



PROPERTY COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, January 5, 2026 – 1:00 p.m.

Barron County Government Center - Veterans Memorial Auditorium
335 East Monroe Avenue - Barron, WI 54812

MINUTES

Members Present: Karolyn Bartlett, Bill Effertz, Dana Heller, Craig Fowler, Carol Moen, Bob Rogers and Bill Schradle.

Others Present: Finance Director Busch, Executive Assistant Coleman, Incoming Finance Director Drury, Administrator French, Land Services Director Gifford, Parks & Maintenance Coordinator Mickelson, Corporation Counsel Muench, County Board Chair Okey, Maintenance Director Olson, IT Director Peterson, Janette Cain (DNR Forester), Ruth Erickson (Chronotype) and Ryan Urban (NewsShield).

Call Meeting to Order: Chair Heller called the meeting to order at 1:00PM.

Public Meeting Notification: French noted the meeting posted by County Clerk Hodek and met WI Open Meeting Requirements.

Public Comment: Administrator French introduced the new Finance Director Michelle Drury. County staff and committee members introduced themselves to Drury.

Approve Agenda: Motion: (Rogers/Schradle) to approve. Carried.

Approve Minutes of October 6, 2025: Motion: (Schradle/Effertz) to approve. Schradle updated the Committee on the history of the 450 year old King Tut pine tree and the board feet generated from the logging of the tree. Discussion. Carried.

County Clerk Digital Electronic Images Conversion - \$14,850.00: County Clerk Hodek gave an overview of the project and answered questions from the Committee. Administrator French answered questions from the Committee and supported the project as well. Discussion. **Motion: (Moen/Effertz)** to approve with a maximum of \$14,850.00 spent on the project. Discussion. Carried.

Community Wellness Funding Grant Opportunities: The committee viewed a video on outdoor fitness facilities. Administrator French asked the Committee for recommendations for possible locations within the County and asked if he should continue to review grant options. Discussion. A recommendation was made by the Committee for Administrator French to contact Rice Lake Schools and UWBC-Rice Lake Campus to discuss possible locations and to continue to research grant options.

PLEASE CALL 715-537-6200 IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND

Any person who has a qualifying disability under the Americans with Disabilities Act and requires the meeting or materials at the meeting to be in an accessible format must contact the County Clerk's office at 715-537-6200 at least 24 hours prior to the meeting so that arrangements may be made to accommodate your request.



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Staff Reports

a. Dam Updates:

1. **Rice Lake Dam:** Ayres will be completing a hammer soundness test spring to evaluate options for repair of the concrete spalling on the piers.
2. **Mikana Dam:** Currently working with Motion Industries to finalize the plans for replacement of the two lifting screws at the price of \$16,000 each. Miron Construction submitted the only bid for installation for \$17,000. They will review the plans before the order is put in with an anticipated six month lead time.
3. **Chetek Dam:** Working with Emergency Services Manager Judy on updating the Emergency Action Plan. The Chetek Dam has a few campgrounds that would be partially inundated if the dam were to fail. Most of the campers are within 150 foot of the high ground. It could be several foot deep but relatively slow velocity.
4. **Little Sand Lake Dam:** The dam holds back 2 feet of water but is considered a large dam and with that, the County is required to complete a Dam Failure Analysis with an estimated cost of \$20,000. The culvert system also contains an eighty plus year old concrete pipe that is having issues. A possible option being discussed is constructing a new sheet pile weir about one hundred feet downstream and rebuilding the access road into the County forest with modern culverts. The lake level would be kept the same, but it would be classified as a small dam and the County have the DFA and inspection requirements.
5. Gruetzmacher is also working on other DFA and IOMP for all the dams.

b. Lumbering Hall of Fame Building Collapse: The building has collapsed twice. Maintenance Director Olson and Administrator French have requested to see all future construction plans going forward. The Committee also requested Administrator French determine if these buildings are required to pass commercial building code.

c. LED Lighting and Destratification Fans at Meggers / Ritzinger Hall: Photos were shown of the completed project which was done on time as well as on budget.

d. J&F Price Increases: Prices have continued to increase. Maintenance Director Olson answered questions from the Committee.

Suggestions for Future Agenda Items:

- a. Community Wellness Funding Grant Opportunities at the UWBC – Rice Lake Campus
- b. Carryover from Director Olson
- c. Tour FSA Building Remodels

Review Voucher Edit Lists: Reviewed.

Set Next Meeting Date: February 2, 2026 at 1:00PM.

Adjournment: Motion: (Fowler/Rogers) to adjourn at 1:35PM. Carried.

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