, Ms. Roxann Halverson, Mr. Chris Lindstrom, Ms. Tina Anibas, Sheriff Mike Osmond, Ms. Misty Rustad, Mr. Brent Weaver, Ms. Carol Burmeister, and Ms. Danielle Schalinske. Joining virtually was Mr. Cody Didier, Ms. Tammy Huber, Ms. Ana Rolbiecki, and Ms. Lisa Schuh.

Public Comments: None.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding the Appointment to Fill District 2 County Board Seat: Mr. Chris Lindstrom introduced himself and explained the interest he has in filling the vacant County Board Supervisor seat. He was asked about his experience and availability for meetings. Mr. Michaels made a motion to approve the appointment, seconded by Mr. Nelson. Mr. Hadley voting no. Carried.

Ms. Halverson gave the Oath of Office to Mr. Lindstrom.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding Previous Meeting Minutes: Ms. McMillan Urell made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Taylor. Carried.

Review/Discussion regarding MFL Regulation and Issues in Buffalo County: Mr. Brent Weaver, DNR Forester, discussed the MFL program. He explained how applying to be part of the program works as well as how compliance and noncompliance issues are handled. The lack of available Loggers has had an effect on the timber being cut in time for the program. However, Mr. Weaver works with the landowner to become compliant in the program. He encouraged talking with Legislatures to change the taxing process that uses a value tax based system.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding Ordinance #23-04-01 An Ordinance to Amend the Official Buffalo County Zoning District Map – Town of Milton: Mr. Engfer explained this would be a rezone for a parcel of land located behind the racetrack. The owner would like to hold a special camping event on that parcel. The zoning would change from residential to ANRT-5 which allows limited camping of up to 150 units. No other limits could be placed on this. If camping were a conditional use of the ANRT-5 zoning district then the Board of Adjustments could set a specified limit. There is a gentlemen's agreement to limit this to one time per year but cannot be made part of the rezone. Mr. Stanton made a motion to approve the ordinance, seconded by Ms. McMillan Urell. Carried.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding Resolution #23-04-01 A Resolution to Update Personnel Policy 201 – Holiday Pay: This resolution allows changes to the Personnel Policy to better clarify how the floating holiday is handled in the Communication/Corrections Officer positions. Mr. Nathan Nelson made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mr. Taylor. Carried.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding Resolution #23-04-02 A Resolution to Update Personnel Policy 512 – Remote Work (Telecommuting): Mr. Steve Nelson reported the issue of telecommuting has been worked on since October and this is the policy that was passed by the HR Committee after an amendment from 24 days per year to 52 days per year. A discussion was held on changing the policy back to 24 days per year and up to 2 days per week or having all employees return to the courthouse for work. Ms. McMillan Urell made a motion to amend the policy to 24 days per year from the proposed 52 days per year, seconded by Mr. Sendelbach. 11 voting yes. Mr. Stanton, Mr. Nathan Nelson, and Mr. Taylor voting no. Carried. A discussion was held on how monitoring works for employees who telecommute. Mr. Ruff made a motion to approve the amended resolution, seconded by Ms. McMillan Urell. 13 voting yes. Mr. Bruegger voting no. Carried.

Review/Discussion regarding CAPX2020, ARPA, and Opioid Funding: Mr. Engfer reviewed the balances of the ARPA funds, CAPX2020 funds and put together a committee to discuss the Opioid fund allocations.

Public Comments: Mr. Ruff would like to see the Board become more proactive and set short term and long term goals. He would also like to have things changed so that Board vacancies are advertised immediately.

Committee Chair Reports: Mr. Taylor reported that Law Enforcement is in need of new body cameras and squad cameras. They will be bringing this forward for funding. Law Enforcement is also working with Pepin County on talks of a new jail. There were two violations reported on the jail inspection and one was the age of our jail.

The Highway Department is working on their finances. They are a little behind due to end of the year preparations for the Auditors. They will be constructing around eight miles of road this year and working on the intersection of County Road H and County Road HH.

Recycling had no meeting.

Land Management is working on remonumentation and trying to speed up the process as the cost goes up 3% every year.

HR is informed that the wage study is on schedule.

Administrative Coordinator Report: Mr. Engfer gave his report.

- MN Monthly would like to do an article on tourism. Mr. Bill Hedberg is working on this with them.
- The Towns Association held their meeting. Someone had a complaint about ATV use on County Road M.

- Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission explained the Comprehensive Land Use Plan at the Towns Association.
- The Surveyor indicated that expediting the remonumentation process would cost \$1.1 million to expedite. This would be reduced by the portion the towns would pay.
- The owner of the Annex building next door is looking to sell the property. They would give the County first chance at it.
- Letters were sent out to municipalities that have not applied for broadband funding yet. There is a tight timeline for them to get their projects planned and completed.
- The generator project is ahead of schedule. Concrete work outside will be done soon.
- The Wellness Center next door is not being utilized by very many. He would like to take those funds and use them for specialized drinking fountains in the courthouse. This is something that would benefit all employees.
- Meteorologists are predicting flood levels at the 2001 level if we get more rain in the next few days.

County Board Chair Report: Mr. Bork indicated he has also been working with Pepin County on jail issues.

Adjournment: Mr. Taylor made a motion to adjourn at 11:41 a.m., seconded by Ms. McDonough. Carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Roxann M. Halverson
Buffalo County Clerk