



# **BARRON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

**MONDAY, JANUARY 13, 2025 – 9:00 AM**

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

## **MINUTES**

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

**ATTENDING VIRTUALLY:** None at this time.

**ABSENT:** Patti Anderson, Pam Fall, Audrey Kusilek and Marv Thompson.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Okey called the meeting to order at 9:00AM.

**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 Pastor Cody Kargus from Maranatha Church located in Rice Lake.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Recited.

**SPECIAL MATTERS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS (NON-ACTION ITEMS):** County Clerk Hodek reminded the County Board Supervisors to complete the assigned IT training they received via email as soon as possible.

**APPROVE AGENDA: Motion: (Cook/Langman)** to approve. Carried with 25 Yes and 4 Absent (P. Anderson, Fall, Kusilek & Thompson).

**APPROVE MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 4, 2024: Motion: (B. Anderson/Wenzel)** to approve. Carried with 25 Yes and 4 Absent (P. Anderson, Fall, Kusilek & Thompson).

**STATEMENT FROM BARRON COUNTY CORPORATION COUNSEL REGARDING CHAPTER 980 SUPERVISED RELEASE:** Corporation Counsel Muench reviewed the authority given to County Board Supervisors within the limits of the 980 placement, the current statutes relating to the 980 placements and answered questions from the Board.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Walter Herrman – 1708 12 ¾ Street in Barron spoke regarding the recent Chapter 980 Supervised Release placement. Chair Okey also recognized Dennis Roschell – 1228 18<sup>th</sup> Street in Barron and allowed him to speak regarding the recent Chapter 980 Supervised Release placement.

**RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT DAY – CHAPLAIN CODY KARGUS:** Chaplain Kargus thanked all of the law enforcement working in Barron County for their public service and dedication to community safety.

**2025-1 RESOLUTION – AUTHORIZING EXPENDITURE FOR DHHS SOFTWARE PURCHASE: Motion: (Moen/McCreedy)** to approve. Carried with 25 Yes and 4 Absent (P. Anderson, Fall, Kusilek & Thompson).

**2025-2 RESOLUTION – AUTHORIZING THE USE OF DAM FUND FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF GEARBOXES FOR GATE #3 AT THE RICE LAKE DAM: Motion: (Cook/Effertz)** to approve. Carried with 25 Yes and 4 Absent (P. Anderson, Fall, Kusilek & Thompson).

**2025-3 RESOLUTION – APPROVING 2024-2025 ANNUAL WORK PLAN FOR THE COUNTY FOREST:**  
**Motion: (Moen/B. Anderson)** to approve. Carried with 25 Yes and 4 Absent (P. Anderson, Fall, Kusilek & Thompson).

**2025-4 RESOLUTION – OF FORMAL ENDORSEMENT FOR BRIGHTSPEED (DBA CONNECT HOLDING II, LLC) TO ASSIST IN OBTAINING THE WISCONSIN PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION’S BROADBAND EQUITY, ACCESS & DEVELOPMENT (BEAD) PROGRAM: Motion: (Turcott/Wenzel)** to approve. Discussion. Carried with 22 Yes, 4 Absent (P. Anderson, Fall, Kusilek & Thompson) and 3 No (Kohnen, Krug & Vaughn).

**APPROVE STATE PLAN OF OPERATIONS (SPO) BETWEEN STATE OF WISCONSIN AND BARRON COUNTY SHERIFF’S DEPARTMENT FOR DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE (DOD) LAW ENFORCEMENT SUPPORT OFFICE (LESO) EXCESS PROPERTY PROGRAM: Motion: (Cook/Gores)** to approve. Carried with 25 Yes and 4 Absent (P. Anderson, Fall, Kusilek & Thompson).

**PROGRESS & FINANCIAL UPDATE ON HIGHWAY FACILITIES:** Chair Okey provided an update to the Board and answered questions. Finance Director Busch will put together a comparison of utility bills for the new building versus utility costs from the old building for a future meeting.

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

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

- A. TREASURER’S REPORT OF RECIEPTS & DISBURSEMENTS:** Information was included in the packet.
- B. CTH TT TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PROJECT UPDATE:** Administrator French noted the success of the current program.

#### **APPOINTMENTS**

- A. COMMISSION ON AGING – APPOINT CAROL KNOLL (EXPIRES JUNE 2027): Motion: (Effertz/Heller)** to approve all five appointments as presented. Carried with 25 Yes and 4 Absent (P. Anderson, Fall, Kusilek & Thompson).
- B. HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES BOARD – REAPPOINT PATTI ANDERSON, NANCY KEELER, TONIANN KNUTSON AND DR. RICHARD SAMPSON (3 YEAR TERM): Motion: (Effertz/Heller)** to approve all five appointments as presented. Carried with 25 Yes and 4 Absent (P. Anderson, Fall, Kusilek & Thompson).

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

#### **SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:**

- 1. Approval of Bids for Secure Sally Port Expansion
- 2. Approval of Borrowings for Secure Sally Port Expansion and New Roofs for the Student Center & Gymnasium at the UWEC Barron County Campus
- 3. Utility Cost Comparison for the New Highway Shop vs the Previous Highway Shop
- 4. WTE Acid Gas Removal System Update When Installation is Complete in Spring 2025

**NEXT MEETING DATE:** Monday, February 17, 2025 at 9:00AM at the Government Center located in Barron.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Chair Okey adjourned the meeting at 9:54AM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jessica Hodek, County Clerk

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