



Executive Committee Meeting

Friday, February 9, 2024 – 8:00 a.m.

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

MINUTES

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT IN PERSON: Karolyn Bartlett, Stan Buchanan, Randy Cook Sr, Bun Hanson, Dale Heinecke, Carol Moen, Louie Okey, Bob Rogers and Marv Thompson.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ATTENDING VIRTUALLY: None.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

STAFF PRESENT IN PERSON: BCEDC Director Armstrong, Veterans Service Officer Bachowski, Finance Director Busch, Sheriff Fitzgerald, Administrator French, HHS Director Frolik, Land Services Director Gifford, Chief Deputy Hagen, County Clerk Hodek, Aging Director Jako, ROD Katterhagen, Corporation Counsel Muench, IT Director Peterson, HR Director Richie, Financial Analyst Syvinski and Treasurer Sommerfeld.

OTHER COUNTY BOARD SUPERVISORS PRESENT: Patti Anderson, Kathy Krug, Audrey Kusilek, Gary Nelson and Diane Vaughn.

OTHERS PRESENT: Ruth Erickson, State Senator Quinn, Russell Rindsig and Ryan Urban.

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Okey called the meeting to order at 8:00AM.

PUBLIC MEETING NOTIFICATION: Administrator French read the Public Meeting Notification.

SPECIAL MATTERS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS (NON-ACTION ITEMS): None at this time.

APPROVE AGENDA: Motion: (Cook/Hanson) to approve. Carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Nancy Keeler, 996 20 3/4th Avenue in Cumberland - spoke regarding the refugee resettlement resolution. Anna Demers, 1413 24th Avenue in Rice Lake – spoke regarding the refugee resettlement resolution. Russell Rindsig, 2106 29 1/2 Avenue in Sarona - spoke regarding the proposed Justice Center Security Deputy Position. Dennis Roschell 1228 18th Street in Barron - spoke regarding the refugee resettlement resolution. Jay Keppen, 1117 15th Street - spoke regarding the refugee resettlement resolution.

APPROVE MINUTES OF JANUARY 3, 2024: Motion: (Moen/Thompson) to approve the minutes and correct the typo of “SONAR” to “SOLAR” in the Closed Session paragraph on Page 2 of the minutes.

RESOLUTION – REQUESTING PAUSE ON REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT IN WISCONSIN:

Chair Okey gave an overview of the resolution request and thanked Supervisor Vaughn for leading this discussion. State Senator Quinn spoke regarding his communication with the State offices on this topic and requested the County pass the resolution. Representative Armstrong spoke regarding the resolution and his correspondence with other state officials. Supervisor Vaughn spoke regarding the proposed resolution. Cook suggested a letter versus a resolution on the topic. **Motion: (Cook/Rogers)** that Administrator French and Chair Okey write a letter stating the County’s concerns with the refugee resettlement in Barron County. Rogers requested an update to the Executive Board after the World Relief meeting in the City of Barron on Wednesday, February 22, 2024. Cook also requested State Senator Quinn and Representative Armstrong help with the composition of the letter being drafted, and once drafted, make this letter available to the public. Carried.

OPERATIONAL & FISCAL IMPACT OF HOSPITAL SISTERS HEALTH SYSTEMS (HSHS) / PREVEA CLOSINGS ON BARRON COUNTY: HHS Director Frolik gave an overview of the recent



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hospital closing announcement and the direct impact on Barron County services and residents. HHS Director Frolik requested one FTE therapist, either an occupational therapist or a speech therapist, to help administer the Birth to 3 Program while the transition occurs. Chair Okey clarified that Frolik is looking for approval to hire this position with the grant dollars in 2024 and would work this new position into the 2025 budget planning process. Finance Director Busch noted that her department may also require a second FTE Billing Specialist to help with the Birth to 3 Program which would be absorbed with current positions. Administrator French then requested the committee approve 1 Program FTE Therapist for the HHS Department. **Motion: (Cook/Hanson)** to approve adding one FTE Therapist position for the HHS Department. Carried.

ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE BARRON COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY AND THE BARRON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS: Corporation Counsel Muench gave an explanation of the Roles & Responsibilities of the County Board in regards to the Housing Authority, specifically the current rehabilitation project. Discussion.

