



BARRON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2025 – 9:00 AM

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

MINUTES

PRESENT IN PERSON: Patti Anderson, John Banks, Karolyn Bartlett, Randy Cook Sr, Bill Effertz, Pam Fall, Craig Fowler, Jim Gores, Dana Heller, Dennis Jenkins, Amanda Kohnen (Departed at 10:18AM), Kathy Krug, Audrey Kusilek, Fran Langman, Jamie McCready, Carol Moen, Roberta Mosentine, Gary Nelson, Louie Okey, Bob Rogers, Pete Schneider, Bill Schradle, Marv Thompson, Craig Turcott, Diane Vaughn and Stacey Wenzel.

ATTENDING VIRTUALLY: Bun Hanson and Pete Olson.

ABSENT: Bob Anderson.

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 John Bergman from the Stanfold Lutheran Church located outside of Barron.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Recited.

SPECIAL MATTERS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS (NON-ACTION ITEMS): Administrator French read an excerpt from the Barron Area School District's submission for School Resource Officer Krahenbuhl who they nominated for the Wisconsin School Resource Officer of the Year. County Clerk Hodek asked Supervisors with clergy contacts to ask if they would like to lead Invocation for any of the upcoming 2025 County Board meetings.

APPROVE AGENDA: Motion: (Cook/Heller) to approve. Carried with 27 Yes, 1 Abstain (Hanson) and 1 Absent (B. Anderson).

APPROVE MINUTES OF JANUARY 13, 2025: Motion: (Langman/P. Anderson) to approve. Carried with 27 Yes, 1 Abstain (Hanson) and 1 Absent (B. Anderson).

PUBLIC COMMENT: Dennis Roshell – 1228 18th Street in Barron spoke regarding the January 980 placement. Walter Hermann – 1708 12 3/4th Street in Barron spoke regarding the January 980 placement, the recent Highway Facility Project financials and the upcoming Primary election.

PRESENTATION ON FAMILY RECOVERY COURT: Judge Babler shared a promotional video that encourages families to enroll in the family recovery court program. Judge Babler and Youth and Families Program Manager Karla Broten answered questions from the Board.

PRESENTATION ON BORROWING FOR JAIL SALLY PORT – SEAN LENTZ, EHLERS: Lentz gave a presentation regarding potential borrowing options and a timeline for the upcoming Sally Port Project at the Justice Center. Sheriff Fitzgerald answered questions from the Board.

APPROVAL OF EMERGENCY FIRE WARDENS FOR BARRON COUNTY: Motion: (Rogers/Wenzel) to approve. Carried. With 28 Yes and 1 Absent (B. Anderson).

2025-5 RESOLUTION – AUTHORIZING ROOF REPLACEMENT AT UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-EAU CLAIRE, BARRON COUNTY CAMPUS – STUDENT CENTER & GYMNASIUM: Motion: (Banks/Olson) to approve. Chair Okey gave an overview of the request made by the Rice Lake Area School District.

Administrator French answered questions from the Board. Carried with 27 Yes, 1 Abstain (Cook) and 1 Absent (B. Anderson).

Supervisor Kohnen departed the meeting.

2025-6 RESOLUTION – TO AMEND SUPERVISORY DISTRICT DUE TO ANNEXATION TO THE CITY OF RICE LAKE: Motion: (Moen/Gores) to approve. Corporation Counsel Muench answered questions from the Board. Carried with 27 Yes and 2 Absent (B. Anderson & Kohnen).

2025-1 ORDINANCE – AMENDING ZONING CODE RE: TOWN OF RICE LAKE – ESTABLISHING ZONING CLASSIFICATIONS: Motion: (Rogers/Wenzel) to approve. Carried with 27 Yes and 2 Absent (B. Anderson & Kohnen).

2025-2 ORDINANCE – REVISING SECTION 2.04(D)(2)(C) OF THE BARRON COUNTY RULES & PROCEDURES: Motion: (Heller/Turcott) to approve. Chair Okey answered questions from the Board. Carried with 26 Yes, 2 Absent (Kohnen & B. Anderson) and 1 Abstain (P. Anderson).

PROGRESS & FINANCIAL UPDATE ON HIGHWAY FACILITIES: Administrator French read a statement from the Highway Facilities Financial Committee drafted at their last meeting that closes the fund. Chair Okey answered questions from the Board.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) EXPENDITURES: Chair Okey provided an update to the Board. Finance Director Busch and Administrator French answered questions from the Board.

REPORT FROM COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

- A. ELEVEN (11) YEAR WRITE OFF OF TAX CERTIFICATES:** These were approved at the Executive Committee meeting earlier this month.
- B. COST FACTORS OF HEALTH INSURANCE INCREASES:** Information received from Tim Deaton was included in the packet.

APPOINTMENTS: Administrator French asked the Board to approval all three appointments and answered questions from the Board.

- A. HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES BOARD – APPOINT MARY MATTHYS (REMAINDER OF TERM-2026): Motion: (Olson/Fowler)** to approve all three appointments. Carried with 27 Yes and 2 Absent (B. Anderson & Kohnen).
- B. HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES BOARD – APPOINT BETTY BORGAN (REMAINDER OF TERM-2028): Motion: (Olson/Fowler)** to approve all three appointments. Carried with 27 Yes and 2 Absent (B. Anderson & Kohnen).
- C. LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE – APPOINT PATTI ANDERSON TO REPLACE BOB ANDERSON: Motion: (Olson/Fowler)** to approve all three appointments. Carried with 27 Yes and 2 Absent (B. Anderson & Kohnen).

CLAIMS, PETITIONS & CORRESPONDENCE: None at this time.

SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

- 1. Approval of Bids for Secure Sally Port Expansion (Will Require 3/4th Vote from Board)
- 2. Approval of Borrowings for Secure Sally Port Expansion and New Roofs for the Student Center & Gymnasium at the UWEC Barron County Campus
- 3. Rice Lake Area School District & Barron County Use Agreement for Student Center and Gym at UWEC-Barron County

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

ADJOURNMENT: Chair Okey adjourned the meeting at 10:30AM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jessica Hodek, County Clerk

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