



Notice of Public Meeting

Committee: Economic Development
Date: Thursday, November 17, 2022
Time: Immediately following the adjournment of the Finance Committee
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 ~ Approval of the July and September Meeting Minutes
5. Review/Discussion/Action ~ Revolving Loan Fund ~ Together Farms
6. Review/Discussion/Action ~ Grant Writer Updates
7. Review/Discussion/Action ~ Matching Funds for Grants
8. Review/Discussion/Action ~ Flyway Trail Updates
9. Review/Discussion/Action ~ Broadband Updates
10. Review/Discussion ~ Committee Chair Report
11. Review/Discussion/Action ~ Next meeting date and time
12. Adjournment.

Date: November 10, 2022

Brad Schmidtknecht, Chair

By: Roxann M. 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 of the Board: Economic Development Committee

Date of the Meeting: Thursday, July 21, 2022

Chair Schmidtknecht called the meeting to order at 11:01 a.m.

Board Members Present: Mr. Max Weiss, Mr. Brad Schmidtknecht, Mr. Brian Michaels, Ms. LeeAnne Bulman, and Mr. Tom Taylor.

Others Present for All or Parts of the Meeting: Ms. Roxann Halverson, Mr. Ryan VanDeWalle, Mr. Dennis Bork, Ms. Tina Anibas, Mr. David Danzinger, Mr. Lee Gehrke, Ms. Renee Schoonover, Mr. Shawn Squires, Ms. Laura Gullickson, and Mr. Tyson Gullicksrud.

Public Comments regarding Agenda Items: None.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding the Great River State Trail – Flyway Project Updates: Mr. Danzinger explained Phase 2 of the project is in the engineering stage. A review is being done for endangered species in the area and for railroad crossings. The Finance Committee is working on a referendum to see if the citizens of Buffalo County want development of a bike trail to continue past Phase 2.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding Broadband Provider Updates: Tri County has been working in Naples but has no future plans for more projects in Buffalo County. CCT was awarded a grant for the Town of Cross. They have started installing fiber and have one household already hooked up. They have also been working with other townships to obtain grants or assisting with preliminary work that needs to be done before applying for grants. Ntec has been awarded grants for Town of Canton, Town of Mondovi and Town of Gilmanton. Fiber is being installed in Town of Mondovi and Town of Gilmanton. They are open to new projects and working in collaboration with other providers.

Chair Schmidtknecht challenged the providers to continue to work together and get rural broadband deployed in Buffalo County within 5 years.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding a Broadband Ordinance Update: Chair Schmidtknecht would like the ordinance updated. The broadband speed limits, timeframe to complete a project, and making the requirements match the PSC grant application requirements were items discussed to be updated.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding the Grant Writer Position: Ayres and Associates gave a presentation last month to review how they can assist Buffalo County with writing and obtaining grants. Mr. VanDeWalle explained the HR

Chair wanted to see if any employees would be interested in taking the training and doing the duties on a part-time basis. No employees have expressed interest, but one employee said their spouse is interested. Mr. VanDeWalle will look into having Ayres as our grant writer and talk with the one individual who is interested.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding the Economic Development Director Position: Mr. VanDeWalle explained he spoke with Trempealeau County, and they are interested in sharing their Economic Development staff. He will work out more of the details with them.

Review/Discussion regarding the Chairperson Report: Chair Schmidtknecht explained he would like to find a way to have seed money for businesses to start in Buffalo County. This would be something an Economic Development Coordinator could work on.

The next meeting date will be September 15th immediately following the Finance Committee.

Mr. Taylor made a motion to adjourn at 11:56 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roxann Halverson
Buffalo County Clerk

BUFFALO COUNTY MINUTES

Committee of the Board: Economic Development Committee

Date of the Meeting: Thursday, September 15, 2022

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

Board Members Present: Mr. Brad Schmidtknecht, Mr. Brian Michaels, Ms. LeeAnne Bulman, and Mr. Tom Taylor. Mr. Max Weiss arrived at 9:20 a.m.

Others Present for All or Parts of the Meeting: Ms. Roxann Halverson, Mr. Ryan VanDeWalle, Ms. Carol Burmeister, Ms. Tina Anibas, Mr. Shawn Squires, Mr. Bill Hedberg, Mr. Dave Carlson, and Mr. Michael Kornmann.

Public Comments regarding Agenda Items: None.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding the Grant Writer Presentation: Mr. Hedberg introduced himself and explained he has been on the Economic Recovery Committee when UW Extension was holding the meetings. He is willing to pay for his own training and equipment to become the contracted Grant Writer. He is a retired Veterinarian and will soon retire from being a business owner of a local store in the City of Alma. Mr. Taylor made a motion to approve a contract through the end of 2022 in the amount of \$6,250.00 with a start date of October 1st, seconded by Mr. Michaels. Carried.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding the Trempealeau County EDC/Tourism Coordinator Presentation: Mr. Carlson and Mr. Kornmann discussed working with Buffalo County for Economic Development and Tourism. They have not presented the idea to their full County Board yet, but would like to work out more details with us. Mr. Carlson has worked for 25 years in the media and public relations field. He sees many areas the two counties can cooperate in. Mr. Schmidtknecht made a motion to approve moving forward with the shared position, seconded by Mr. Michaels. Carried.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding Updates to the Broadband Resolution: Mr. Schmidtknecht reviewed changes he made to the resolution to match state and federal language. He would also like to see fiber be the material used in order to be approved for funding and see the funding amount increased. A discussion was held on limiting to fiber when there are upcoming options that could be sufficient for areas that fiber is not an option. The committee decided to change the wording to having fiber the recommended material and not change the award amount. Ms. Bulman made a motion to move this resolution forward to Finance, seconded by Mr. Taylor. Carried.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding the Revolving Loan Fund and Grant Funds: Chair Schmidtknecht discussed having funds set aside into a Revolving Loan account to assist new businesses starting up in Buffalo County. He would also like to see some funds set aside as matching funds for grant applications. There currently is a Revolving Loan Fund with \$23,400.00 in it, but he would like to see some ARPA or CAPX2020 funds added. His thought was to have \$100,000.00 total in that fund. Mr. Schmidtknecht made a motion to have a total of \$100,000.00 in the Revolving Loan Fund from CAPX2020, seconded by Mr. Taylor. Carried.

Mr. Weiss made a motion to table the grant funds, seconded by Mr. Michaels. Carried.

Review/Discussion regarding the Committee Chair Report: Chair Schmidtknecht will be attending a meeting in the Town of Waumandee next week to discuss a broadband project with them.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding the next meeting date and time: The next meeting will be November 17th, 2022 following the Finance Committee meeting.

Ms. Bulman made a motion to adjourn at 9:43 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roxann Halverson
Buffalo County Clerk