



BARRON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

MONDAY, MAY 19, 2025 – 5:00 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, Pam Fall, Craig Fowler, Jim Gores, Bun Hanson, Dennis Jenkins, Amanda Kohnen, Kathy Krug, Audrey Kusilek, Fran Langman, Jamie McCready, Carol Moen, Roberta Mosentine, Gary Nelson, Louie Okey, Pete Olson, Bob Rogers, Pete Schneider, Bill Schradle, Marv Thompson, Craig Turcott, Diane Vaughn and Stacey Wenzel.

ATTENDING VIRTUALLY: Bill Effertz and Dana Heller (Arrived virtually at 5:20PM).

ABSENT: None at this time.

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Okey called the meeting to order at 5:00PM.

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 Pastor Rodger Prois from the Long Lake Lutheran Church located in Sarona.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Recited.

SPECIAL MATTERS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS (NON-ACTION ITEMS): Patrol Captain Darren Hodek spoke regarding his application for the appointment to the Barron County Sheriff and thanked the Board for their support. Sheriff Fitzgerald stated his recommendation of Patrol Captain Hodek to the Sheriff position. He also thanked the Board, Administrator French, Finance Director Busch, HR Director Richie and all of the Department Heads in the County for all of the support that was provided to him personally as well as the Sheriff Department. Sheriff Fitzgerald asked the Board to change the public comment policy currently in place and also explained his future endeavors after retirement.

Chair Okey noted the article published in the Wisconsin Counties Association monthly magazine highlighting the ADRC's Men Shed program.

Administrator French reviewed the current construction taking place in the Government Center and also read a letter from a County employee thanking the Board of Adjustment Committee for their effort and work on their committee. Administrator French also noted the upcoming Driving in Cars with County Officials program that will occur on Thursday, June 5th at Lona's Café in Haugen to highlight their Senior Dining program provided by the ADRC and invited the Board to attend. Chair Okey requested a Quorum Notice be posted for that day as well.

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

APPROVE MINUTES OF APRIL 15, 2025: Motion: (Langman/B. Anderson) to approve. Carried with 28 Yes and 1 Absent (Heller).

PUBLIC COMMENT: None at this time.

RULES & PROCEDURES, OPEN MEETINGS AND PUBLIC RECORDS UPDATE: Corporation Counsel Muench noted he will be reviewing our current Rules & Procedures, along with the updates suggested by the

Wisconsin Counties Association, and will bring any possible changes to a future Board meeting as part of the bi-annual review process. Corporation Counsel Muench discussed the Open Meeting policies, Closed Session statutory requirements and answered questions from the Board.

Supervisor Heller arrived virtually at 5:20PM.

HEALTH INSURANCE UPDATE – TIM DEATON, THE HORTON GROUP: Chair Okey noted that Tim Deaton was unable to attend the meeting tonight but Administrator French will lead the discussion. Administrator French gave a presentation with health insurance plan updates in preparation for the upcoming yearly renewal and answered questions from the Board. HR Director Richie also answered questions from the Board.

2025-18 RESOLUTION – ADOPTING ZONING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO DENY PETITION FOR REZONING – KEVIN P. & ROBIN C. TRIPP: Motion: (Kusilek/Jenkins) to approve. Chair Okey answered questions from the Board. Discussion. Carried with 26 Yes and 3 Abstaining (P. Anderson, Cook, & Kohnen).

2025-19 RESOLUTION – IN SUPPORT FOR INCREASING BASE FUNDING FOR COUNTY CONSERVATION STAFFING TO \$20.2 MILLION: Motion (Cook/Olson) to approve. Carried with 29 Yes and 0 No.

Supervisor Cook departed at 6:00PM.

2025-20 RESOLUTION – AUTHORIZING EXPENDITURE AUTHORITY AMERICAN RESCUE ACT (ARPA) DOLLARS FOR EZ KAYAK LAUNCH AND DOCK – RED CEDAR RIVER, NOT TO EXCEED \$12,563: Motion: (Fowler/Hanson) to approve. Chair Okey and Administrator French answered questions from the Board. Discussion. Carried with 28 Yes and 1 Absent (Cook).

Supervisor Krug departed at 6:04PM.

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

REPORT FROM COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

- A. **QUARTERLY FINANCIALS:** Finance Director reviewed the quarterly financials which were included in the packet and answered questions from the Board.
- B. **DISBURSEMENT DATA:** Information was included in the packet.

APPOINTMENTS

- A. **SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT BOARD – REAPPOINT BOB ROGERS AND FRAN LANGMAN (3 YEAR TERM): Motion: (Kusilek/Wenzel)** to approve all three appointments as presented. Carried with 27 Yes and 2 Absent (Cook & Krug).
- B. **HOUSING AUTHORITY – REAPPOINT CAROL MOEN (5 YEAR TERM): Motion: (Kusilek/Wenzel)** to approve all three appointments as presented. Carried with 27 Yes and 2 Absent (Cook & Krug).

CLAIMS, PETITIONS & CORRESPONDENCE: None at this time.

SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

- 1. Presentation from WestCap
- 2. Presentation from Upper 90 on the Energy Audit at UWEC-Barron County
- 3. Health & Human Services Board Appointment
- 4. Supervisor Banks requested an update on the federal funding effects on the County. Chair Okey indicated there is nothing to report at this time but updates will be provided to the Board when, or if, changes are announced.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Monday, June 16, 2025 at 5:00PM at the Government Center located in Barron.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 6:15PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jessica Hodek, County Clerk

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