



Executive Committee Meeting

Friday, March 7, 2025 – 8:00 a.m.

Barron County Government Center – Auditorium
335 East Monroe Avenue – Barron, Wisconsin 54812

MINUTES

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT IN PERSON: Karolyn Bartlett, Randy Cook Sr, Louie Okey, Bob Rogers, Marv Thompson and Stacey Wenzel.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS APPEARING VIRTUALLY: Pete Olson.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Bun Hanson and Audrey Kusilek.

STAFF PRESENT IN PERSON: Administrator French, Jail Captain Evenson, Chief Deputy Hagen, County Clerk Hodek, Highway Commissioner Hoefs, Clerk of Court Millermon, Corporation Counsel Muench, Highway Operations Manager Nelson, IT Director Peterson and Treasurer Sommerfeld.

OTHER COUNTY BOARD SUPERVISORS PRESENT: Patti Anderson, Kathy Krug and Diane Vaughn.

OTHERS PRESENT: Ruth Erickson (Chronotype), Ryan Urban (NewsShield) and Pattie Greene.

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Okey called the meeting to order at 8:00AM.

PUBLIC MEETING NOTIFICATION: Administrator French read the Public Meeting Notification.

SPECIAL MATTERS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS (NON-ACTION ITEMS): Administrator French mentioned that it was Employee Appreciation Day and thanked the employees of Barron County for serving their community. Administrator French also noted that Pete Olson was appointed earlier this month to the Executive Committee as the Law Enforcement Committee representative to replace Bob Anderson.

APPROVE AGENDA: Motion: (Thompson/Bartlett) to approve. Carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None at this time.

APPROVE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 5, 2025: Motion: (Cook/Rogers) to approve. Carried.

RESOLUTION – URGING GOVERNOR EVERS AND THE WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE TO SUPPORT COUNTY COURTS: Clerk of Court Millermon spoke in favor of this resolution. **Motion: (Cook/Rogers)** to approve. Discussion. Carried.

RESOLUTION – INITIAL RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF NOT TO EXCEED \$5,925,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION CORPORATE PURPOSE BONDS, SERIES 2025A: Administrator French confirmed that bids came in lower than anticipated and reviewed the updated financials associated with the project. Discussion. **Motion: Cook** to use the resolution in the packet but to only borrow \$5 million and utilize \$350,000 from the remaining ARPA funds. Discussion. Motion failed due to the lack of a second. **Motion: (Thompson/Olson)** to borrow \$5.3 million as stated in the original resolution. Carried on a roll call vote with 6 Yes (Bartlett, Okey, Olson, Rogers, Thompson and Wenzel) and 1 No (Cook).

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT UTILITY COST ANALYSIS (INFORMATION ONLY): Highway Commissioner Hoefs reviewed the highway utility costs included in the packet.

POLICY CHANGE REQUEST TO ALLOW YEAR ROUND 4-10 WORK WEEK FOR HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT: Chair Okey clarified that this request is to allow the Highway staff to work four, ten hour workdays per week. Highway Commissioner Hoefs reviewed the savings with closing the highway



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buildings one day per week. **Motion: (Rogers/Thompson)** to allow the highway staff to work four, ten hour work days weekly throughout the entire year. Discussion. Carried.

BARRON COUNTY OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN UPDATE – CONTINGENCY FUND PAYMENT (\$4,500): Administrator French is requesting \$4500 from the contingency fund to pay WCRPC for a five year recreation plan for the County. **Motion: (Bartlett/Cook)** to approve. Carried.

STAFF REPORTS & UPDATES

- A. **SUPPORT FOR HOUSE BILL 3029:** Administrator French asked for approval from the Committee to compose a letter of support for House Bill 3029.
- B. **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANT FOR BROTEN PROPERTY:** Administrator French noted that this property would be high value property if cleaned up.
- C. **WCA ANNUAL CONFERENCE – BREAKOUT SESSION REQUEST:** Two requests have been received and submitted for breakout sessions at the annual WCA Conference.
- D. **2024 COUNTY BOARD PER DIEM REPORT:** Information was included in the packet.

REVIEW VOUCHER EDIT LISTS: Included in the packet and Administrator French answered questions from the Committee.

SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

- 1. 2024 Final Insurance Update – Tim Deaton (May)
- 2. Final Borrowing Documents for Sally Port (April)

SET DATE FOR NEXT MEETING: Motion: (Cook/Thompson) to change April's Executive Committee meeting to Friday, April 4, 2025 at 8:00AM at the Government Center in Barron.

ADJOURNMENT: Chair Okey adjourned the meeting at 8:51AM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jessica Hodek, Barron County Clerk