

## BUFFALO COUNTY MINUTES

Committee of the Board: Economic Development Committee

Date of the Meeting: Thursday, June 15, 2023

The meeting was called to order by Chair Max Weiss at 10:09 a.m.

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

**Others Present for All or Parts of the Meeting:** Mr. Lee Engfer, Ms. Roxann Halverson, Mr. Bill Hedberg, Mr. David Brommerich (Teams), and Ms. Mary Anne McMillan Urell (Teams).

**Public Comments regarding Agenda Items:** Ms. McMillan Urell attended the Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission meeting and was informed 9300-9500 new businesses were created using covid funds. These were small grants to help with main street businesses. It was also reported there will be more grants from broadband expansion. She suggested our Strategy Plan being updated to help with applying for grants for Economic Development.

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

**Review/Discussion/Action regarding the Revolving Loan Fund Policy:** Mr. Hedberg reviewed the changes made to the loan policy. He suggested to have the County Attorney look at the plan before final approval. Mr. Hedberg would also like to send it to the Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission for review. They have indicated they would administer the loan for \$250.00. Mr. Hadley made a motion to move the policy to the County Attorney for review, seconded by Ms. McDonough. Carried.

**Review/Discussion/Action regarding a Flyway Trail Update:** Mr. Engfer reported the Phase 2 portion is behind schedule due to some studies that need to be conducted and construction costs. He met with the Flyway Trail Committee and worked out some issues that were had.

**Review/Discussion/Action regarding a Broadband Update:** The Town of Naples and Town of Gilmanton projects have been paid their awarded broadband funding. The Town of Buffalo and Town of Montana had submitted grants to the state for projects. Both applications were denied. CCT will be working on a way to move forward in those areas, as well as working with the Town of Belvidere to finish some updates in that area.

**Review/Discussion/Action regarding the BEAD Broadband Grant:** Mr. Hedberg indicated that deliverables for the grant application are due on Monday. He will be working with other counties to obtain the BEAD Grant.

**Review/Discussion/Action regarding the Economic Development Website Proposal:** Mr. Hedberg explained he received one viable proposal to help promote Buffalo County from River Travel Media. The first year is quoted at \$15,000.00 to create a website to promote both tourism and economic development in Buffalo County. There will be social media campaigns as well. Mr. Hedberg will invite River Travel Media to present their product to the EDC in August.

**Review/Discussion/Action regarding the Economic Development Meeting Held in Fountain City:** Mr. Hedberg reviewed the meeting held in Fountain City. It is a group of individuals with the goal of promoting tourism in Buffalo County. Their goal is to do a destination assessment and apply for a \$40,000.00 marketing grant. The next meeting of this group will be June 27<sup>th</sup> at the Township 23 Distillery in Nelson at 12:30 p.m.

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

**Review/Discussion regarding Public Comments:** None.

**Review/Discussion/Action regarding the next meeting date and time:** The next meeting will be August 17<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. or immediately following the Finance Committee meeting.

**Adjournment:** Mr. Taylor made a motion to adjourn at 10:44 a.m., seconded by Ms. McDonough. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Roxann Halverson  
Buffalo County Clerk