



# **BARRON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

**MONDAY, JANUARY 23, 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, Craig Fowler (Once Appointed), Jim Gores, Bun Hanson, Dale Heinecke, Dana Heller, Kathy Krug, Audrey Kusilek, Fran Langman, Carol Moen, Roberta Mosentine, Gary Nelson, Stacy Neuman, Louie Okey, Pete Olson, Bill Schradle, Craig Turcott, Diane Vaughn and Stacey Wenzel.

**ATTENDING VIRTUALLY:** Bob Rogers and Gary Taxdahl. *(Marv Thompson also appeared virtually periodically throughout the meeting without voting on any items.)*

**ABSENT:** None.

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

**INVOCATION:** Led by Pastor Cody Kargus from the Maranatha Church located in Rice Lake.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Recited.

**SPECIAL MATTERS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS (NON-ACTION ITEMS):** Administrator French stated information was included in the packet. Chair Okey also thanked former Supervisor McRoberts for his many years of service on the County Board.

**APPROVE AGENDA:** Chair Okey requested to remove Item #8 "Barron County Housing Authority – ARPA Funding and Apartment Rehabilitation Update" and postpone this item until a future County Board meeting. Chair Okey also noted that Item #11 "Resolution – Authorizing an Expenditure Not to Exceed \$1.5 Million for the Purpose of Installation and Upgrades of New Equipment Purchases for the Barron County Sheriff's Department County Wide Communications System" would require a 2/3 vote of the Board. **Motion: (Olson/Wenzel)** to approve. Carried with 28 Yes and 1 Absent (Thompson.)

**APPOINTMENT AND OATH OF OFFICE – CRAIG FOWLER, DISTRICT #19 SUPERVISOR: Motion: (Gores/B. Anderson)** to approve. Carried with 28 Yes and 1 Absent (Thompson). County Clerk Hodek administered the Oath of Office to Fowler.

**APPROVE MINUTES OF DECEMBER 18, 2023: Motion: (Moen/Cook)** to approve. Carried with 28 Yes and 1 Absent (Thompson).

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Pastor Cody Kargus, 619 Krueger Avenue - Cameron, gave an overview of National Thank a Law Enforcement Officer on January 9 and how the Law Enforcement Foundation of Barron County purchased meals for all the officers working for various agencies within the County. Students from schools within the County had children write thank-you notes that were distributed to local law enforcement agencies as well.

**2024-1 RESOLUTION – AUTHORIZING EXPENDITURE AUTHORITY OF AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) DOLLARS FOR BARRON COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY APARTMENT COMPLEX REHABILITATION NOT TO EXCEED \$3.5 MILLION DOLLARS (EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AMENDED VERSION):** Chair Okey gave an overview of the Housing Authority resolutions on the agenda and brief background of

the Housing Authority funding request. **Motion: (Hanson/Nelson)** to approve. Discussion. Carried with 27 Yes, 1 No (Neuman) and 1 Absent (Thompson).

**RESOLUTION – AUTHORIZING RELEASE OF FUNDS AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) DOLLARS FOR BARRON COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY APARTMENT COMPLEX REHABILITATIONS NOT TO EXCEED \$3.5 MILLION DOLLARS (RELEASE OF FUNDS): Motion: (Heller/P. Anderson)** to approve. Discussion. **Motion to Amend: (Cook/Wenzel)** to postpone this agenda item until such time when the recommendation contained within this report is completed and reported back to the County Board. Main motion carried as amended with 28 Yes and 1 Absent (Thompson).

**2024-2 RESOLUTION – AUTHORIZING AN EXPENDITURE NOT TO EXCEED \$1.5 MILION FOR THE PURPOSE OF INSTALLATION AND UPGRADES OF NEW EQUIPMENT PURCHASES FOR THE BARRON COUNTY SHERIFF’S DEPARTMENT COUNTY WIDE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM: Motion: (Hanson/Gores)** to approve. Discussion. **Motion to Amend: (Taxdahl/Wenzel)** to change Line #66 of the resolution to read “Administrator” and strike the word “Sheriff.” Administrator French answered questions from the Board. A representative from GenComm and Emergency Management Director Judy also answered questions from the Board. Carried with 28 Yes and 1 Absent (Thompson).

*Supervisor Mosentine departed the meeting.*

**EHLER’S PRESENTATION ON POTENTIAL BORROWINGS:** Senior Municipal Advisor Sean Lentz discussed potential borrowing options and various effects on bond ratings for the County. Lentz, Administrator French and Finance Director Busch answered questions from the Board.

*Supervisor Taxdahl left the meeting.*

**PROGRESS UPDATE ON HIGHWAY FACILITIES:** Chair Okey gave a brief update on the progress of the Highway Facilities.

**FINANCIAL UPDATE ON HIGHWAY FACILITIES:** Finance Director Busch presented the current financial updates on the Highway Facility and answered questions from the Board.

**APPROVAL OF EMERGENCY FIRE WARDENS FOR BARRON COUNTY: Motion: (B. Anderson/P. Anderson)** to approve. Carried with 26 Yes and 3 Absent (Mosentine, Taxdahl & Thompson).

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

#### **REPORT FROM COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

- A. **BEAD CHALLENGE PROCESS:** Information was included in the packet.
- B. **SALES TAX DATA:** Information was included in the packet.

#### **APPOINTMENTS**

- A. **HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES BOARD – REAPPOINT JOHN BANKS, CAROL MOEN, STACEY WENZEL, LYNN KOLPACK, BOB HEIL, BABR REISNER (3 YEAR TERM): Motion: (Buchanan/Effertz)** to approve all appointments as presented. Carried with 26 Yes and 3 Absent (Mosentine, Taxdahl & Thompson).
- B. **LCC/EXTENSION COMMITTEE - APPOINT CRAIG FOWLER TO REPLACE JERRY MCROBERTS: Motion: (Buchanan/Effertz)** to approve all appointments as presented. Carried with 26 Yes and 3 Absent (Mosentine, Taxdahl & Thompson).
- C. **PROPERTY COMMITTEE – APPOINT CRAIG FOWLER TO REPLACE JERRY MCROBERTS: Motion: (Buchanan/Effertz)** to approve all appointments as presented. Carried with 26 Yes and 3 Absent (Mosentine, Taxdahl & Thompson).

**D. DUMMY LAKE DISTRICT – APPOINT CRAIG FOWLER TO REPLACE JERRY MCROBERTS:**

**Motion: (Buchanan/Effertz)** to approve all appointments as presented. Carried with 26 Yes and 3 Absent (Mosentine, Taxdahl & Thompson).

**E. MUSEUM BOARD – APPONT CRAIG FOWLER TO REPLACE JERRY MCROBERTS: Motion:**

**(Buchanan/Effertz)** to approve all appointments as presented. Carried with 26 Yes and 3 Absent (Mosentine, Taxdahl & Thompson).

**CLAIMS, PETITIONS & CORRESPONDENCE:** None at this time.

**SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:**

**A.** County Health Insurance Update – Tim Deaton from the Horton Group

**NEXT MEETING DATE:** Monday, February 19, 2024 at 9:00AM in the Auditorium of the Government Center located in Barron.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Chair Okey adjourned the meeting at 10:39AM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jessica Hodek, County Clerk

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