



COUNTY OF BURNETT  
**INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE**  
Burnett County Government Center  
7410 County Road K, Siren  
Room #165

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## MINUTES

Infrastructure Committee  
May 13, 2020

**MEMBERS PRESENT** Chuck Awe, Emmett Byrne, Duane Johnson, Bert Lund Jr., Ramona Moody, Jim Pearson and Don Taylor.

### **NOTICE POSTED IN ACCORDANCE TO WIS. STAT. 19.84 OPEN MEETING LAW**

**CALL TO ORDER** County Board Chairman Don Taylor called the May 13, 2020, meeting of the Infrastructure Committee to order at the Burnett County Government Center, Room 165 at 9:30 a.m.

**ELECTION OF CHAIR, VICE-CHAIR AND SECRETARY** County Board Chairman Don Taylor opened the nominations for Chair of the Infrastructure Committee. Supervisor Johnson was nominated for Chair by Supervisor Byrne. Supervisor Johnson declined the nomination. Supervisor Awe was nominated for Chair by Supervisor Johnson. Being there were no other nominations, a motion to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Supervisor Awe for Chair was made by Supervisor Byrne, seconded by Supervisor Johnson. Motion carried, voice vote. Supervisor Don Taylor turned the election over to Chairman Awe. Chairman Awe opened the nominations for Vice-Chair. Supervisor Johnson was nominated for Vice-Chair by Supervisor Lund, seconded by Supervisor Pearson. Being there were no other nominations, a motion to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Supervisor Johnson for Vice-Chair was made by Supervisor Byrne, seconded by Supervisor Taylor. Motion carried, voice vote. Chairman Awe opened the nominations for Secretary. Supervisor Pearson was nominated for Secretary by Supervisor Taylor. Being there were no other nominations, a motion to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Supervisor Pearson for Secretary was made by Supervisor Taylor, seconded by Supervisor Byrne. Motion carried, voice vote.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS** There were no public comments.

**INTRODUCTION OF NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS – NAME, DISTRICT, BRIEF BIO AND WHAT YOU DO TO RELAX** The committee members who introduced themselves were Chuck Awe, Don Taylor, Emmett Byrne, Jim Pearson, Ramona Moody, Duane Johnson and Bert Lund, Jr. Maintenance Director Gary Faught and Highway Commissioner Mike Hoefs also introduced themselves.

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**STANDING RULES DEFINITION OF INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE** Chairman Awe explained the standing rules are on the website and in today's meeting packet.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA ORDER** Motion to approve the agenda order as presented was made by Supervisor Byrne, seconded by Supervisor Johnson. Motion carried, voice vote.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MARCH 11, 2020, MEETING** Motion to approve the minutes of the March 11, 2020, meeting as submitted was made by Supervisor Taylor, seconded by Supervisor Johnson. Motion carried, voice vote.

### **DISCUSSION ON AMENDMENT TO DEED ON PROPERTY IN TOWN OF SAND LAKE**

Supervisor Taylor commented this topic is for discussion only and the decision would be made in June on this property. Corporation Counsel Dave Grindell submitted a couple of maps in regards to the property. The property in question was originally taken on tax deed by Burnett County in the late 40s and early 50s. In 1957, the property was sold on a Quit Claim Deed with reserving all rights for the public use for hunting, trapping and fishing. Whiskey River Land and Timber purchased the 280-acre property in 2017. They have sold 100 acres would like to sell the remaining 180 acres and are requesting Burnett County release the reservation of hunting, trapping and fishing rights. Josh Burling, representing Whiskey River Land and Timber, LLC, commented this is the first time he has dealt with this in Burnett County. He stated the use of the land was investment timberland. The property would be sold to a private entity and they would like it closed to the public. The property would be used for recreation and hunting. Once the forest cropland is expired then it would be closed to the public. Mr. Burling stated the real estate is pending and the buyer would back out of the deal if they were unable to close the property to the public. If it is going to remain with public hunting and fishing rights that will result in a lower assessed value and will be lower taxes collected over time. There would be an economic impact based on a decision for the county in the future.

