BARRON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

MONDAY, AUGUST 18, 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, Bill Effertz, Pam Fall, Craig Fowler, Jim Gores, Dana Heller, Dennis Jenkins, Amanda Kohnen, Kathy Krug, Audrey Kusilek, Jamie McCready, Carol Moen, Roberta Mosentine, Gary Nelson, Louie Okey, Pete Olson, Tim Ploetz *(Once Sworn In)*, Pete Schneider, Bill Schradle, Marv Thompson, Craig Turcott, Diane Vaughn and Stacey Wenzel.

ATTENDING VIRTUALLY: None at this time.

ABSENT: Fran Langman and Bob Rogers.

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 Wayne Hall from the Abundant Life Church Academy located in Cameron.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Recited.

SPECIAL MATTERS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS (NON-ACTION ITEMS):

A. **INTRODUCTION OF SHERIFF JODI KUMMET:** Appointed Sheriff Kummet introduced herself to the Board.
B. **RAIL SAFETY PROCLAMATION:** Administrator French reviewed the proclamation that Chair Okey will sign.
C. **RETIRED SUPERVISOR HANSON:** Chair Okey read a plaque that will be presented to retired Supervisor Bun Hanson for his service and dedication to Barron County.

APPROVE AGENDA: Motion: (Moen/McCready) to approve. Carried with 26 Yes and 2 Absent (Langman & Rogers.)

APPROVE MINUTES OF JULY 21, 2025: Motion: (Cook/Heller) to approve. Carried with 26 Yes and 2 Absent (Langman & Rogers.)

APPOINTMENT AND SWEARING IN OF DISTRICT #21 SUPERVISOR TO REPLACE BURNELL HANSON: Chair Okey announced that he has chosen Tim Ploetz to fill the vacancy in Supervisory District #21 due to Supervisor Hanson's resignation. Ploetz will fill the remainder of the term through April 2026. County Clerk Hodek administered the Oath of Office to Ploetz. Ploetz introduced himself to the Board.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Chief Deputy Hagen presented two Meritorious Service awards to Deputy Ryan Hulback and Dispatcher Kari Dvorak for locating and assisting an injured citizen last month with a 911 hang-up call.

2025-29 RESOLUTION – JUROR PER DIEMS: Motion: (Olson/Turcott) to approve. Carried with 27 Yes and 2 Absent (Langman & Rogers).

PRESENTATION ON MAPLE GROVE SOLAR – IBV ENERGY PARTNERS: Robin Saiz, VP of Business Development at ibV Energy Partners reviewed the current project and schedule, the local economic impact and answered questions from the Board. Emergency Manager Judy answered questions from the Board.

PRESENTATION FROM WEST CENTRAL WISCONSIN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION – SCOTT ALLEN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: Executive Director Scott Allen discussed the history of the local regional planning committees and current funding projects around the region. Lending Specialist Amanda Veith spoke

in regards to the partnership with the Regional Business Fund and the West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission.

ELECTION OF COUNTY BOARD 2ND VICE CHAIR: County Clerk Hodek reviewed the procedure for the nomination and ballot process for the 2nd Vice Chair vacancy and noted the Supervisor elected to this position will fill the remainder of the term through April 2026.

Receiving Nominations for 2nd Vice Chair: Cook, Effertz, Fowler, Heller, Mosentine, Nelson, Olson, Schneider, Turcott, Vaughn and Wenzel. Supervisors declining the nominations were: Cook, Effertz, Fowler, Heller, Mosentine, Nelson, Schneider and Turcott.

Accepting Nominations and Placed on the First Ballot: Olson, Vaughn and Wenzel accepted the nomination and were placed on a ballot. Each were given the opportunity to speak as to why they were seeking the position.

Receiving Majority Votes and Placed on the Second Ballot: Olson and Wenzel were placed on the second ballot. Wenzel received the majority of the votes and was elected 2nd Vice Chair.

Corporation Counsel Muench noted that since Supervisor Wenzel represented the Health & Human Services Committee on the Executive Committee, the committee will need to appoint a new Executive Representative at their meeting next week.

2025-6 ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENT – REZONING – TOWN OF ALMENA, JOSEPH H. & PENNIE L. MOLLS: Motion: (Kusilek/Jenkins) to approve. Carried with 27 Yes and 2 Absent (Langman & Rogers).

2025-27 RESOLUTION – AUTHORIZING APPROVAL OF JOINT DEVELOPERS AGREEMENT FOR IBV PARTNERS – MAPLE GROVE SOLAR AND DISMISSAL OF THE COURT ACTION AGAINST THE WISCONSIN PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION: Chair Okey stated that the Maple Grove Solar Farm was approved at the state level and the County has no jurisdiction over the project. Okey also noted the only way to protect the County's interest in the project was to enter into the Joint Developers Agreement. **Motion: (Heller/Cook)** to approve. Carried with 26 Yes, 2 Absent (Langman & Rogers) and 1 Abstain (Kusilek).

2025-28 RESOLUTION – APPROVAL OF EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN(S) FOR MAPLE GROVE SOLAR AND BARRON COUNTY EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN: Motion: (Heller/Cook) to approve. Carried with 25 Yes, 2 Absent (Langman & Rogers), 1 No (Gores) and 1 Abstain (Kusilek).

2025-30 RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE CREATION OF A .5 FTE COUNTY FORESTER AS A BARRON COUNTY EMPLOYEE: Motion: (P. Anderson/Jenkins) to approve. Administrator French answered questions from the Board. Carried with 27 Yes and 2 Absent (Langman & Rogers).

2025-7 ORDINANCE – DESIGNATING ADDITIONAL PORTIONS OF COUNTY HIGHWAYS AS ATV/UTV ROUTES: Motion: (Schneider/Jenkins) to approve. Discussion. Carried with 27 Yes and 2 Absent (Langman & Rogers).

2025-8 ORDINANCE – TO AUTHORIZE COUNTY CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE OF STREETS & HIGHWAYS: Motion: (Jenkins/Wenzel) to approve. Corporation Counsel Muench answered questions from the Board. Discussion. Carried with 26 Yes, 2 Absent (Langman & Rogers) and 1 No (Cook).

REPORT FROM COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

A. **UPDATE ON OPIOID SETTLEMENTS – PAST & FUTURE:** Administrator French gave update on settlement agreements with current disbursements. Information was also included in the packet.
B. **2025 EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION:** The Executive Committee approved four hours of floating holiday to be used by December 31, 2025 to all regular and regular part-time employees (including union employees) that were hired on or before August 1, 2025. The four additional hours of floating holiday must be approved by the employee's supervisor and cannot be carried over to 2026.
C. **ACID GAS REMOVAL SYSTEM – WASTE TO ENERGY:** The newly installed acid gas removal system is now in operation. The stack test will be the next step in implementing the system.

APPOINTMENTS

A. **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD – APPOINT PATTI ANDERSON (VILLAGE OF HAUGEN REPRESENTATIVE):** Chair Okey noted that the Village of Haugen recently joined the Economic Development

Board and will need a member appointed to the BCEDC. **Motion: (Kusilek/B. Anderson)** to approve. Carried with 27 Yes and 2 Absent (Langman & Rogers).

CLAIMS, PETITIONS & CORRESPONDENCE: None at this time.

SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

1. First Draft of the 2026 County Budget
2. Health & Human Services Executive Representative Appointment
3. Update from Sheriff Department on ATV/UTV Trails

NEXT MEETING DATE: Monday, September 15, 2025 at 5:00PM at the Government Center located in Barron.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 6:35PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jessica Hodek, County Clerk

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