



# Executive Committee Meeting

## Wednesday, January 7, 2026 – 8:00 a.m.

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

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### MINUTES

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT IN PERSON:** Patti Anderson, Karolyn Bartlett, Randy Cook Sr, Audrey Kusilek (Arrived at 8:03AM), Louie Okey, Pete Olson, Bob Rogers, Marv Thompson and Stacey Wenzel (Arrived at 8:02AM).

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS APPEARING VIRTUALLY:** None at this time.

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:** None at this time.

**STAFF PRESENT IN PERSON:** Finance Director Busch, Incoming Finance Director Drury, Administrator French, County Clerk Hodek, Patrol Captain Hodek, Sheriff Kummet, Corporation Counsel Muench, IT Director Peterson, HR Director Richie and Treasurer Sommerfeld.

**OTHER COUNTY BOARD SUPERVISORS PRESENT:** Diane Vaughn.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Ruth Erickson (Chronotype) and Ryan Urban (NewsShield).

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Okey called the meeting to order at 8:00AM.

**PUBLIC MEETING NOTIFICATION:** County Clerk Hodek stated the County's compliance with Wisconsin Open Meeting Laws.

**SPECIAL MATTERS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS (NON-ACTION ITEMS):** Administrator French introduced the incoming Finance Director and County Auditor Michelle Drury.

**APPROVE AGENDA:** Chair Okey requested the Committee to pull Item #16 "Approval of Succession Plan / Assistant County Administrator" from the agenda. **Motion: (Cook/Olson)** to remove the "Approval of Succession Plan / Assistant County Administrator" and approve. Carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None at this time.

**APPROVE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 29, 2025: Motion: (Bartlett/ Cook)** to approve. Carried.

**APPROVAL OF EMPLOYEE PARTICIPATION IN 2026 NACO LEADERSHIP ACADEMY - \$7,000:** Administrator French reviewed the carryover request from 2025 to 2026. Discussion. **Motion: (Olson/Bartlett)** to approve. Carried.

*Wenzel arrived at 8:02AM.*

**APPROVAL OF PAYMENT TO UW-EXTENSION FOR FIVE (5) YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN - \$5,000: Motion: (Cook/Anderson)** to approve. Discussion. Carried.

*Kusilek arrived at 8:03AM.*

**ORDINANCE – ADDITIONAL PORTIONS OF HIGHWAY 48 FOR ATV / UTV USAGE – TOWN OF RICE LAKE:** Corporation Counsel Muench reviewed the previous ordinance and the DNR's request for updates to specific wording in the original ordinance. **Motion: (Olson/Rogers)** to approve. Discussion. Carried.

**RESOLUTION – CLARIFYING FUNDING FOR THE WISCONSIN PROFESSIONAL POLICE ASSOCIATION (WPPA) CONTRACT FOR THE PERIOD 1-1-2026 TO 12-31-2027: Motion: (Cook/Bartlett)** to approve. Discussion. Carried.



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**APPROVE \$1,000 RETAINAGE PAYMENT FOR ECKERT WRECKING FOR NEW HIGHWAY FACILITY:** Administrator French reviewed the invoice and recommended payment. **Motion:** (Olson/Anderson) to approve. Discussion. Carried.

**RESOLUTION – INTENTION TO JOIN THE STATEWIDE PUBLIC SAFETY INTEROPERABLE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM FOR BARRON COUNTY:** Administrator French reviewed the timeline of the grant request and potential grant funds available to supplement the County's upcoming project. **Motion:** (Olson/Thompson) to approve. Discussion. Carried.

**RESOLUTION – TO SUPPORT WISCONSIN ESTABLISHING A MEMBERSHIP WITH THE MULTI-STATE INFORMATION SHARING AND ANALYSIS (MS-ISAC) TO COVER THE COST OF MEMBERSHIP FOR ALL STATE, LOCAL, TRIBAL AND TERRITORIAL (SLTT) ORGANIZATIONS:** Administrator French noted that IT Director Peterson submitted this resolution to the Committee and asks for approval. **Motion:** (Olson/Cook) to approve. Discussion. IT Director Peterson also answered questions from the Board. Carried.

**RESOLUTION – TO APPOINT FINANCE DIRECTOR / COUNTY AUDITOR:** **Motion:** (Olson/Wenzel) to approve. Carried.

**REQUEST TO CARRYOVER FORESTRY ACCOUNT FROM 2025 TO 2026 –** Administrator French clarified the total request is \$60,000 and will be \$20,000 for the next three years. He also announced that a new Forester / Trails Coordinator has been hired and will start later this month. **Motion:** (Cook/Bartlett) to approve. Discussion. Carried.

**POSITION UPGRADE REQUEST – ADMIN ASSISTANT I TO ADMIN ASSISTANT II IN DA OFFICE:** HR Director Richie gave an overview of the requested change to the position. Discussion. **Motion:** (Bartlett/Rogers) to approve. Carried.

### STAFF REPORTS & UPDATES:

**WCA MAGAZINE – COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS TO PROSPERITY:** Administrator French thanked staff and community partners for participation in the program.

**REVIEW VOUCHER EDIT LISTS:** No action taken.

### SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

1. ATV / UTV Trail Violations
2. Tim Deaton – May County Board 2024 Actual Numbers & 2025 Closing

**SET DATE FOR NEXT MEETING:** Wednesday, February 4, 2026 at 8:00AM.

**UNANTICIPATED EXPENSES FOR PLAN PARTICIPANT FOR 2026 SELF-FUNDED HEALTH INSURANCE FUND:** **Motion:** (Bartlett/Cook) to go into closed session pursuant to 19.85(1)(f) for the purpose of considering financial, medical, social or personal histories, or disciplinary data, or considering specific personnel problems or investigation of charge to include: Finance Director Busch, Incoming Finance Director Drury, Administrator French, Corporation Counsel Muench and HR Director Richie. Carried.



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*The remainder of the meeting minutes were taken by Administrator French.*

Agenda item #22. Motion to return to Open Session: Bartlett/Wenzel, Carried. No Action Taken

Adjourn: Chair Okey declared adjournment by unanimous consent at 8.34am.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jessica Hodek, Barron County Clerk

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