

## OCTOBER COUNTY BOARD SESSION

Monday, October 23, 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 Mr. Nathan Nelson and Mr. Michael Taylor, who were absent. Others in attendance for all or portions of the meeting were Mr. Lee Engfer, Ms. Roxann Halverson, Sheriff Mike Osmond, Ms. Tina Anibas, and Mr. David Brommerich (Teams).

**Public Comments:** None.

**Review/Discussion/Action regarding Previous Meeting Minutes:** Mr. Weiss made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Stanton. Carried.

**Review/Discussion/Action regarding the 2024 Draft Budget:** Mr. Engfer reviewed the proposed budget and explained \$201,248.00 will come from the General Fund to balance the budget. Mr. Hadley would like the full budget posted on the website.

**Review/Discussion/Action regarding a Buffalo County Jail Project:** Sheriff Osmond spoke about a preliminary discussion held with Pepin County about options that may be available for a coordinated jail project. Both counties have jails that are older and will need to be updated. The Law Enforcement Committee approved moving forward with a study to determine the size of jail, location of jail, and other items that may be needed. A feasibility study to determine if a new jail is needed would not be a good use of money as it has already been determined that a new jail will be needed in the not too distant future. No other county has worked together on this type of project. Mr. Nelson made a motion to move forward with discussions with Pepin County on a joint jail project, seconded by Mr. Ruff. Carried.

**Review/Discussion/Action regarding Ordinance #23-10-01 An Ordinance to Amend the Official Buffalo County Zoning District Map – Town of Naples:** Mr. Engfer explained the property owner currently has a mobile home on the property and would like to build a home. The property is zoned commercial and this would need to be changed to residential to allow the building of a home. Mr. Stanton made a motion to approve the ordinance, seconded by Ms. McDonough. Carried.

**Review/Discussion/Action regarding Ordinance #23-10-02 An Ordinance to Adopt the General Rules of Government:** Mr. Engfer reviewed the changes approved at the Committee of the Board meeting. Ms. McMillan Urell made a motion to amend the first section of changes to change page number 29 to page number 30, seconded by Mr. Nelson. Carried. Ms. McMillan Urell made a motion to approve the amended section one of the ordinance, seconded by Mr. Ruff. Carried.

The second section regarding per diem and salary changes was reviewed. The last time County Board Supervisor per diem or wages were adjusted was in the early 1990's. Ms. Halverson researched what other counties pay and presented options to the Committee of the Board. She explained this type of change needs to be completed and approved prior to December 1<sup>st</sup> when Supervisors can take out papers to run for office. A discussion was held on where the funds would come from for the increase and how taxpayers would feel. Ms. McMillan Urell made a motion to amend the second section of the ordinance to change the page number 33 to 34 and page number 34 to 35, seconded by Mr. Lindstrom. Carried. Mr. Stanton made a motion to approve the second portion of the ordinance regarding per diem and wages, seconded by Ms. McMillan Urell. A roll call vote was taken. Mr. Hadley voting no. Carried. Ms. McMillan Urell made a motion to approve the ordinance as amended, seconded by Ms. McDonough. Mr. Hadley voting no. Carried.

**Review/Discussion/Action regarding Resolution #23-10-01 A Resolution to Approve Health Insurance Benefit Plan for 2024:** Mr. Engfer explained with the new health insurance plan the employees will have two options to choose from. The first option will have a higher premium but lower deductible and the second option will have a lower premium but a higher deductible. The employee will be able to see any provider and they were informed of discounts and incentives the insurance will provide. This is a self-insured plan with stop loss coverage set at \$60,000.00. Ms. McMillan Urell made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mr. Bruegger. Carried.

**Review/Discussion/Action regarding Resolution #23-10-02 A Resolution for County Aid for Town Bridges and Culverts – Section 82.08 of Wisconsin Statutes:** This resolution is required to show the cost share projects for culverts and bridges with the towns. This amount is outside of the levy amount. Mr. Michaels made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mr. Weiss. Carried.

**Review/Discussion/Action regarding Resolution #23-10-03 A Resolution to Authorize the Land Management Director to Apply for DNR Cost-Share Grants:** This resolution would allow the Land Management Director to apply for and manage grants with the DNR. Mr. Stanton made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mr. Lindstrom. Carried.

**Committee Chair Reports:** Mr. Nelson reported the HR Committee will be hearing appeals at the next meeting. Mr. Lindstrom reported the drone purchased by Land Management is working well. Mr. Weiss reported the Highway Department is struggling to complete the budget, is fully staffed, and working on installing security cameras. Recycling and Economic Development had no meetings this month. Ms. McMillan Urell reported that DHHS had a joint meeting with Pepin County and is lowering the event inspection fee. Western Dairyland is applying for a grant for child abuse prevention. Head Start has seen an increase in children with autism. Mr. Bruegger reported that the Historical Society may be looking for a new Director.

**Administrative Coordinator Report:** Mr. Engfer reported the Historical Society is revamping their structure and will be requesting additional funding in 2025. Highway Commissioner Bob Platteter has announced his retirement, effective March 4<sup>th</sup>. Register of Deeds Carol Burmeister has announced her retirement effective January 2<sup>nd</sup>. The Register of Deeds position will be appointed by the Governor. There is a male CCO position that is still vacant, as well as a Public Health Nurse, and Family and Community Specialist. Mr. Engfer attended the Tax Instrumental District (TID) meeting for the Village of Cochrane. The TID is showing good growth at \$6.5 million. The fire suppression equipment in the records room has been setting off an alarm. The company that installed the system will be coming back to repair it. Mr. Engfer met with Visit Winona to discuss their tourism efforts. They are interested in partnering with Buffalo County and taking on a regional tourism approach.

**County Board Chair Report:** None.

**Public Comments:** None.

**Adjournment:** Ms. McDonough made a motion to adjourn at 8:30 p.m., seconded by Mr. Weiss. Carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Roxann M. Halverson  
Buffalo County Clerk