



Notice of Public Meeting

AGENDA

Committee: Buffalo County Board of Supervisors – Committee of the Board
Date: Monday, February 21, 2022
Time: 8:30 a.m.
Location: 3rd Floor County Board Room
Remote Access: [Click here to join the meeting](#)

The meeting is open to the public, but portions of the meeting may be closed if this notice indicates that the committee may convene in closed session. The following matters may be considered and acted upon at the meeting, but deviations from the order shown may occur:

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call of Members
3. Public Comment Regarding Posted Agenda Items
4. Review/Discussion/Action ~ Minutes of the Previous Meeting
5. Review/Discussion/Action ~ Allocation of funds from the American Rescue Plan Act Funding (ARPA) ~ Compensation Resulting from COVID-19 Efforts ~ Western Buffalo County Ambulance Service Request
6. Review/Discussion/Action ~ Administrative Coordinator Goals
7. Review/Discussion/Action ~ The Committee May Go into Closed Session to Discuss Employee Performance
The Committee may enter closed session and return to open session pursuant to WI State Statutes 19.85(1)(f) for the purpose of discussing employee performance which may have a substantial effect on the reputation of any person involved over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility.
8. Review/Discussion/Action ~ The Committee May Return to Open Session
9. Chairperson's Report
10. Administrative Coordinator's Report
11. Public Comment Unrelated to Agenda Items
12. Review/Discussion/Action ~ Next Date and Time
13. Adjournment.

Date: February 16, 2022

Dennis Bork, Chair

By: Roxann Halverson, County Clerk

Board Members: If unable to attend, please contact the Chair. If the Chair is unavailable, please contact the County Clerk's Office at 608-685-6209. If the Chair and the County Clerk are not available, please call the Administrative Coordinator at 608-685-6234.

Persons with Disabilities: Buffalo County shall attempt to provide reasonable accommodations to the public for access to its public meetings, provided reasonable notice of special need is given. If you require special accommodations to attend this meeting, please contact the County Clerk's Office at 608-685-6209.

Public Access to the Courthouse: The South Entrance will be the only access to the building after 4:30 p.m.

Persons who are members of another governmental body, but who are not members of this committee, may attend this meeting. Their attendance could result in a quorum of another governmental body being present. Such a quorum is unintended, and they are not meeting to exercise the authority, duties, or responsibilities of any other governmental body.

Buffalo County Minutes

Committee: Committee of the Board

Meeting Date: Thursday, January 6, 2022

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

Members Present: Mr. Dennis Bork, Mr. Max Weiss, Mr. Larry Grisen, Ms. Mary Anne McMillan Urell, and Mr. Dwight Ruff. Mr. Mike Taylor and Mr. Don Hillert were absent.

Others Present for All or Portions of the Meeting: Mr. Ryan VanDeWalle, Ms. Roxann Halverson, Mr. Lee Engfer, Mr. Dave Rynders, Mr. Mike Owecke, Ms. Carol Burmeister (Teams), Mr. David Danzinger (Teams), Mr. Dave Brommerich (Teams), Ms. Tina Anibas (Teams), and Ms. Lisa Schuh (Teams).

Minutes of the Previous Meeting: Ms. Mary Anne McMillan Urell made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Ruff. Carried.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding Allocation of funds from the American Rescue Plan Funding (ARPA): Buffalo County was allocated \$2,531,119.00 of ARPA funds. \$1.3 million has been allocated to broadband and \$138,000 has already been spent.

Mr. Owecke spoke to the committee regarding allocating approximately \$50,000 to the well water testing project that has been in the works since 2016 or 2017. A group of Department Managers have been working on doing random testing of wells for different chemical levels. UW Stevens Point would be assisting with this project and would write the findings of the testing and present the report to the full board. The committee discussed having an action plan in place to address the results when they come in.

Mr. Engfer discussed the need for the radio tower equipment upgrades. The south tower has been causing some issues and needs to be replaced very soon. These radio towers are used to send notifications to officers, EMS, and fire. The quote received recently is for \$135,526.30 and is good for 30 days. Once approved it will take approximately 6 months to get them all installed. He would also like the committee to consider hazard pay for employees in the Sheriff's Office. Many had to use their own time off when on quarantine for an exposure during the line of duty. He explained he used a \$100 per month over a 21 month time period for the hazard pay with a total amount of \$39,100. Individuals who no longer work for Buffalo County will not be eligible and those employees who are eligible will receive an amount equal to the months of employment during that 21 month period. An example would be if an employee worked 5 months during the pandemic and is still currently employed in the Sheriff's Office, they would receive \$500. Not all staff is eligible, only those who had a high risk of exposure.

Mr. Rynders discussed the Nurse/Family Partnership program. He has revised the cost estimate to be \$91,155 annually over the next three years. There are some revenue sources, but the amount of revenue from some is unknown. A discussion was held regarding hiring a full-time nurse versus contracting with Eau Claire County for a part-time nurse. It is estimated this program would serve ten mothers per year. Mr. Rynders also discussed hazard pay for those employees in his department that had the most risk of exposure.

Mr. Ruff left the meeting at 11:00 a.m.

A discussion was held on how to allocate hazard pay and the issues it may cause. Mr. Grisen made a motion to have all Department Managers work together to discuss hazard pay and submit a plan to the Finance Committee in January, seconded by Ms. McMillan Urell. Carried.

The committee discussed how to prioritize the requests with the funds available. Some items would not be eligible for the ARPA due to restrictions of how funds could be used, but they could then fall under loss of revenue that has fewer restrictions.

