



BARRON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

MONDAY, MARCH 17, 2025 – 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, Randy Cook Sr, Bill Effertz, Pam Fall, Craig Fowler, Jim Gores, Bun Hanson, Dana Heller, Dennis Jenkins, Amanda Kohlen (Departed at 11:00AM), Kathy Krug, Audrey Kusilek, Fran Langman, Jamie McCready (Departed at 11:00AM), Carol Moen, Roberta Mosentine, Gary Nelson, Bob Rogers, Pete Schneider, Marv Thompson, Craig Turcott and Diane Vaughn.

ATTENDING VIRTUALLY: Louie Okey (Departed at 11:00AM), Pete Olson and Stacey Wenzel.

ABSENT: Bill Schradle.

CALL TO ORDER: Vice Chair Bartlett 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 Paul Poppe from the Faith Baptist Church located in Chetek.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Recited.

SPECIAL MATTERS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS (NON-ACTION ITEMS): None at this time.

APPROVE AGENDA: Motion: (Cook/Kusilek) to approve. Carried with 28 Yes and 1 Absent (Schradle).

APPROVE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 17, 2025: Motion: (Heller/Thompson) to approve. Carried with 28 Yes and 1 Absent (Schradle).

PUBLIC COMMENT: Paul Poppe - 1146 Dallas Street in Chetek, spoke regarding the recent 980 Sex Offender Placement, funding of future County projects and the City of Chetek Police Department. Dennis Roshell – 1228 18th Street in Barron, spoke regarding the recent 980 Sex Offender Placement and the potential Secure Sally Port Expansion Project. Supervisor P. Anderson spoke regarding the two year anniversary of Lona's Senior Dining Café in Haugen.

2025-7 RESOLUTION – INITIAL RESOLUTIONS AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF NOT TO EXCEED \$5,300,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION CORPORATE PURPOSE BONDS, SERIES 2025A: Motion: (Moen/Hanson) to approve. Discussion. **Motion: (Cook/Vaughn)** to amend the main motion to read "not to exceed \$4,950,000.00." Discussion. Carried with 16 Yes, 11 No (P. Anderson, Banks, Bartlett, Gores, Hanson, Heller, Moen, Okey, Olson, Thompson & Turcott) and 1 Abstain (McCready). Discussion. Main Motion carried as amended with 26 Yes, 2 No (Hanson & Thompson) and 1 Absent (Schradle).

2025-8 RESOLUTION – URGING GOVERNOR EVERS AND THE WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE TO SUPPORT COUNTY COURTS: Motion: (Heller/Langman) to approve. Supervisor Kohlen requested the typo from line 24 of the resolution be changed from "not" to "now." Discussion. Carried with 28 Yes and 1 Absent (Schradle).

WISCONSIN COUNTY ASSOCIATION (WCA) PRESENTATION – MARK O'CONNELL, PRESIDENT & CEO: President O'Connell spoke on various topics including the Legislative Agenda, mental health issues, FOIA requests in regards to video in the Sheriff's Department, the State's budget and also answered questions from the Board.

2025-9 RESOLUTION – TO ENTER INTO LEASE AGREEMENT WITH RICE LAKE AREA SCHOOLS FOR BUILDINGS LOCATED AT UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN EAU CLAIRE – BARRON COUNTY:

Administrator French requested Item 3F struck from the lease. **Motion: (Rogers/Gores)** to approve with removing Item 3F. Discussion. **Motion: (Vaughn/Kohnen)** to amend by striking the last sentence from item 5D from the contract. Discussion. Corporation Counsel Muench and Rice Lake Area Schools Superintendent Drost provided opinions and answered questions from the Board. Amendment carried with 19 Yes, 9 No (P. Anderson, Banks, Gores, Moen, Mosentine, Rogers, Schneider, Thompson & Wenzel) and 1 Absent (Schradle). Discussion. Rice Lake Area Schools Superintendent Drost also answered further questions from the Board. **Motion: (Cook/Langman)** to add a 180 day exit clause that the County can enact, for any reason, to the lease. Discussion. Failed with 17 No, 11 Yes (Cook, Effertz, Kohnen, Krug, Kusilek, Langman, McCready, Mosentine, Nelson, Vaughn & Wenzel) and 1 Absent (Schradle). Discussion. Main motion carried with 25 Yes, 2 No (Kohnen & Krug), 1 Abstain (Cook) and 1 Absent (Schradle).

Supervisor Kohnen, Supervisor McCready and Chair Okey left the meeting at 11:00AM.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) EXPENDITURES: Information was included in the packet.

REPORT FROM COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

- A. SUPPORT FOR HOUSE BILL 3029:** This bill allows direct care payments from an individual's HSA and Administrator French plans to draft a resolution of support for April's County Board meeting.
- B. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANT FOR BROKEN PROPERTY:** BCEDC Director Armstrong supports cleaning up the property to allow it back on the tax roll.
- C. SIGNAGE FOR BIKE & PEDESTRIAN ROUTE:** At the request of Supervisor Turcott, the remaining dollars from the planning process will be used for the signage.
- D. WCA ANNUAL CONFERENCE – BREAKOUT SESSION REQUEST:** Administrator French submitted two requests which include the importance of Fund Balance and for State Statute 980 in regards to the Civil Placements for violent sex offenders being placed in the County of record.
- E. 2024 COUNTY BOARD PER DIEM REPORT:** Information was included in the packet.
- F. HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT 4 DAY – 10 HOUR WORK WEEK:** The Executive Committee approved this new schedule as a permanent change for all seasons for all Highway employees.
- G. HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT UTILITY COST ANALYSIS:** Information was included in the packet.

APPOINTMENTS:

- A. SECURE SALLY PORT FINANCE & OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE: Motion: (Heller/Rogers)** to appoint P. Anderson, Okey, Olson, Schneider & Turcott. Carried with 24 Yes, 4 Absent (Kohnen, McCready, Okey & Schradle) and 1 No (Kusilek).

CLAIMS, PETITIONS & CORRESPONDENCE: None at this time.

SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

- 1. Approval of Borrowings for Secure Sally Port Expansion and New Roofs at UW Eau Claire-Barron County
- 2. Ordinance Changes to ATV/UTV Trails in County Parks
- 3. Resolution – Supporting House Bill 3029

NEXT MEETING DATE: Tuesday, April 15, 2025 at 9:00AM at the Government Center located in Barron.

ADJOURNMENT: Vice Chair Bartlett adjourned the meeting at 11:04AM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jessica Hodek, County Clerk

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