



BARRON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2024 – 4:00 PM

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

MINUTES

PRESENT IN PERSON: Bob Anderson, Patti Anderson, John Banks, Karolyn Bartlett, Randy Cook Sr, Bill Effertz, Pam Fall, Jim Gores, Bun Hanson, Dana Heller, Dennis Jenkins, Amanda Kohnen, Kathy Krug, Audrey Kusilek, Fran Langman, Jamie McCready, 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: None at this time.

ABSENT: Craig Fowler and Pete Schneider.

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Okey called the meeting to order at 4:00PM.

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 Chair Okey.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Recited.

IN MEMORIAM – LEE K. ROMSOS: Administrator French noted the recent loss of a former County Board Supervisor and asked to reserve a moment of silence in his honor.

SPECIAL MATTERS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS (NON-ACTION ITEMS): Administrator French reported that both County owned rifle ranges will be closed for the upcoming rifle deer season from November 22 to December 10th. The Arland rifle range will also be closed on November 9 from 8:00AM – 1:00PM for a hunter's safety course. Chair Okey noted that Supervisor Patti Anderson was selected by the Wisconsin Counties Association for Conversations in Cars with County Officials which will be filmed at a later date.

APPROVE AGENDA: Administrator French requested an amendment to the agenda which would include a recess from 5:45-6:00PM prior to the Public Hearing for the 2025 County budget. **Motion: (Hanson/Olson)** to have a recess from 5:45-6:00PM prior to the Public Hearing for the 2025 County budget. Carried with 27 Yes and 2 Absent (Fowler and Schneider). **Motion: (Wenzel/Thompson)** to approve the amended agenda. Carried with 27 Yes and 2 Absent (Fowler and Schneider).

APPROVE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 21, 2024: **Motion: (Cook/Effertz)** to approve. Carried with 27 Yes and 2 Absent (Fowler and Schneider).

PUBLIC COMMENT: None at this time.

PRESENTATION ON JUSTICE CENTER SALLY PORT – WOLD ARCHITECTS AND ENGINEERS

- A. FINANCING OPTIONS & COSTS – SEAN LENTZ, EHLERS, INC:** Ehlers reviewed a presentation on potential financing options & costs and answered questions from the Board. Wold Architects and Sheriff Fitzgerald also answered questions from the Board.
- B. 2024-40 RESOLUTION – AUTHORIZING WOLD ARCHITECTS AND ENGINEERS TO PROCEED WITH BID PROPOSALS FOR EXPANSION OF THE SECURE SALLY PORT AT THE BARRON COUNTY JUSTICE CENTER:** **Motion: (Turcott/Heller)** to approve. Carried with 27 Yes and 2 Absent (Fowler & Schneider).

2023 EXECUTIVE AUDIT SUMMARY: Finance Director Busch reviewed the 2023 Executive Audit Summary and answered questions from the Board.

2024 3RD QUARTER FINANCIALS: Finance Director Busch reviewed the 2024 3rd Quarter Financials and answered questions from the Board.

2024-41 RESOLUTION – OUTSTANDING ORDER CHECKS TO BE CANCELLED: Motion: (Cook/Rogers) to be approved. Carried with 27 Yes and 2 Absent (Fowler & Schneider).

2024-42 RESOLUTION – MOTORIZED TRAIL AUTHORIZATION FOR YEARS 2025-2026: Motion: (Hanson/Kusilek) to approve. Carried with 27 Yes and 2 Absent (Fowler & Schneider).

PROGRESS & FINANCIAL UPDATE ON HIGHWAY FACILITIES: Chair Okey provided an update to the Board and answered questions.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) EXPENDITURES: Chair Okey provided an update to the Board.

REPORT FROM COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR: None at this time.

APPOINTMENTS: None at this time.

CLAIMS, PETITIONS & CORRESPONDENCE: None at this time.

SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

1. 2025 Health & Human Services Software Purchase

NEXT MEETING DATE: Monday, January 13, 2025 at 9:00AM at the Government Center located in Barron.

A recess was taken at 5:16PM.

