

BUFFALO COUNTY MINUTES

Committee of the Board: Land Management Committee

Date of the Meeting: Friday, May 19, 2023

Chair Max Weiss called the Public Hearing portion of the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

Land Management Committee Members Present: Mr. Max Weiss, Mr. Dwight Ruff (Microsoft Teams), Mr. Chris Lindstrom, Mr. Gary Stanton, Mr. John Sendelbach.

Others Present for All or Parts of the Meeting: Mr. Sven Hovey, Mr. Lee Engfer, Mr. Cale Severson, Mr. Brock Lederman, Mr. Briar Golden, and Ms. Margo Traun (Microsoft Teams).

Reading of the Notice for Public Hearing and Hovey Rezone Application: Mr. Lederman read the information that was published in the Buffalo County News on May 4th and 11th.

Public Testimony Regarding the Rezone Application: Mr. Hovey explained that a new town board was elected, and Town's Acknowledgement Form had been completed by the Town of Naples Board. The new acknowledgement form stated that the Town of Naples supports the proposed rezone.

Correspondence Regarding the Rezone Application: There was no correspondence received.

Adjournment of the Public Hearing: Mr. Stanton made a motion to adjourn the public hearing at 8:05 a.m.

Chair Max Weiss called the Land Management Committee meeting to order at 8:06 a.m.

Land Use Committee Members Present: Mr. Max Weiss, Mr. Dwight Ruff (Microsoft Teams), Mr. Chris Lindstrom, Mr. Gary Stanton, Mr. John Sendelbach.

Others Present for All or Parts of the Meeting: Mr. Lee Engfer, Mr. Cale Severson, Mr. Brock Lederman, Mr. Briar Golden, and Ms. Margo Traun (Microsoft Teams).

Public Comments regarding Posted Agenda Items: None.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding Previous Meeting Minutes: Mr. Sendelbach motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Stanton. Carried.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding An Ordinance to Amend the Official Buffalo County Zoning District Map – Town of Naples (Hovey Rezone): Mr. Sendelbach made a motion to approve the ordinance, seconded by Mr. Stanton. Carried.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding the Land Use Plan: Mr. Severson explained that the Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission provided a quote of approximately \$35,000 to write a complete revision of the get the plan. He said that rather than paying the planning commission this amount, the Land Management Department is making plans to attend town meetings and conduct research to complete a simple update.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding the Town of Canton Re-monumentation: Mr. Weiss said he attended a recent town of Canton board meeting. He said the board had agreed to pay \$60,000 towards re-monumentation of their town. He further explained that financing would be provided by the county via CAP-X funds. Mr. Engfer said that the Towns of Canton and Maxville could be completed in 18 months if completed jointly as per the County Surveyor. The Town of Canton indicated that they would not be able to go forward with re-monumentation if the project is delayed further into the future. Mr. Stanton motioned to support the re-monumentation of the Town of Canton, Mr. Lindstrom seconded the motion. Carried.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding the Resolution to Support the Town of Canton Re-monumentation: A roll call vote was held. 5 votes were made in favor of passing a resolution to support the Town of Canton's re-monumentation.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding the Town of Maxville Re-monumentation: The committee expressed that the Town of Maxville re-monumentation had been adequately discussed during the Town of Canton re-monumentation discussion. Mr. Sendelbach motioned to support the re-monumentation of the Town of Maxville, Mr. Ruff seconded the motion. Carried.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding the Resolution to Support the Town of Maxville Re-monumentation: A roll call vote was held. 5 votes were made in favor of passing a resolution to support the Town of Maxville re-monumentation.

Review/Discussion regarding Bond Cost Share Practices for 2023: Mr. Severson described a number of future land conservation projects to take place in the coming year and the costs associated with each. An additional project could be completed this fall or next year with left over funds. There are about three other interested parties waiting for funding. The committee discussed initiating land conservation projects along Highway 37. The status of repairs on NRCS and CCC structures near Mr. Ruff's home was also discussed.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding the restructuring of Land Management: Mr. Engfer explained that the Assistant Zoning Administrator position has been open for the past nine months without any qualified applicants. He said that he has been in

discussions with Mr. Severson to identify alternatives to filling this position. A potential restructuring of the Land Management Department would result in the creation of two zoning technician positions. Mr. Severson explained the changes to duties of staff in more detail. The goal of the change is to open the department to a greater pool of applicants and to reduce workload/ burnout within the department. Mr. Ruff motioned to support the restructuring of the Land Management Department, Mr. Lindstrom seconded. Carried.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding the Zoning Tech I Job Description: previously discussed.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding the Zoning Tech II Job Description: previously discussed.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding the Resource Management Specialist/ Planner Job Description: previously discussed.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding the Conservation Specialist Job Description: previously discussed.

Review/Discussion regarding the Surveyor's Report: Mr. Golden read the surveyor's report submitted by Ron Jasperson, Surveyor. Mr. Jasperson indicated that there were 13 more corners left to finalize in the Town of Milton and that the project would be completed by the end of June or mid-July. He also identified the timeline to complete the re-monumentation of Canton and Maxville.

Review/Discussion regarding the GIS/LIO Report: Mr. Severson read the GIS/LIO report provided by Mr. Machula, who was at a conference at the time of the meeting. The report shared grant estimate information and identified recently completed GIS web applications. Mr. Engfer explained that a recently proposed bill may provide additional grant funding.

Review/Discussion regarding the Land Management Director/ County Conservationist Report: Mr. Severson highlighted upcoming trout stream restoration efforts in the county at this point of the meeting.

Review/Discussion regarding the Chairperson Report: Mr. Weiss had nothing new to report at this time.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding the Next Meeting Date and Time: The next meeting date and time will be June 16, 2023, at 8:00 a.m.

Public Comments Not Related to Agenda Items: Mr. Ruff explained that his property will be used as a DNR classroom to showcase forests managed with fire. A UW Stevens Point student workshop will be held there in the fall. He believes that prescribed burning needs more acceptance from local fire departments. Mr. Stanton

asked for an update on Buffalo White Sands. Mr. Severson said that the property was sold to Tim Barth recently and that the business name of 'Buffalo White Sands' had not yet been sold to Mr. Barth.

Adjournment: Mr. Stanton made a motion to adjourn at 9:51 a.m., Mr. Ruff seconded. Carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cale Severson
Land Management Director/County Conservationist