

BUFFALO COUNTY MINUTES

Committee of the Board:

Finance Committee

Date of the Meeting:

January 20, 2022

Chair Mr. Dennis Bork called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. in the third floor County Board Room.

Members Present: Mr. Max Weiss, Mr. Brad Schmidtkecht, Mr. Dennis Bork, Mr. David Danzinger (Teams), and Mr. Don Hillert.

Others Present for All or Parts of the Meeting in Person and Via Teams: Mr. Ryan VanDeWalle, Ms. Roxann Halverson, Ms. Tina Anibas, Mr. Steve Schiffli, Sheriff Mike Schmidtkecht, and staff from Ntech.

Public Comments regarding Agenda Items: None.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding the Minutes of the Previous Meeting: Mr. Hillert made a motion to approve the minutes by roll call vote, seconded by Mr. Schmidtkecht. Carried.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding Broadband Forward Allocation(s): Mr. Schiffli indicated the Town of Canton requested support for a broadband project that will expand coverage to forty-four homes in that area. Ntec has met the requirements for the project and is requesting \$97,000.00 of funding. Mr. Schmidtkecht made a motion to approve the request by roll call vote, seconded by Mr. Hillert. All in favor. Carried.

The Town of Gilmanton would like to request funding to expand broadband coverage to twelve homes. These are the last homes in the municipality without good internet service. The requested amount for the project is \$49,000.00. Mr. Hillert made a motion to approve the request by roll call vote, seconded by Mr. Schmidtkecht. All in favor. Carried.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding the Opioid Settlement Update: Mr. VanDeWalle gave an update on the Opioid Settlement. Buffalo County should receive \$350,000.00 over the next 18 to 20 years. There are other lawsuits the County is involved in, so more funds could be coming.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding Defibrillator Payments: The Sheriff's Department obtained a grant from Mayo to purchase new defibrillators for the squad cars that can be kept in the vehicles even during extreme temperature changes. The old defibrillators from the squads will be placed in the courthouse and at the various highway shops. Special boxes need to be purchased to place the defibrillators in to keep them dust free and accessible for use. This amount was not budgeted and is estimated to cost \$1,700.00. New pads will need to be purchased each year and will be placed in the budget. Mr. Weiss made a motion to approve the purchase of defibrillator

boxes with the money to come from the contingency funds, seconded by Mr. Schmidtknecht. A roll call vote was taken. All in favor. Carried.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding Compensation Resulting from COVID-19

Efforts: Mr. VanDeWalle discussed the work done to create two tiers for compensation resulting from COVID-19 efforts. Tier one was set at \$82.52 per month and Tier 2 was set at \$41.29 per month for a total cost of \$54,962.88. The Committee of the Board had agreed to \$55,000.00 towards this. Mr. Weiss asked if the figure included payroll taxes the County would be responsible for. A discussion was held on reducing the amounts in the tier groupings to offset payroll taxes. Tier one will be \$80.00, and Tier 2 will be \$40.00. Mr. Schmidtknecht made a motion to approve spending up to \$60,000.00 including payroll taxes, seconded by Mr. Weiss. A roll call vote was taken. All in favor. Carried.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding A Resolution to Rescind the Allocation of Funds to Support Funding for the Great River State Trail – Winona Connector from Resolutions #19-12-08:

This resolution will make the funds undesignated and allow them to be used for other projects. Mr. Hillert made a motion to approve the resolution by roll call vote, seconded by Mr. Weiss. All in favor. Carried.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding Buffalo County Maintenance Updates:

The County Maintenance Department has a program called Facility Dude to help track job requests. A department enters the request in the program, and it is then marked with comments or completed by the Maintenance staff. The cost for 2022 increased \$700 per year and there does not seem to be much usage of the program. Mr. VanDeWalle explained this would be something he would like to discontinue when the contract is up for renewal.

Mr. VanDeWalle reviewed the cars available to employees through the Administration Office. There are four cars available and the usage over the past few months has been very minimal. He believes the County could sell two of the cars and capitalize on the market trends of vehicle sales. This would also save money on insurance and upkeep as the cars are not used much. The Committee would like him to look back at pre-pandemic use and employee use of their own vehicles and bring that back to the next meeting.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding Monthly Vendor Invoices/ Vouchers/

Employee Payroll/Funds Investment Report: Invoices, vouchers and the investment report were reviewed. Mr. Weiss made a motion to approve invoices by roll call vote, seconded by Mr. Schmidtknecht. All in favor. Carried.

Review/Discussion regarding Committee Chair Report: Chair Bork discussed reviewing the Elected Official wages at an upcoming meeting. Wages need to be set by April 15th, therefore need to be on the March County Board agenda. This will start in the HR Committee and then come through Finance.

Review/Discussion regarding the Administrative Coordinator Report: Mr. VanDeWalle reported he approved an emergency expenditure of \$730.00 for Law Enforcement body camera backup system. This is a temporary fix and Itechra is working on how to handle the storage on a long-term basis.

Review/Discussion regarding Public Comments Unrelated to the Agenda: None.

The next meeting will be February 17th at 8:30 a.m.

Adjourned: Mr. Weiss made a motion to adjourn at 9:39 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roxann Halverson
Buffalo County Clerk