



BARRON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

TUESDAY, APRIL 18, 2023 – 9:00 AM

BARRON COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER – AUDITORIUM
335 EAST MONROE AVENUE - BARRON, WISCONSIN 54812

MINUTES

PRESENT IN PERSON: Bob Anderson, Patti Anderson, John Banks, Karolyn Bartlett, Stan Buchanan, Randy Cook Sr, Bill Effertz, Pam Fall, Jim Gores, Bun Hanson, Dale Heinecke, Dana Heller, Kathy Krug, Audrey Kusilek, Fran Langman, Jerry McRoberts, Carol Moen, Roberta Mosentine, Gary Nelson, Louie Okey, Pete Olson, Bob Rogers, Bill Schradle, Marv Thompson, Craig Turcott, Diane Vaughn and Stacey Wenzel.

ATTENDING VIRTUALLY: Gary Taxdahl.

ABSENT: Stacy Neuman.

CALL TO ORDER-ROLL CALL- PUBLIC NOTIFICATION: Chair Okey called the meeting to order at 9:00AM. County Clerk Hodek took attendance. County Administrator French stated the County's compliance with open meeting laws.

INVOCATION: Led by Pastor & Chaplain Cody Kargus from Maranatha Church located in Rice Lake.

IN MEMORIAM – OFFICER EMILY BREIDENBACH AND OFFICER HUNTER SCHEEL: Chaplain Kargus lead a moment of silence for the two officers that were killed in the line of duty on Saturday, April 8, 2023.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Recited.

SPECIAL MATTERS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS: Information was included in the packet.

APPROVE AGENDA: Motion: (Heller/Olson) to approve. Carried with 28 Yes and 1 Absent (Neuman).

APPROVE MINUTES OF MARCH 20, 2023: Motion: (Banks/Thompson) to approve. Carried with 28 Yes and 1 Absent (Neuman).

PUBLIC COMMENT: Heidi Wise, 746 21st Street in Chetek, spoke regarding partisan verbiage concerns in the Barron County Strategic Plan and partisan concerns with the recent HHS social media posts. Senator Romaine Quinn, 2769 13 ½ Avenue in Cameron, spoke regarding the proposed State budget, specifically the changes to shared revenue.

PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING THE VILLAGE OF TURTLE LAKE'S QUASQUICENTENNIAL:

Administrator French read the Proclamation and introduced the four staff members that accepted the Proclamation on behalf of the Village of Turtle Lake. **Motion: (Taxdahl/B. Anderson)** to approve. Carried with 28 Yes and 1 Absent (Neuman).

STAFFING UPDATE FOR DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE – BRIAN WRIGHT, DISTRICT ATTORNEY:

District Attorney Wright thanked the Board for their support of staff funding changes due to a military deployment and the support received over the last week due to the loss of two officers in the County.

PRESENTATION ON UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN EAU CLAIRE AT BARRON COUNTY – ABBEY

FISCHER, CAMPUS DIRECTOR: Fischer gave a presentation regarding UW Barron County Campus statistics and answered questions from the Board.

PROGRESS UPDATE ON HIGHWAY FACILITIES: Highway Equipment & Facility Manager Mak Kaiser gave an update on the progress of the new highway facility and answered questions from the Board.

FINANCIAL UPDATE ON HIGHWAY FACILITIES PROJECT: Finance Director Busch gave an overview of the current financial spreadsheet of the new highway facility project, reviewed the recent bond activity and answered questions from the Board. Chair Okey also answered questions from the Board.

2023- 4 ORDINANCE – TO AMEND THE PARKS & RECREATION ORDINANCE RELATING TO REGULATIONS AFFECTING COUNTY RIFLE RANGES: Motion: (Effertz/Gores) to approve. Carried with 28 Yes and 1 Absent (Neuman).

2023-17 RESOLUTION – AUTHORIZING THE USE OF AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) FUNDS FOR ELECTRICAL AND TECHNOLOGY UPGRADES AT THE STRAW PIT RIFLE RANGE IN THE TOWN OF MAPLE PLAIN: Motion: (Moen/Rogers) to approve. Carried with 28 Yes and 1 Absent (Neuman).

