



BARRON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

TUESDAY, APRIL 16, 2024 – 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, Charles Bergeson, Randy Cook Sr, Bill Effertz, Pam Fall, Craig Fowler, Jim Gores, Bun Hanson, Dana Heller, Dennis Jenkins, Amanda Kohnen, Kathy Krug, Audrey Kusilek, Fran Langman, Carol Moen, Roberta Mosentine, Gary Nelson, Louie Okey, Pete Olson, Bob Rogers, Pete Schneider, Bill Schradle, Marv Thompson, Craig Turcott, Diane Vaughn and Stacey Wenzel.

ATTENDING VIRTUALLY: None at this time.

ABSENT: None at this time.

CALL TO ORDER: County Clerk Hodek called the meeting to order at 9:00AM.

OATH OF OFFICE & SWEARING IN OF ALL SUPERVISORS: Judge Babler administered the Oath of Office to all Supervisors present at the meeting.

ROLL CALL – PUBLIC NOTIFICATION: County Clerk Hodek took attendance and County Administrator French stated the County’s compliance with open meeting laws.

INVOCATION: Led by Chaplain Cody Kargus.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Recited.

SPECIAL MATTERS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS (NON-ACTION ITEMS): Administrator French asked Supervisors to complete the Committee Request document and return to him as soon as possible. Committee assignments will be reviewed within the next month. Administrator French also mentioned the Chronotype Publication “The History Files, the Fests and Fairs of Barron County,” that was available outside the Auditorium entrance.

APPROVE AGENDA: Motion: (Olson/Kusilek) to approve. **Motion: (Okey/Thompson)** to amend the agenda by removing Item #17 – Resolution Authorizing an Expenditure Not to Exceed \$2M for the Purpose of Installing New Underground Heating, Ventilation and Cooling Piping at the University of Wisconsin Eau Claire Barron County Campus due to only receiving one bid on the project. Discussion. Carried with 29 Yes and 0 No. Main Motion carried with 29 Yes and 0 No.

INTRODUCTION OF SUPERVISORS: The four newly elected Supervisors: Bergeson, Jenkins, Kohnen and Schneider, each gave a brief introduction of themselves to the Board.

APPROVE MINUTES OF MARCH 18, 2024: Motion: (Langman/Heller) to approve. Carried with 29 Yes and 0 No.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None at this time.

ELECTION OF ELECTIVE POSITIONS: Corporation Counsel Muench explained the election and voting procedures for the leadership positions and Highway Committee.

A. COUNTY BOARD CHAIR:

Receiving Nominations for Chair: Cook and Okey. Cook declined the nomination.

Accepting Nominations: Okey. **Motion: (Cook/Banks)** to cast a unanimous vote electing Okey as Chair. Carried with 29 Yes and 0 No.

B. COUNTY BOARD VICE CHAIR

Receiving Nominations for Vice Chair: Bartlett, Cook, Hanson, Kusilek and Wenzel. Cook, Hanson and Kusilek declined the nomination.

Accepting Nominations and Placed on the First Ballot: Bartlett and Wenzel were given the opportunity to speak as to why they were seeking the position. Bartlett and Wenzel were placed on the first ballot. Bartlett received the majority of the votes and was elected Vice Chair.

C. COUNTY BOARD 2ND VICE CHAIR:

Receiving Nominations for 2nd Vice Chair: Cook, Gores, Hanson, Olson, Vaughn and Wenzel. Cook, Olson and Vaughn declined the nomination.

Accepting Nominations and Placed on the First Ballot: Gores, Hanson and Wenzel. Gores, Hanson and Wenzel were given the opportunity to speak as to why they were seeking the position.

Receiving Majority Votes and Placed on the Second Ballot: Hanson and Wenzel were placed on the second ballot. Hanson received the majority of the votes and was elected 2nd Vice Chair.

D. HIGHWAY COMMITTEE:

Self-Nomination for the Highway Committee: Effertz, Gores, Jenkins, Mosentine, Olson and Thompson. Each Supervisor was given the opportunity to speak as to why they were seeking the position when they self-nominated.