### **AIRPORT DEPARTMENT**

**Budget Performance Report** The Airport Budget Performance Report was submitted and reviewed. County Administrator Nate Ehalt stated under contractual agreement Hangar 22 is leased to North Memorial. There was some mold clean up in the hangar, which cost \$2,000.00. Mr. Ehalt explained the airport operations to the committee. North Memorial had been grounded for approximately eight weeks due to COVID-19 and not moving patients to different facilities so there was not much fuel sold. They are looking to construct a new hangar in the commercial district. Hangar 22 was purchased by Burnett County for \$129,000.00 and is leased by North Memorial for \$15,000.00 per year; it's been 5 ½ years. The plan is to sell the hangar after North Memorial constructs their new hangar. The Time Trials for May and the Gandy Dancer Drive-In/Fly-In have both been cancelled. Under the Cares Act, which is funding from the federal government and was offered to communities, they were allocated \$30,000 for the airport. With some of the restriction imposed, Mr. Ehalt is unsure if the airport will take the money.

**Operational Report** Administrator Nate Ehalt answered committee questions and explained the operations of the airport. Highway Commissioner Mike Hoefs stated there is a manmade ditch that runs from the airport to the Clam River through county land and crosses eight or nine private parcels. The ditch is in need of maintenance because it backs up water into the airport property due to the management and removal of beavers. Mr. Hoefs has suggested having a drainage easement crossing those properties. Mr. Ehalt discussed the beaver issue and commented we would try to secure the easement and hire a contractor or the Highway Department to take care of some of the cleaning of the ditch and culverts.

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**Project Report** Mr. Ehalt discussed the Public Safety Facility Analysis in regards to hooking up to the Village of Siren sewer district. They are working with BWBR Architect on some design work for the potential expansion of our facility to accommodate a new jail/dispatch area along with offices for the Sheriff's Department. This study is ongoing at this time. Mr. Ehalt also stated we receive \$150,000.00 annually from the federal government for airport maintenance projects.

#### **MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT REPORT**

**Budget Performance Report** Maintenance Supervisor Gary Faught reviewed his budget performance report.

**Operational Report** Mr. Faught reviewed his submitted report and answered committee questions. NEI Electric installed the necessary outlets and raceways for the audio/visual project in the courtroom. Johnson Controls did their regular service work and repaired the controller that lost its programming during a power outage. Mr. Faught stated they rented a 100 KW generator and hooked it up to the building's emergency system while the fuel pump for our generator was removed and sent to be rebuilt. Spooner Window and Door replaced two window glass panels in the courtroom. Mr. Faught is planning for four days of Land Use and Community Services meetings the first week of June at the Highway/Forestry facility.

**Project Report** Mr. Faught reviewed his project report and answered committee questions. The well pump for drinking water was replaced last Saturday.

#### **HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT**

**Budget Performance Report** Highway Commissioner Mike Hoefs reviewed his budget performance report. Mr. Hoefs stated the expenses for 2019 exceeded the revenues by \$482,405.71. The year to date budget for 2020, revenues exceed the expenses by \$655,153.71.

**Operational Report** Mr. Hoefs reviewed the operational report and answered committee questions.

**Project Report** Mr. Hoefs reviewed the submitted project status report and answered committee questions. There is a bridge re-decking project for County Trunk Highway B being bid today. The project is expected to be completed this year.

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS** The flooding in Siren, brief update on the Five-Year Capital Plan discussion for the Highway Department in June.

**NEXT MEETING** June 10, 2020, at the Highway/Forestry facility.

**ADJOURN** Motion to adjourn was made by Supervisor Johnson, seconded by Supervisor Pearson. Motion carried, voice vote. Chairman Awe adjourned the meeting at 11:37 a.m.