Executive Committee Meeting
Wednesday, October 1, 2025 – 8:00 a.m.

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

MINUTES

Members Present: Louie Okey, Marv Thompson, Dana Heller (alternate), Stacey Wenzel, Patti Anderson, Bob Rogers, Karolyn Bartlett, Randy Cook, Audrey Kusilek (8:04 a.m.)

Others Present: Jeff French, Jodi Busch, Wendy Coleman, Diane Vaughn, Ruth Erickson, Jason Hagen, Russell Rindsig, Amanda Kohnen, Rachael Richie, Samantha Sommerfeld, Stacey Frolik, Ryan Urban, Kathy Krug, Margo Katterhagen, Lance Peterson, Tim Deaton

The Executive Committee was called to order by Chair Okey at 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday, October 1, 2025.

Public meeting notification was provided by French confirming compliance with open meeting requirements.

There were no special matters or announcements.

Motion: (Cook / Rogers) to approve the agenda with removal of item #8 *Health Insurance-2025 Year to Date Data*. Carried

There were no comments from the public.

Motion: (Thompson / Bartlett) to approve the minutes of September 3, 2025. Carried

Kusilek arrived at 8:04 a.m.

2026 Budget – 2nd Draft and Recommend Budget Publication: French reviewed the current draft of the budget and thanked Busch for her work in putting the budget together. Changes to the budget from last month were reviewed. French is requesting to hold funds in fund balance to make the Motorola payment next year if project is approved. Suggested changes puts the County in a good position for the 2027 and 2028 budgets while maximizing the allowable levy. One additional position (Sanitarian) has been requested and will be funded by grant for the first two years. Discussion. **Motion:** (Cook / Bartlett) to recommend the budget as presented for publication. Carried

Revise Minimum Bids for Unsold Tax Deed Properties: Sommerfeld reported that 3 parcels did not have any bids at the fair market value at the recent online auction and is recommending to reduce the minimum amount the actual incurred costs. **Motion:** (Kusilek / Heller) to approve revised minimum bids. Carried

Purchase and Financing for Motorola Radio Upgrade for Sheriff's Department: Hagen explained the current radios are at end of life and replacement parts are not readily available. There is also currently no backup system in place. Staff are expecting that there will be requirements to be WISCOM compatible in the next couple of years. Motorala proposal would replace squad and body radios as well as body cameras. Proposed system is also expected to reduce the amount of time spent on redaction for public records requests. Discussion. **Motion:** (Cook / Heller) to support moving forward with system upgrade to the Sheriff's Department. Carried

Replacement of Boat for Recreation Deputy for Sheriff's Department – Special Revenue Fund: Hagen provided information on the request. The current boat has issues with use when interacting with public and responding to emergencies in the water. Discussion. Hagen believes the proposed boat should last 10 years or more. **Motion:** (Kusilek / Wenzel) to recommend purchase of boat as presented. Carried

Local Government Energy Tax Credits – Waste to Energy Plant: French provided information on a funding option for a charging station and / or battery storage containment within recent federal legislation. French doesn't feel that this is a viable option for the County at this time. Discussion. Consensus to not move forward with the concept at this time.

County Administrator Succession Plan: Current succession plan in the packet. Discussion. Future agenda item.

Staff Reports & Updates

- Opioid Settlement Accounts: Information provided in the packet. Additional funds will be coming in over the next 10+ years. Discussion.
- CDBG Housing Revolving Loan Fund: Fund will be closed out next year by the State.

Review Voucher Edit Lists: Question on the status of the sally port and who is overseeing the project. There is a financial oversight committee overseeing the project.

Suggestions for Future Agenda Items: County Administrator Succession Plan, develop succession plan and training for Department Heads.

Set Date for Next Meeting: October 29th at 8:00 a.m. Discussion on December meeting date.
Motion: (Cook / Bartlett) to move the December meeting to Friday, December 5 at 8:00 a.m. Carried

2026 Health Insurance Renewal, Plan Design Changes and 2026 Stop Loss Renewal
Motion: (Bartlett / Kusilek) to go into closed session pursuant to Section 19.85(1)(e) for the purpose of deliberating or negotiating purchase of public properties, investing public funds, other specific business, or whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session with closed session to also include Richie, French, Busch, Krug, Vaughn, Kohnen. Roll call vote: Okey, Cook, Bartlett, Rogers, Thompson, Heller, Wenzel, P. Anderson, Kusilek voting in favor. Carried

Closed session minutes taken by French.

Motion to return to open session: Cook/Rogers Carried.

Motion: Kuselik/P. Anderson to accept three medical plan changes for 2026 Self Funded H.I. plan as presented by Tim Deaton. Carried.

9.30am declared adjourned by unanimous consent.

Minutes submitted by:
Wendy Coleman, Executive Assistant
Jeffrey French, County Administrator