Requests are as follows:

| Department | Item(s) Requested | Cost |
|----------------------|--|----------------|
| Highway | Electronic sign and emergency sign trailer | \$40,000.00 |
| Law Enforcement | Radio tower equipment | \$136,000.00 |
| DHHS | Lead testing | \$39,600 |
| DHHS | AODA program | \$43,000.00 |
| DHHS | Nurse/Family Partnership | \$92,000.00 |
| DHHS | COVID | \$157,000.00 |
| Economic Development | Broadband | \$1,300,000.00 |
| Administration | Generator | \$60,000.00 |
| Administration | Financial System | \$193,000.00 |
| Administration | Phone System | \$80,000.00 |
| Administration | Computer Upgrades | \$68,000.00 |
| Zoning | Water Well Testing | \$50,000.00 |
| Already spent | Electronic signs and broadband | \$138,000.00 |
| Total | | \$2,396,600 |

Ms. McMillan Urell made a motion to use CAPX funds for the financial system and pay it back when the loss of revenue funds can be realized from the ARPA funds, seconded by Mr. Grisen. Carried.

Ms. McMillan Urell made a motion to approve up to \$55,000.00 for hazard pay, seconded by Mr. Weiss. Mr. Grisen voting no. Carried.

Ms. McMillan Urell made a motion to approve the Highway request of the electronic sign board and emergency sign trailer in the amount of \$40,000.00, seconded by Mr. Weiss. Carried.

Ms. McMillan Urell made a motion to approve the Law Enforcement request for radio tower equipment replacement in the amount of \$136,000.00, seconded by Mr. Weiss. Carried.

Ms. McMillan Urell made a motion to approve the DHHS request for lead testing in the amount of \$39,600.00, seconded by Mr. Grisen. Carried.

Ms. McMillan Urell made a motion to approve the Administration request for a generator, seconded by Mr. Weiss. Carried.

COVID Protocol: Chair Bork reported that no action can be taken on this item since the amended agenda was not posted in time. The CDC has shortened the isolation time from 10 days to 5 days and then the individual would wear a mask for days 6 through 10. The Employee Return to Work Guidelines will have to be reviewed and amended if it is the wishes to change the isolation timeframe.

Chairperson Report: None.

Administrative Coordinator's Report: None.

Public Comment Not Related to Agenda Items: Ms. McMillan Urell asked if a County Board Supervisor can be appointed to the EOC Team meetings. DHHS would like to open the Emergency Operations Center again due to the increase in cases and the scarcity of hospital beds. They are meeting Monday at 3:00 p.m. Mr. Grisen will attend the meeting.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding the Date and Time of the Next Meeting: The next meeting will be February 21st at 8:30 a.m. Guidelines for the Administrative Coordinator will be discussed.

Adjournment: Mr. Grisen made a motion to adjourn at 12:03 p.m., seconded by Ms. McMillan Urell. Carried.

Respectfully Submitted:

Roxann Halverson
Buffalo County Clerk

Buffalo County
American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)
Application for Funding

Western Buffalo County Ambulance Service (WBCAS)
Justin Sass, Director
715-495-2744
wbcaservice@gmail.com
310 North Main PO Box 371
Alma, WI 54610

Training and Equipment for Current and New Emergency Medical Responders (EMR) and Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT)

Background: The Western Buffalo County Ambulance Service (WBCAS) covers 389 square miles in Western Buffalo County and serves the City of Alma, Village of Nelson, Town of Alma, Town of Lincoln, Town of Modena, and Town of Nelson. It is also the primary EMS responder for the Buffalo County Jail. The population served directly is 2,312 people. Indirectly, WBCAS serves surrounding communities through mutual aid agreements. WBCAS responded to 180 calls in 2020 and 215 in 2021. There seems to be an increasing trend upward in calls. Average annual calls for the WBCAS in 2019 was 150.

The nearest emergency room is 12 miles from the home base, the nearest level one trauma center is about 50 miles, helicopter response from liftoff to arrival is about 20 minutes. WBCAS is an all-volunteer service with a small on-call and response reimbursement. Support for the service comes from municipalities (charge per capita), grants, fund raising, gifts, etc.

Currently, WBCAS consists of 9 EMT's and 3 EMR's to cover 24/7. Remember, these are all volunteer positions and almost all members hold full time jobs.

Need: The service is currently holding a class for new EMR's with the help from a generous donation from the Ashley Furniture Foundation. This will help take some of the pressure off current squad members, but the squad will still be seriously understaffed with EMT's. The ambulance can respond with one EMT and one EMR or two EMT's, but cannot respond with two EMR's. The current EMR class has participants representing three EMS services.

There is a new requirement that the ambulance is equipped with monitoring for End-tidal carbon dioxide (ETCO₂). This requires purchasing new monitoring equipment and training for all EMS responders.

Funding Request: There are two parts to our funding request. First, is a request for \$5,885 for a ZOE 740 SELECT™ Series Vital Signs Monitor with the addition of the end-tidal carbon dioxide monitoring to meet current state requirements for EMS services.

Second, is a request for training funds for an EMT class to be held within the next 12 months. New EMR's, from the winter 2022 class will be encouraged to take the additional hours needed to become EMT's. The cost of this class is about \$600 per participant. WBCAS would like to request an additional \$6,000 to supplement the cost of the EMT class. This class will be open to other EMS services as well.

Total Funding request: \$11,885