



Executive Committee Meeting

Wednesday, September 3, 2025 – 8:00 a.m.

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

MINUTES

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT IN PERSON: Patti Anderson, Karolyn Bartlett, Randy Cook Sr, Audrey Kusilek, Louie Okey, Pete Olson, Bob Rogers, Marv Thompson and Stacey Wenzel.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS APPEARING VIRTUALLY: None at this time.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: None at this time.

STAFF PRESENT IN PERSON: Finance Director Busch, Administrator French, Chief Deputy Hagen, County Clerk Hodek, Patrol Captain Hodek, Corporation Counsel Muench, IT Director Peterson, HR Director Richie and Treasurer Sommerfeld.

OTHER COUNTY BOARD SUPERVISORS PRESENT: Craig Fowler and Diane Vaughn.

OTHERS PRESENT: Ruth Erickson (Chronotype), Russell Rindsig and Ryan Urban (NewsShield).

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): Chair Okey welcomed new committee member Patti Anderson.

APPROVE AGENDA: Motion: (Cook/Olson) to approve. Carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None at this time.

APPROVE MINUTES OF AUGUST 6, 2025: Motion: (Thompson/Kusilek) to approve. Carried.

2026 BUDGET – 1ST DRAFT: Administrator French and Finance Director Busch reviewed the first draft of the proposed 2026 County Budget and answered questions from the committee. Discussion. Chair Okey, Chief Deputy Hagen and Corporation Counsel Muench also answered questions from the committee.

STEP INCREASE FOR FISCAL SPECIALIST IN FINANCE: Administrator French gave an overview of the request for a step increase for any employee. This process requires a request from the Department Head to review the duties & responsibilities of a position with the County Administrator and the HR Director per the Employee Handbook. Finance Director Busch reviewed the additional duties of this position since initially established. A recommendation for approval from Administrator French, HR Director Richie and Finance Director Busch for an increase of two steps for the Fiscal Specialist position to take effect on September 1, 2025 was requested. **Motion: (Cook/Olson)** to approve. Carried.

REQUEST FROM RICE LAKE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT – ADDITIONAL EXCAVATION COST FOR PLAYGROUND AT UWEC-BARRON COUNTY STUDENT CENTER: Chair Okey reviewed the request, the recommendation from Supervisor Fowler and also noted the change will cost an estimated \$20,000 to level the soil located in the proposed playground area. Half of the estimated cost would come from the County at \$10,000 and the other half would come from the Rice Lake Area School District. **Motion: (Bartlett/Cook)** to approve. Carried.

BARRON COUNTY PERSONNEL POLICIES HANDBOOK UPDATES: Motion: (Bartlett/Rogers) to approve. Carried.



Executive Committee Meeting

Wednesday, September 3, 2025 – 8:00 a.m.

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

MINUTES

APPROVE NATIONWIDE INCOME AMERICA PLAN FOR 401A RETIREMENT ACCOUNTS: Administrator French explained the Nationwide retirement account details to the committee. **Motion:** (Kusilek/Olson) to approve. Carried.

STAFF REPORTS & UPDATES: None at this time.

REVIEW VOUCHER EDIT LISTS: Finance Director and Administrator French answered questions from the Committee.

SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

1. 2nd Draft of 2026 County Budget Recommendation to County Board
2. 2026 County Health Insurance Plan
3. Interim County Administrator Succession Plan Review

SET DATE FOR NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, October 1, 2025 at 8:00AM in the Auditorium of the Government Center.

ADJOURNMENT: Chair Okey adjourned the meeting at 9:05AM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jessica Hodek, Barron County Clerk

Minutes are not official until approved by the Executive Committee at their next meeting.