

BUFFALO COUNTY MINUTES

Committee of the Board:

Buffalo County Highway Committee

Date of the Meeting:

Monday, February 16, 2026

Chairman Mr. Lindstrom called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. in the conference room of the Buffalo County Highway Department, Alma, Wisconsin.

Board Members Present: Mr. Michaels, Mr. Lindstrom, Mr. Weiss, Mr. Ruff, and Mr. Sendelbach

Others Present for All or Parts of the Meeting: Kelly Johnston, Lee Engfer, Bennett Olson, Nick Bremer, Steve Wall and Steve Nelson

Public Comments regarding Agenda Items: None

Review/Discussion/Action - Minutes of the Previous Meeting: A motion was made by Mr. Weiss, seconded by Mr. Sendelbach to approve the minutes of the previous meeting, January 20, 2026. Carried.

Review/Discussion/Action - Monthly Vouchers #31607 through #31689 totaling \$447,399.81 were reviewed. A motion was made by Mr. Sendelbach, seconded by Mr. Weiss, to approve the monthly vouchers as presented. Carried.

Review/Discussion/Action – Spring Road Bans:

- a. Trempealeau County is talking about placing road bans on in early March. A discussion was held to continue watching weather patterns and temperatures. Road bans will be placed on the March agenda.

Review/Discussion/Action – Recycling Program Coverage and Associated Costs:

- a. Discussion on how to cover the Recycling Department when that employee is gone or on vacation. Will need to find a County Patrolman to teach the job to and not a State Patrolman.

Review/Discussion/Action – Staffing:

- a. Highway Commissioner Vacancy- Will be doing some modifications to the Commissioner job description, then will be posting on the County website, Facebook, etc.

Review/Discussion/Action– Equipment:

- a. Bomag RS 500 Trade Update- Waiting to hear back on the roller. Caterpillar salesman stopped in and looked at the Bomag Reclaimer for trade. Waiting to hear back for trade in valve.
- b. Samsara GPS Update- There have been some issues connecting Samsara equipment to our trucks. Not quite plug and play like they stated. Set up a meeting with Bob Lowe from Precise to discuss what they have for options now.

Review/Discussion/Action– Buildings & Grounds:

- a. Contracting Fuel-Discussion of fuel prices. Alcivia is \$2.63/gallon delivered off the truck. Chippewa Valley is \$2.59/gallon delivered off the truck. Continue to hold off on contracting fuel yet. Keep an eye on pricing. Put on agenda for the March Highway Committee meeting.

Review/Discussion/Action– Roads & Bridges:

- a. Township Work Reimbursements- Discussion of Joint Project work with Townships. Petitions are not getting done. Work is being done by contractors without the Counties knowledge and then the Townships are billing the County for 50% of cost. This is not how this program works. Joint petitions are to be filled out and submitted by September 5th of the previous year when the work is to be done for budgeting reasons. The Township then gives 50% of the cost in advance to the County. All bills are to be given to the County to be paid. Mr. Ruff made a motion to work with the Town of Buffalo to clear these projects up. Town of Buffalo needs to fill out a joint petition form in 2026 for reimbursement in 2027. Mr. Michaels seconded. Carried.

Review/Discussion– Safety/Risk Management Update:

- a. A 5ft chunk of tree shot out of the mulching head, striking and causing damage to a passing car.

Review/Discussion– Financial Update:

- a. Discussion of where we are at with end of year finances.

Commissioner's Report- Working with Mr. Wall to set up some training. There was a tree that hit the guardrail on State Road 37, not a big deal as all guardrails will be getting replaced on that road in 2027. They were big oak trees and rotten in the center, they lifted the guardrail back up with the loader and bolted back to the posts. Working on LSSIP funding for 6'-20' structures program. The County has five structures that qualify for this program. Trying to figure out what we have for projects in 2026 and if there is any program funding for any of these projects. I'm doing my best to continue moving forward.

Committee Chair Report – WTA information for Towns to help with grants.

County Administrator Report- There will be two heavy equipment operator positions available after February 26, 2026. Bring in an outside person to evaluate employees looking to fill these positions. Anybody can run a piece of equipment, but operating a piece of equipment is totally different. Discussion of the admin rate. State Road 37 from State Road 35 to County Road F scheduled for 2030 as of now. Discussion of County Road OO project issues brought up by the public.

Public Comments- Nothing to report

Next Meeting – The next meeting will be Tuesday March 10, 2026, at 8:00 a.m.

Adjourned- 10:29 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Acting Secretary
Kelly Johnston