



BARRON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 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, Pam Fall, Craig Fowler, Bun Hanson, Dale Heinecke, Dana Heller, Kathy Krug, Audrey Kusilek, Fran Langman, Carol Moen, Roberta Mosentine, Gary Nelson, Stacy Neuman, Louie Okey, Bob Rogers, Bill Schradle, Marv Thompson, Craig Turcott, Diane Vaughn and Stacey Wenzel.

ATTENDING VIRTUALLY: Jim Gores, Pete Olson and Gary Taxdahl,

ABSENT: Bill Effertz.

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 Wayne Hall from the Abundant Life Church located in Cameron.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Recited.

SPECIAL MATTERS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS (NON-ACTION ITEMS): County Clerk Hodek asked for the return of the County issued Chromebooks after the March meetings if a Supervisor has fulfilled their term. Administrator French noted the potential sale of the office complex on LaSalle Avenue will be a future agenda item and mentioned the support he has received from various department heads regarding the potential July 5, 2024 floating holiday.

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

RECOGNITION OF RETIRING COUNTY BOARD SUPERVISOR – JERRY MCROBERTS: Chair Okey presented retired Supervisor McRoberts with a plaque and thanked him for his 18 years of service on the Barron County Board of Supervisors. Chair Okey and Administrator French presented retired Supervisor McRoberts with a plaque and retired Supervisor McRoberts thanked the Board for working collaboratively over the years.

APPROVE MINUTES OF JANUARY 22, 2024: Motion: (Banks/B. Anderson) to approve. Carried with 28 Yes and 1 Absent (Effertz).

PUBLIC COMMENT: Dennis Roshell – 1228 18th Street in Barron discussed the Refugee Resettlement letter. Peter Madland – 1672 8 ½ Avenue in Chetek spoke regarding the potential solar panel farm in the Township of Maple Grove. Craig Hamernik – 875 13th Street in Hillsdale spoke regarding the potential solar panel farm in the Township of Maple Grove.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE COLLABORATING COUNCIL (CJCC) PRESENTATION: Judge Babler gave a presentation regarding the priorities and goals of Criminal Justice Collaborating Council.

REFUGEE & IMMIGRATION RESETTLEMENT LETTER: Chair Okey gave an overview of the refugee resettlement topic in regards to the previous Executive Committee and County Board discussions. Chair Okey also explained the differences between the original drafted letter and Supervisor Vaughn's amended letter and asked for a motion to approve one of the letters. **Motion: (Cook/Heller)** to approve Supervisor Vaughn's amended letter as presented. Discussion. Carried with 25 Yes, 2 Abstain (Langman & Olson), 1 No (Gores) and 1 Absent (Effertz).

2024-3 RESOLUTION – TO REQUEST HOSPITAL SISTERS HEALTH SYSTEM (HSHS) AND PREVEA HEALTH TO WORK COLLABORATIVELY WITH PARTNERS FOR CONTINUATION OF CARE AND SERVICES: Motion: (Rogers/Thompson) to approve. Chair Okey gave an explanation of the current concerns with the closure of Sacred Heart Hospital, St. Joseph’s Hospital and the area Prevea Clinics. Carried with 27 Yes, 1 No (Langman) and 1 Absent (Effertz).

2024-4 RESOLUTION – CREATING ONE (1) BIRTH TO THREE THERAPIST POSITION: Motion: (Moen/P. Anderson) to approve. Health & Human Services Director Frolik answered questions from the Board. Carried with 28 Yes and 1 Absent (Effertz).

2024-5 RESOLUTION – ADDITION OF ONE (1) FTE INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE (I&A) SPECIALIST WITHIN THE AGING AND DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER (ADRC): Motion: (Hanson/B. Anderson) to approve. Carried with 28 Yes and 1 Absent (Effertz).

2024-6 RESOLUTION – AUTHORIZING A ONE STEP PAY PLAN INCREASE FOR BARRON COUNTY CORRECTION OFFICERS AND COMMUNICATION OFFICERS BEGINNING WITH THE FEBRUARY 17, 2024 PAYROLL: Motion: (Buchanan/Rogers) to approve. Carried with 28 Yes and 1 Absent (Effertz).

2024-7 RESOLUTION – AUTHORIZING A ONE TIME EIGHT (8) HOURS OF FLOATING HOLIDAY ALLOWANCE FOR REGULAR FULL-TIME COUNTY EMPLOYEES (UNION AND NON-UNION) FOR JULY 5, 2024: Motion: (Hanson/Kusilek) to approve. Carried with 28 Yes and 1 Absent (Effertz).