Placed on the First Ballot: Effertz, Gores, Jenkins, Mosentine, Olson and Thompson. Receiving majority of the votes were Effertz, Mosentine, Olson and Thompson. Gores and Jenkins tied for the 5th position.

Placed on the Second Ballot: Gores and Jenkins were placed on the second ballot. Jenkins received the majority vote. Elected to the Highway Committee were Effertz, Jenkins, Mosentine, Olson and Thompson.

Supervisor B. Anderson departed the meeting at 10:29AM.

A break was taken from 10:25 to 10:45AM.

2024-6 ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENT – REZONING – TOWN OF STANLEY, VETERAN OWNED PROPERTIES, LLC: Motion: (Cook/Banks) to approve. Carried with 29 Yes and 0 No.

PRESENTATION ON BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE GRANTS – MOSAIC TECHNOLOGIES: De Anna Westphal, Public Relations Manager, reviewed the Broadband Infrastructure Grants that Mosaic is currently overseeing and answered questions from the Board.

PRESENTATION ON BARRON COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY: Bob Kazmierski, Barron County Housing Authority Housing Director, discussed the potential grant offered by WHEDA. Chair Okey gave an overview of the proposed Housing Authority Rehabilitation in Turtle Lake. Tom Landgraf attend the meeting virtually and answered questions from the Board. Chair Okey asked if there was any objection to allowing Barron County Housing Authority to apply for the WHEDA grant on April 19, 2024. No objections were noted.

PRESENTATION ON WASTE TO ENERGY & RECYCLING UPGRADES: Brent Bohn, WTE Plant Manager and Andy Hanson, Assistant WTE Plant Manager, gave an overview of the logistics behind the WTE plant located in Almena and answered questions from the Board.

PRESENTATION ON HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT OPERATIONS & PROJECTS: Mike Hoefs, Highway Commissioner, gave a presentation on the operations of the Highway Department and answered questions from the Board.

2024-22 RESOLUTION – WISCONSIN ASSESSMENT MONIES (WAM) PROGRAM APPLICATION: Chair Okey gave the Board an update for this addition to the original agenda. **Motion: (Thompson/Turcott)** to approve. Carried with 28 Yes and 1 Absent (B. Anderson).

2024-23 RESOLUTION – FINAL BUDGET ADJUSTMENT(S) TO CLOSE 2023 ACCOUNTS: Motion: (Cook/Schradle) to approve. Carried on a roll call vote with 28 Yes and 1 Absent (B. Anderson).

LEGISLATIVE REDISTRICTING MAPS: State Senator Quinn and Representative Armstrong reviewed the changes from the current legislative maps to the new legislative maps that are effective starting today and will be in place for the Fall Elections. State Senator Quinn also answered questions from the Board.

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

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

REPORT FROM COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

- A. COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT FORMS:** Asked the Board to return as soon as possible.
- B. BARRON COUNTY EXPENDITURE GRAPHS:** Information was included in the packet and reviewed.
- C. STRATEGIC PLANNING WORK GROUP UPDATE:** Information was included in the packet.
- D. FACILITY TOURS:** Facility tours will be done at various times throughout the summer.
- E. DHHS 2023 OVERDRAFT:** Information was included in the packet and noted this has not happened in the last fourteen years.

APPOINTMENTS: None at this time.

CLAIMS, PETITIONS & CORRESPONDENCE: None at this time.

SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

1. Horton Group Presentation – Tim Deaton
2. WestCap Presentation – Peter Kilde
3. Facility Tours of County Departments
4. Consideration of Changing from 5 to 7 Supervisors on the Law Enforcement Committee (Would require a change to the Barron County Rules & Procedures)

NEXT MEETING DATE: Monday, May 20, 2024 at 7:00PM in the Auditorium of the Government Center located in Barron.

ADJOURNMENT: Chair Okey adjourned the meeting at 12:26PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jessica Hodek, County Clerk

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