PUBLIC HEARING – PRESENTATION OF THE 2025 BUDGET MINUTES

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

ATTENDING VIRTUALLY: None at this time.

ABSENT: Craig Fowler, Pete Schneider and Bill Schradle.

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Okey called the meeting to order at 6:00PM.

PUBLIC HEARING – PRESENTATION OF THE 2025 BARRON COUNTY BUDGET: Administrator French presented the 2025 published budget in detail and answered questions from the Board.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Russell Rindsig - 2106 29 ½ Avenue in Saron and Kevin Roske – 688 13th Street in Hillsdale spoke regarding the 2025 Fair Appropriation in the County Budget. Bev Candler - 1777 12 ¾ Street in Barron and Tammy Schutz – 390 23 ¾ Street in Chetek spoke regarding the 2025 Museum Appropriation in the County Budget. Eric

Thoresen – 819 Lakeshore Drive in Rice Lake, Jeanette Ryaberg – 890 4th Avenue in Cumberland, Rachel Thomas – 512 West Marshall Street in Rice Lake, David Evenson – 1520 Berdan Street in Cumberland and Susan Christianson – 460 Moon Lake Drive #16 in Rice Lake spoke regarding the 2025 Library Levy Limits from the 2025 County Budget.

CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING: Chair Okey closed the Public Hearing at 6:51PM.

RECONVENE THE COUNTY BOARD MEETING: Chair Okey reconvened the County Board meeting at 6:51PM.

REVIEW & ADOPTION OF THE 2025 BUDGET:

- **BORROWINGS AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS, UWEC BARRON COUNTY – HVAC/CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS AND THE JUSTICE CENTER SALLY PORT:** Administrator French gave a brief overview of Items A, C and D.
- **AG BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS: Motion: (Effertz/Gores)** to support the Property Committee's motion of October 4th, that \$250,000 of the \$2.5 million dollar borrowing from Sterling Bank be encumbered into the 2025 Capital Improvement Fund for the purpose of new windows and window panels at the Agriculture Building on the west side of the Government Center with \$225,000 for the project and \$25,000 for Contingency. Chair Okey gave an explanation of the recent Property Committee meeting discussion. Carried with 26 Yes and 3 Absent (Fowler, Schneider & Schradle).
- **LIBRARY BUDGETS:** Chair Okey gave an overview of the previous IFLS funding discussions. **Motion: (Kusilek/Hanson)** to amend the 2025 County budget to increase library funding to 78%. Discussion. Carried with 26 Yes and 3 Absent (Fowler, Schneider & Schradle).
- **MUSEUM: Motion: (Rogers/Hanson)** to reinstate \$10,000 to the Museum from the 2025 County budget. Carried with 25 Yes, 3 Absent (Fowler, Schneider & Schradle) and 1 No (Vaughn).
- **FAIR: Motion: (Nelson/Banks)** to reinstate \$10,000 to the Fair from the 2025 County budget. Discussion. Carried with 25 Yes, 3 Absent (Fowler, Schneider & Schradle) and 1 No (Vaughn).
- **NEW POSITIONS: Motion: (Gores/Banks)** to approve. Discussion. Gores and Banks withdrew their motion. **Motion: (Kohnen/Vaughn)** to remove the Court Security position from the 2025 County Budget. Discussion. Judge Babler and Sheriff Fitzgerald answered questions from the Board. Failed with 24 No, 3 Absent (Fowler, Schneider & Schradle) and 2 Yes (Okey & Vaughn).
- **2024-43 RESOLUTION – FINANCING OF THE COUNTY FOR 2025 AND ADOPT 2025 LEVY: Motion: (Cook/Bartlett)** to approve the financing of the County for 2025 and Adopt 2025 Levy with the changes presented with the Ag Building Improvements, Library Budgets, Museum Appropriation, Fair Appropriation and New Positions. Administrator French answered questions from the Board. Carried with 23 Yes, 3 No (Effertz, Kohnen & Vaughn) and 3 Absent (Fowler, Schneider & Schradle).

ADJOURNMENT: By unanimous consent at 7:38PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jessica Hodek, County Clerk

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