

BUFFALO COUNTY MINUTES

Committee of the Board:

Finance Committee

Date of the Meeting:

September 15, 2022

Chair Mr. Dennis Bork called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Members Present: Mr. Dennis Bork, Mr. William Bruegger, Mr. Brian Michaels, Mr. Brad Schmidtknecht, and Mr. Max Weiss.

Others Present for All or Parts of the Meeting in Person and Via Teams: Ms. Roxann Halverson, Mr. Ryan VanDeWalle, Ms. Tinas Anibas, Ms. Carol Burmeister, Ms. LeeAnne Bulman, Mr. Chris Woda, Ms. Felicia Decker, Mr. David Brommerich (Teams), and Ms. Lisa Schuh (Teams).

Public Comments regarding Agenda Items: None.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding the Minutes of the Previous Meeting: Mr. Weiss made a motion to approve the August 18th minutes, seconded by Mr. Schmidtknecht. Carried. Mr. Weiss made a motion to approve the August 25th minutes, seconded by Mr. Bruegger. Carried.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding A Resolution to Identify Delinquent 2019 Real Estate Taxes: Ms. Anibas presented the tax deed resolution. The resolution was updated to remove Kyle and Elizabeth Corriea as they paid the taxes last week. William Jannusch paid his taxes yesterday, but it takes two days to clear the bank. If the payment clears that one will come off the resolution before the County Board meeting. Ms. Anibas indicated she has been trying to locate MRC Telecommunications, which is now believed to be Norlight Incorporated to inform them of the delinquent taxes. This parcel was purchased to become a location for a communications tower, but nothing was every constructed on it. The information on this property had to be published and cannot be foreclosed until 90 days after the last publication. The first day we can take the property is October 7th. This resolution would allow the foreclosure process to proceed if the taxes are not paid by that date. Mr. Michaels made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mr. Weiss. Carried.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding the Veteran Memorial Wall Repair Using ARPA Funding: Ms. Decker presented the bid for the Veteran Memorial wall repair. A portion of this wall belongs to the County and is included in the bid. The bid amount of \$33,100.00 will be honored until November 1st. If not accepted by then the price will need to be renegotiated. Ms. Decker would like to request up to \$14,000.00 of ARPA funds and use the balance of the \$16,539.28 in the Veteran Memorial fund. The money in this fund has been raised by the local Veteran organizations and individuals that know how important the memorial is. Mr. Michaels made a motion to approve spending up to \$14,000.00 of ARPA funds towards the Memorial, seconded by Mr. Schmidtknecht. A roll call vote was taken. All in favor. Carried.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding A Resolution to Create and Fill a Land Management Director/Land Conservationist Position: Mr. VanDeWalle reviewed the duties of this position and the cost savings to the County by creating the Land Management Department. Mr. Bruegger made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mr. Weiss. Carried.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding A Resolution to Create and Fill an Assistant Zoning Administrator Position: Mr. VanDeWalle described the duties this position would be responsible for. Mr. Michaels made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mr. Schmidtknecht. Carried.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding the Grant Writer: Mr. VanDeWalle explained that Mr. Bill Hedberg gave a presentation at the Economic Development Committee meeting to explain his work experience and answered questions about the contracted position of Grant Writer. He will begin work on October 1st and the initial contract will last through the end of the year. The cost for 2022 is \$6,250.00 and \$25,000.00 for 2023 with 1,000 hours of work time. This will be reviewed at the December Finance meeting to see if the contract should be continued. Mr. Schmidtknecht made a motion to approve entering into a contract through the end of 2022 pending review of the contract by Attorney Bilski and County Board approval, seconded by Mr. Weiss. Carried

Review/Discussion/Action regarding the Economic Development Coordinator: Mr. VanDeWalle explained this position would be contracted with Trempealeau County for about 8 hours per week. There is \$18,763.20 in the budget for this position and that is what would be worked with for obtaining services through Trempealeau County. There are still details to be worked out for both counties. Trempealeau County has not presented this to their County Board yet. Mr. Schmidtknecht made a motion to continue to move forward with the contracted Economic Development position with Trempealeau County, seconded by Mr. Weiss. Carried.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding the 2023 Proposed Budget: Mr. VanDeWalle explained there are a few items that he does not have information on yet and has those highlighted in yellow on the presentation. There is approximately a \$3 million deficit for the 2023 budget. The committee and Mr. VanDeWalle discussed ways to cut expenses. The committee would like Mr. VanDeWalle to work with each department to cut expenses by 10% and bring back information to a meeting to be held on October 6th.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding the Monthly Vendor Invoices/Vouchers/Employment Payroll/Investment Report: Invoices were reviewed. Mr. Schmidtknecht made a motion to approve the invoices and vouchers, seconded by Mr. Weiss. Carried. Ms. Anibas gave the investment report. She is renewing one investment and the rate will go from .5% to 3% as interest rates are increasing.

Chairperson Report: Chair Bork reported on the upcoming WCA conference in WI Dells.

Administrative Coordinator Report: Mr. VanDeWalle reported he will work on the budget reductions with the Department Managers.

Public Comment Unrelated to Agenda Items: None.

Next Date and Time: The next regular meeting will be October 20th at 8:30 a.m.

Mr. Bruegger made a motion to adjourn at 12:41 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Roxann Halverson
Buffalo County Clerk