2024-8 RESOLUTION – REQUESTING CHANGES TO WISCONSIN STATE STATUTES, PER DIEM PAYMENT AUTHORITY FOR COUNTY BOARD MEMBERS SERVING ON MUNICIPAL LIBRARY BOARDS AND NUMBER OF COUNTY BOARD MEMBERS TO SERVE: Motion: (Banks/Wenzel) to approve. Discussion. Carried with 27 Yes, 1 No (Mosentine) and 1 Absent (Effertz).

2024-1 ORDINANCE – TO CHARGE CHILD SUPPORT FEE ON NON-IVD CUSTOMERS: Motion: (Moen/Neuman) to approve. Corporation Counsel Muench gave an overview of the program and requested changes. Carried with 28 Yes and 1 Absent (Effertz).

2024-2 ORDINANCE – REPEALING AND RECREATING BARRON COUNTY GENERAL CODE ENTITLED PARKS AND RECREATION: Motion: (Rogers/Hanson) to approve. Carried with 28 Yes and 1 Absent (Effertz).

RECOMMENDATION TO USE DNR (GPS) TRACKING SYSTEM FOR SKID STEER USAGE FOR TRAIL MAINTENANCE: Administrator French gave an explanation of the request from Recreational Deputy Wolfe. Sheriff Fitzgerald answered questions from the Board and will have Recreational Deputy Wolfe present an update to the Board one year from now. Discussion. **Motion: (Heller/B. Anderson)** to adopt the GPS tracking system from the DNR for future use of the Sheriff’s Department skid steer. Carried with 27 Yes, 1 Abstain (Gores) and 1 Absent (Effertz).

POWERS, ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE BARRON COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY AND COUNTY BOARD: Corporation Counsel Muench gave an explanation of powers, roles and responsibilities of the Barron County Housing Authority and the County Board in regards to Wisconsin State Statutes and previous resolutions passed by the Barron County Board of Supervisors.

PROGRESS & FINANCIAL UPDATE ON HIGHWAY FACILITIES: Chair Okey gave a progress and financial update of the new highway facilities.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) EXPENDITURES: Chair Okey gave an update on recent ARPA expenditures.

REPORT FROM COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

- A. RECOGNITION OF JIM METCALF:** Information was included in the packet.
- B. EATS AT UWEC BARRON COUNTY:** Information was included in the packet.

APPOINTMENTS

- A. WEST CENTRAL WI WORKFORCE COUNTY BOARD CONSORTIUM – APPOINT BURNELL HANSON: Motion: (Nelson/Banks)** to approve both appointments. Carried with 27 Yes, 1 Abstain (Gores) and 1 Absent (Effertz).
- B. CDBG REGIONAL HOUSING COMMITTEE – APPOINT BOB KAZMIERSKI: Motion: (Nelson/Banks)** to approve both appointments. Carried with 27 Yes, 1 Abstain (Gores) and 1 Absent (Effertz).

CLAIMS, PETITIONS & CORRESPONDENCE: None at this time.

SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

1. Sale of Office Complex on LaSalle Avenue in Barron
2. Setting Salaries for Elected Officials (Register of Deeds, Treasurer & County Clerk)
3. SEH Housing Authority Presentation

NEXT MEETING DATE: Monday, March 18, 2024 at 9:00AM in the Auditorium of the Government Center located in Barron.

CLOSED SESSION – CHAPTER 980 COURT ORDER REQUIRING BARRON COUNTY TO: LOCATE/BUY, BUILD OR PLACE A RESIDENCE ON BARRON COUNTY PROPERTY OR COUNTY OWNED PROPERTY WITHIN 180 DAYS OF SAID ORDER: Motion: (Bartlett/Heller) for the County Board to go into Closed Session pursuant to Section 19.85(1)(e) for the purpose of deliberating or negotiating purchase of public properties, investing public funds, other specific business or whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session and Section 19.85(1)(g) for the purpose of conferring with legal counsel with respect to current or potential litigation to include Administrator French, Corporation Counsel Muench and Deputy Corporation Counsel Mohns. Carried with 26 Yes, 2 Abstain (Gores & Taxdahl) and 1 Absent (Effertz). Gores, Olson and Taxdahl departed the meeting since virtual attendance in a Closed Session is not allowed. (Administrator French took minutes during the Closed Session.) **Motion: (Bartlett/B. Anderson)** to return to Open Session. Carried with 25 Yes and 4 Absent (Effertz, Gores, Olson & Taxdahl). No Action Taken during Closed Session or when the Board returned to Open Session.

ADJOURNMENT: Chair Okey adjourned the meeting at 11:32AM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jessica Hodek, County Clerk

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