

MARCH COUNTY BOARD SESSION
Monday, March 27, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

The Board met. Mr. Dennis Bork in the Chair.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

The roll was called and all members were present except for Mr. Nathan Nelson (who appeared via Teams). Others in attendance for all or portions of the meeting were Mr. Lee Engfer, Ms. Roxann Halverson, Mr. Brian Westrate, Mr. Tom Webb, Sheriff Mike Osmond, Ms. Tina Anibas (Teams), and Mr. Dave Brommerich (Teams).

Public Comments: None.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding Previous Meeting Minutes: Ms. McMillan Urell made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Taylor. Carried.

Review/Discussion regarding a Presentation by Mr. Westrate, Senator Van Orden's Office Liaison: Mr. Westrate introduced himself and Mr. Webb. They are located in the federal building in Eau Claire and will be around to help.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding Ordinance #23-03-01 An Ordinance to Amend the Official Buffalo County Zoning District Map – Town of Alma: Mr. Ruff expressed concerns he had with approving the rezone after talking to a neighbor to this property. The neighbor is worried about extra traffic on the road. Mr. Ruff made a motion to return the ordinance to the home committee pending further review, seconded by Ms. McMillan Urell. Mr. Weiss explained Zoning notified neighbors of the rezone application and only one neighbor came to the public hearing or contacted Zoning to express concerns and those were handled at the meeting. The Town of Alma Board approved the rezone as part of the process for approval at the county level. A voice vote was taken and the motion was voted down. Mr. Stanton made a motion to approve the ordinance, seconded by Mr. Taylor. Carried.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding Resolution #23-03-01 A Resolution to Approve 2023 Wage Increase for Highway Commissioner: This position was at the top of the scales and therefore did not receive a wage increase for 2023. The proposed increase would be \$.75 per hour, which is equal to a step increase for this position. Ms. McMillan Urell made a motion to approve the resolution by roll call vote, seconded by Mr. Michaels. All in favor. Carried.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding Resolution #23-03-02 A Resolution to Authorize and Appoint Roxann Halverson, County Clerk, as the Snowmobile Coordinator for Buffalo County: Ms. Halverson explained she has been the Snowmobile Coordinator for 18 years and the DNR requires the resolution to be updated every few years. This will allow her to continue to apply for grants, sign necessary documents, and pay the bills. Mr. Michaels made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Ms. McDonough. Carried.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding Resolution #23-03-03 A Resolution to Authorize Buffalo County to Enter Into Settlement Agreements with Allergan, Teva, Walgreens, Walmart, and CVS; Agree to the Terms of the MOU Allocating Settlement Proceeds, and Authorize Entry into the MOU and Hereby Allowing the Buffalo County Administrative Coordinator to Review and Sign All Current and Future Documents Related to the Settlement:

This resolution will allow Mr. Engfer, Administrative Coordinator, to sign documents on behalf of Buffalo County to participate in another round of Opioid settlements. Mr. Ruff made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mr. Taylor. Carried.

Public Comments: A few County Board Supervisors and Ms. Anibas attended meetings in Madison recently to discuss the MFL program. They felt it was clear the Legislature was not interested in changing the program and that enforcement of the rules would be the only recourse the county has, but this falls on the DNR Forester. The Board would like the DNR Forester and Compliance Officer to be at the April meeting to discuss issues in Buffalo County.

Committee Chair Reports: Ms. McMillan Urell would like to change the date of the DHHS meeting to April 4th. DHHS held interviews for vacant positions and sent out letters for the well water testing project. Western Dairyland discussed the enrollment in their programs. MRRPC reviewed the number of participants that received grants to open a new business.

Mr. Nelson discussed health insurance meetings HR will hold and that the wage survey is on schedule.

Mr. Taylor discussed the issues with filling the vacant CCO positions in the Sheriff's Office. There is also a vacant Patrol position. Sheriff Osmond reported he received two more resignations from employees today.

Mr. Weiss discussed Recycling, that BBC&M is now running. He has attended municipal meetings to encourage the completion of re monumentation. EDC held a reorganizational meeting and is working on a loan program for starting businesses. The Highway Department has contracted fuel and has the Fuel Secure system up and running. Recycling will begin utilizing the fuel system in April. Mr. Weiss would like to encourage other departments to utilize the fuel system as well to save the county money on fuel costs.

Mr. Ruff discussed federal grants that Land Conservation could apply for to replace a bridge that is affecting a CC structure that is set to be repaired this year. The town could also apply for grants as the bridge belongs to them.

Administrative Coordinator Report: Mr. Engfer reported the Rural Partners Network is looking to assist with projects but needs our Outdoor Recreation Plan. He reviewed the new hires and vacant positions. A new fleet vehicle was purchased to replace the Ford Focus that had transmission problems. Tyler Technologies is having problems with getting our data from our current financial system. Mr. Engfer sent letters to municipalities that have not requested funds for broadband and informed them of the timeline. The IT

contract ends this year and RFP's will need to be sent out. The 2022 Audit will begin in April.

County Board Chair Report: None.

Adjournment: Mr. Weiss made a motion to adjourn at 8:31 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Roxann M. Halverson
Buffalo County Clerk