

BUFFALO COUNTY MINUTES

Committee of the Board: Economic Development Committee

Date of the Meeting: Thursday, April 28, 2022

Ms. Halverson called the meeting to order at 9:55 a.m.

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

Others Present for All or Parts of the Meeting: Ms. Roxann Halverson, Mr. Dennis Bork, Mr. David Danzinger, and Mr. David Brommerich (Teams).

Public Comments regarding Agenda Items: There were no public comments.

Review/Discussion/Action – Minutes of the Previous Meeting: Mr. Schmidtknecht made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Ms. Bulman. Carried.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding the Election of the EDC Chairperson: Ms. Halverson called for nominations for the position of EDC Chair. Mr. Weiss nominated Mr. Schmidtknecht for Chair, seconded by Ms. Bulman. Ms. Halverson called for further nominations. Ms. Bulman made a motion to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Mr. Schmidtknecht for Chair, seconded by Mr. Weiss. Carried.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding the Election of the EDC Vice Chairperson: Chair Schmidtknecht called for nominations for Vice Chair. Ms. Bulman nominated Mr. Michaels for Vice Chair, seconded by Mr. Schmidtknecht. Mr. Weiss made a motion to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Mr. Michaels for Vice Chair, seconded by Ms. Bulman. Carried.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding a Great River State Trail Update: Mr. Danzinger gave an update on phase 2 which will connect Winona with a trail to the south that leads all the way to Madison. The cost of this section is estimated at \$2 million. Ms. Hansen has joined the Friends of the Trail Board and will be assisting in writing grants for phase 2 and future trail projects. Mr. Danzinger indicated work is being done with the Highway Department to apply for a grant to pay for reconstruction of County Road OO which will include a bike lane.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding the Visitor Brochure: Ms. Halverson indicated this has been placed on hold in the absence of having an Economic Development Coordinator.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding Goals/Projects/Future of the EDC Committee: Chair Schmidtknecht asked members for ideas of where they would like to see EDC move towards. Broadband still needs to be completed in many areas. The Town of Montana is working on a survey to see what the wishes of their citizens are in regard to broadband. Chair Schmidtknecht would like to see some sort of funding to help new businesses that want to start in Buffalo County.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding the State of the EDC Coordinator Position: Mr. Danzinger would like to see this position filled whether it be part-time or shared with another county. He feels it is vital to keep broadband and other EDC projects moving forward. Mr. Bork indicated it is on hold pending discussions with other counties to see if there is a possibility of collaborating in this position.

Review/Discussion regarding the Chairperson Report: Chair Schmidtknecht discussed whether there is a need to continue the broadband sub-committee. He feels any issues that arise regarding broadband can be handled through the EDC Committee.

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

The next meeting date will be June 16th at 10:30 or immediately following the Finance Committee.

Mr. Michaels made a motion to adjourn at 10:28 a.m., seconded by Mr. Weiss. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Roxann Halverson
Buffalo County Clerk