HOUSING AUTHORITY REHABILITATION PROJECT ANALYSIS – SHORT, ELLIOT, HENDRICKSON; INC (SEH): Joe Schwenker & Dan Penzkover, both from SEH, attended the meeting and confirmed that they are in the process of reviewing the Housing Authority project, including financing & funding options and answered questions from the Committee. Barron County Housing Authority Executive Director Bob Kazmierski confirmed that the deadline to release the funds from the County Board to the Housing Authority is March 18, 2024. If the funds were not approved, and released to the Barron County Housing Authority by this date, the funds would be reallocated by the Federal government.

REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL POSITIONS: Administrator French asked to postpone the Justice Center Security Deputy position until the May meeting and asked the committee to support adding the ADRC Information & Assistance position at this time.

A. NEW JUSTICE CENTER SECURITY DEPUTY POSITION – SHERIFF’S

DEPARTMENT: Motion: (Hanson/Heinecke) to postpone until May 2024. Carried.

B. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION & ASSISTANCE (A&I) POSITION – ADRC: Motion: (Thompson/Moen) to approve. Discussion. Carried.

STEP INCREASE FOR CORRECTION OFFICERS AND COMMUNICATIONS OFFICERS: HR Director Richie and Sheriff Fitzgerald discussed the need for a step increase for both of these departments for employee retention purposes to stay competitive with neighboring county wages. **Motion: (Buchanan/Cook)** to approve. Discussion. Carried.

2023-2024 EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION – JULY 5, 2024: HR Director Richie reviewed the request to provide regular full-time Union and Non-Union employees with 8 hours of floating holiday (pro-rated for regular part-time) for the primary use to allow non-essential services to be closed on Friday, July 5, 2024. This would be provided in lieu of purchasing an employee recognition gift for 2023 and 2024. As a result of 24/7 operations and essential services, not all departments/offices can be closed. If an employee needs to work that day, they received 8 hours of floating holiday to use at a different time by 12/31/2024. **Motion: (Heinecke/Hanson)** to approve. Discussion. Carried.

RESOLUTION – REQUESTING CHANGES TO WISCONSIN STATE STATUTES, PER DIEM PAYMENT AUTHORITY FOR COUNTY BOARD MEMBERS SERVING ON MUNICIPAL



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LIBRARY BOARDS AND NUMBER OF COUNTY BOARD MEMBERS TO SERVE: Chair Okey clarified the resolution request. **Motion: (Rogers/Moen)** to approve. Carried.

APPROVE ADDITIONAL LEGAL COST FOR CHAPTER 980: Corporation Counsel Muench reviewed the process for finding housing for sexual offenders that are released into supervised housing and requested an additional \$10,000 for legal costs. **Motion: (Cook/Bartlett)** not to exceed \$10,000 for legal costs relating to Chapter 980 housing. Carried.

CONTRACT AMENDMENT – EXTENSION – CDBG FUNDING – SALVATION ARMY: Administrator French asked for approval for a contract amendment. Discussion. **Motion: (Buchanan/Moen)** to approve the contract extension to 12/31/2024 and increase the grant awarded of \$1,490,007.00 to a new total amount of \$2,215,007.00. Carried.

2024 WCA ANNUAL CONFERENCE AI BREAKOUT SESSION RECOMMENDATION: Administrator French asked for approval to request an AI Session and Cyber Security Session at the 2024 WCA Annual Conference this September. **Motion: (Rogers/Bartlett)** to approve. Carried.

STAFF REPORTS & UPDATES

- A. **LEAVE CONVERSION:** Information compiled by the Finance Department is included in the packet.
- B. **2023 COUNTY BOARD PER DIEM REPORT:** Information compiled by the Finance Department is included in the packet.
- C. **EHLERS CLIENT ALERT:** Information is included in the packet.

REVIEW VOUCHER EDIT LISTS: Included in the packet.

SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

- A. Elected Officials Salary Resolution – Treasurer, Register of Deeds & County Clerk
- B. Change to Tax Deed Ordinance

SET DATE FOR NEXT MEETING: Friday, March 1, 2024 at 8:00AM.

ADJOURNMENT: Chair Okey adjourned the meeting at 9:52AM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jessica Hodek, Barron County Clerk