



Executive Committee Meeting

Wednesday, April 5, 2023 – 8:00 a.m.

Barron County Government Center – Auditorium
335 East Monroe Avenue – Barron, Wisconsin 54812

MINUTES

Members Present: Louie Okey, Karolyn Bartlett, Bob Rogers, Carol Moen, Gary Nelson (Alternate), Dale Heinecke, Burnell Hanson, Dana Heller (Alternate), Randy Cook

Members Absent: Stan Buchanan, Marv Thompson

Others Present: Jeff French, Wendy Coleman, Chris Fitzgerald, Samantha Sommerfeld, Ruth Erickson, Diane Vaughn, Kathy Krug, Jennifer Jako, John Muench, Rachael Richie, Margo Katterhagen, Lance Peterson, Patti Anderson, Jason Leu

The Executive Committee was called to order by Chair Okey at 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday, April 5, 2023.

Public meeting notification was provided by French confirming compliance with open meeting requirements.

Special Matters and Announcements (Non-Action Items): None

Motion: (Hanson / Heinecke) to approve the agenda as presented. Carried

Public Comment: None

Motion: (Rogers / Moen) to approve the minutes of March 3, 2023. Carried

Payment to Cooper Engineering in the Amount of \$25,323.65 for Work Completed on Broten Tax Deed Property (Analysis for Remedial Clean-up): French provided proposed resolution and map of the area. Cooper Engineering has been working on soil borings to determine type and extent of contamination. Property is delinquent on taxes however the County has not taken ownership yet due to the contamination. Muench provided additional information regarding potential funding for clean-up. Owner would have to pay all back taxes and clean-up costs to retain ownership. DNR has agreed that the contamination of the land is separate to the contamination in the water for possible funding. Discussion. **Motion:** (Hanson / Bartlett) to approve payment to Cooper in the amount of \$25,323.65 and correct language in the draft resolution regarding ownership. Carried

Environmental TID Work Group – Broten Tax Deed Property: French is requesting support to continue to evaluate the northwest portion of the property to determine extent of contamination of the property. Once the contamination is known, a plan can be developed to move forward making the property usable. Discussion. Consensus of the Committee to request a quote from Cooper to move forward with the borings.



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Resolution – Authorizing Use of American Rescue Plan Act Funds (ARPA) for Electrical and Technology Upgrades at the Straw Pit Rifle Range in the Town of Maple Plain: Okey explained request and Fitzgerald gave an update on the improvements in Arland. Discussion. **Motion:** (Rogers / Cook) to approve resolution. Carried

Proposed Ordinance Changes Regarding Rifle Range Use and Operation: Muench provided an updated draft of the proposed ordinance amendments regarding use of the range. Discussion. **Motion:** (Cook / Heller) to recommend approval of the ordinance changes. Carried

Use of Unassigned Fund Balance for Purchase of Track Loader: Okey and French reviewed the request to purchase the track loader and how it would be used by the snowmobile & ATV clubs. Discussion on use of the current equipment vs purchasing another piece of equipment. Clubs would be paid from the DNR for trail maintenance to offset the cost of the equipment. Discussion. **Motion:** (Heller / Moen) to approve resolution to purchase track loader. Cook opposed. Motion carried

County Contribution for Signage Pertaining to Wild Rivers Trail on Highway 53: Heller recused himself from this agenda item and left the board room. Okey gave an update on the request to add a trail head sign to Highway 53. Cost is \$33,000 and other entities and donations will cover about \$16,000. Property approved use of \$5,000. Discussion. **Motion:** (Cook / Hanson) to approve \$10,000 towards the Wild Rivers Trailhead sign. Carried with Heller abstained.

Heller returned to meeting

Resolution – Final Budget Adjustment(s) to Close 2022 Accounts: Busch reviewed the annual closing of the books and final overdraft adjustments. Discussion. **Motion:** (Bartlett / Nelson) to approve resolution and forward to the County Board. Carried

Approve out of State Travel – Community Health Specialist to Austin, TX for National Assoc. of Community Health Workers Conference (August 3 - 5, 2023): French explained request. **Motion:** (Heller / Hanson) to approve out of state travel for Community Health Workers Conference. Carried

Worker's Comp Dividends: Okey, Coleman and French explained the worker's comp dividends and historical data. Staff are requesting to move \$12,000 from the upcoming dividend/insurance carryover account to the employee recognition budget. **Motion:** (Cook / Heller) to approve \$12,000 to the employee recognition budget. Carried

Staff Reports & Updates

- Barron TID #8: French gave an update on the new Barron TID for housing. Okey recognized Dave Armstrong for his work on affordable workforce housing.



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- Payroll Step Adjustment – Register of Deeds Office: French update provided update on step adjustment for staff member who has taken on additional duties.
- Historical Analysis on Snowmobile / ATV Club Loans: Included in packet.
- BEAD Grant Update: Armstrong continues to work on the grant.
- County Email: Statistical information was included in the packet regarding cyber security. Okey recognized Lance Peterson for his work on the Highway IT project.
- CDBG – Covid 19 Grant Update: Hwy TT transitional housing is moving forward.
- Turtle Lake 125 Year Celebration Resolution: There will be a proclamation at the County Board meeting recognizing the 125 anniversary of the Village of Turtle Lake.

French spoke regarding Barron County's partnership with Wisconsin County Mutual Insurance Corporation.

Review Voucher Edit Lists: Discussion on some recent payments for IT software and equipment.

Suggestions for Future Agenda Items: None

Set Date for Next Meeting: May 3, 2023 at 8:00 a.m.

The Committee did not enter into closed session.

The meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 9:14 a.m.

Minutes submitted by:
Wendy Coleman, Executive Assistant

Minutes are not official until approved by the Executive Committee at their next meeting.