

Buffalo County Minutes

Committee/Board:

Committee of the Board

Date of Meeting:

January 22, 2026

Chair Bork called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Committee Members Present: Mr. Dennis Bork, Ms. Mary Anne McMillan Urell, Mr. John Hadley, Mr. Chris Lindstrom, Mr. Steve Nelson, and Mr. Mike Taylor. Mr. Max Weiss joined the meeting at 8:55. Mr. Lindstrom left the meeting at 9:33 and Mr. Hadley left the meeting at 11:49.

Other Present for All or Part of the Meeting: Mr. Lee Engfer, Ms. Lisa Schmitt and Sheriff Mike Osmond. Ms. Tina Anibas, Ms. Ana Rolbiecki, and Brommerich News attended virtually.

Public Comments Regarding Posted Agenda Items: None.

Previous Meeting Minutes: Ms. McMillan Urell made a motion to approve the previous meeting minutes, seconded by Mr. Taylor. Carried.

Review/Discussion/Action Regarding Update Rules of Government: Mr. Engfer explained that he has been working with the Wisconsin Counties Association (WCA) to update our Rules of Government. WCA strongly recommends that we pass an ordinance to become a self-organized county, as that relates with policies stated in the Rules of Government.

There was a proposal and discussion held regarding having a staggered 2 and 4-year term for board members, so not all members are up for election at the same time. This would result in a 4-year term for all members after the initial elections are held, with only one-half of the board being elected every two years. WCA advised that no other counties currently do this, but it would be allowed.

Committee structure, committees required by statute, required/optional committees and sub-committees were reviewed and discussed. It is recommended that we have between 5 – 7 standing committees. We need to add a mandated Sheriff's Grievance Committee within our committees. After discussion, it was decided to have the Human Resources and Finance Committees combine. All the standing committees will have five supervisor members each, with the Health and Human Services/Veterans Services Committee having community members as well. The current non-standing/sub committees were reviewed, and these will all remain with Economic Development and Committee of the Board being added. It was also proposed that community members be added to the Economic Development Committee.

The committee reviewed and discussed the Rules of the Board template that was provided by WCA. A draft with the committee's proposed changes will be sent to WCA for review before the next meeting. It will also be reviewed by Corporation Counsel before being adopted by the full County Board.

Committee Chair Reports: Ms. McMillan Urell mentioned that DHHS is currently holding interviews, there was no January meeting, and the next meeting will be February 5th.

Chairperson Report: Western Wisconsin Workforce Development board met yesterday to finalize and pass the 2026 budget. There is currently no fiscal agent. A consortium agreement and an agreement with the Workforce Development board is needed.

County Administrator Report: Mr. Engfer shared a message sent out to the public regarding highway winter road maintenance this season which addressed concerns from the public and informed them that their feedback matters. It noted changes being made for road safety and improvements to meet the community needs. We are in the process of finalizing an audit firm. The RFP's are due soon and department heads have been notified regarding standard audit items which will need to be provided. The restricted courthouse access will remain in place at this time.

Public Comments Unrelated to Agenda Items: None.

Next Meeting Date and Time: The next regular meeting is scheduled for February 24, 2026, at 8:30 a.m.

Adjournment: Ms. McMillan Urell made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:17 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Schmitt
County Clerk