2023-18 RESOLUTION – AUTHORIZING USE OF CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUNDS AND UNASSIGNED FUND BALANCE FOR THE PURPOSE OF PURCHASING ONE TRACK LOADER FOR THE BARRON COUNTY RECREATION FUND: Motion: (Gores/Wenzel) to approve. Chair Okey gave an overview of the request. Chair Okey, Finance Director Busch, Sheriff Fitzgerald and Highway Equipment & Facility Manager Kaiser answered questions from the Board. Discussion. Carried with 25 Yes, 3 No (Cook, Effertz and Kusilek) and 1 Absent (Neuman).

2023-19 RESOLUTION – AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF \$25,323.65 USING UNASSIGNED FUND BALANCE TO COOPER ENGINEERING FOR REMEDIAL CLEAN-UP ANALYSIS FOR THE BROTEN PROPERTY, 220 EAST CHARLES STREET IN THE CITY OF RICE LAKE: Motion: (Cook/Moen) to approve. Administrator French reviewed the map of the property, discussed the DNR concerns and answered questions from the Board. Discussion. Carried with 28 Yes and 1 Absent (Neuman).

2023-20 RESOLUTION – AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF \$12,000 FROM THE INSURANCE CARRYOVER / WORKER’S COMPENSATION DIVIDEND TO THE EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION ACCOUNT: Motion: (B. Anderson/Langman) to approve. Discussion. Carried with 28 Yes and 1 Absent (Neuman).

2023-21 RESOLUTION – AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT FOR THE 2024 BUDGET YEAR: Motion: (Gores/Moen) to approve. Discussion. Carried with 26 Yes, 2 No (Krug & Kusilek) and 1 Absent (Neuman).

2023-22 RESOLUTION – FINAL BUDGET ADJUSTMENT(S) TO CLOSE 2022 ACCOUNTS: Motion: (Cook/Buchanan) to approve. Carried with 28 Yes and 1 Absent (Neuman).

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) EXPENDITURES: Information was included in packet.

REPORT FROM COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

- A. STRATEGIC PLANNING WORK GROUP:** Administrator French reviewed the County’s Strategic Plan and answered questions from the Board. Corporation Counsel Muench also answered questions from the Board.
- B. ATV ROUTE MAP:** Highway Engineering Technician Lori Raven has worked on this project over the last year and is now ready to go live to the public. Highway Equipment & Facility Manager Mak Kaiser answered questions from the Board and confirmed the signing portion will be completed by May 1, 2023.
- C. BEAD GRANT – PUBLIC SERVICES COMMISSION:** BCEDC Director Armstrong may not pursue this grant since the grant dollars awarded are substantially lower than originally anticipated.
- D. COUNTY EMAIL:** Statistical County email information is included in the packet.
- E. CDBG – COVID 19 GRANT – HIGHWAY TT HOUSING:** Administrator French spoke with Cedar Corporation last month and work has continued on this project as planned.

APPOINTMENTS:

- A. CUMBERLAND LIBRARY BOARD – CHRISTINE HOPKINS-HILE: Motion: (Rogers/Thompson)** to approve both appointments. Carried with 28 Yes and 1 Absent (Neuman).

B. ADRC GOVERNING BOARD – ROBERT LUDWIG: Motion: (Rogers/Thompson) to approve both appointments. Carried with 28 Yes and 1 Absent (Neuman).

CLAIMS, PETITIONS & CORRESPONDENCE: None at this time.

SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

1. County Board Appointments to Municipal Library Boards
2. 2022 Accounts Payable Expenditure Graphs and Payroll Expenditures
3. Presentation from UWEC Chancellor Schmidt

NEXT MEETING DATE: Monday, May 15, 2023 at 7:00PM in the Auditorium of the Government Center located in Barron.

ADJOURNMENT: Chair Okey adjourned the meeting at 11:00 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jessica Hodek, County Clerk

MINUTES ARE NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED BY THE COUNTY BOARD AT THE NEXT MEETING.