



BARRON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 2026 – 9:00 AM

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, Jim Gores, Dana Heller, Dennis Jenkins, Amanda Kohlen, Kathy Krug, Audrey Kusilek, Fran Langman, Carol Moen, Roberta Mosentine, Gary Nelson, Louie Okey, Bob Rogers, Pete Schneider, Bill Schradle, Marv Thompson, Craig Turcott, Diane Vaughn and Stacey Wenzel.

ATTENDING VIRTUALLY: Pete Olson.

ABSENT: Craig Fowler, Jamie McCready and Tim Ploetz.

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Okey called the meeting to order at 9:00AM.

ROLL CALL – PUBLIC NOTIFICATION: County Clerk Hodek took attendance and stated the County’s compliance with Wisconsin Open Meeting Laws.

INVOCATION: Led by Pastor John Terpstra from the Calvary Baptist Church of Barron.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Recited.

SPECIAL MATTERS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS (NON-ACTION ITEMS): County Veterans Service Officer Shaw introduced new Assistant CVSO Casey Stoeberl, who transferred from the Jail, and also discussed donated funds received and how they are disbursed to address unmet needs for veterans within the community. Chair Okey reviewed the current status of the sally port remodel and noted the County is currently under budget with the project. County Administrator French read the two invitations from the Rice Lake School District for the UWEC Barron County Child Care Campus Open Houses – the first for County Board Supervisors & UWEC Barron County staff on April 6th from 4:00-6:00PM and the second for the community on April 8th from 4:00-8:00PM. County Administrator French also noted Lona’s Corner Café Senior Dining recently celebrated their 4 Year Anniversary. Supervisor Patti Anderson recently did a ride along with the Highway Department during a snowstorm. Both the photos and video from the 4 Year Anniversary at Lona’s and Supervisor Anderson’s ride along will be posted online. County Clerk Hodek thanked the retiring eight County Board Supervisors for serving the County and asked they leave their Chromebooks to allow IT Director Peterson to reprogram them for the incoming Supervisors.

APPROVE AGENDA: Motion: (Heller/Turcott) to approve. Carried with 26 Yes and 3 Absent (Fowler, McCready & Ploetz).

APPROVE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 16, 2026: Motion: (Gores/Cook) to approve. Carried with 26 Yes and 3 Absent (Fowler, McCready & Ploetz).

PUBLIC COMMENT: None at this time.

RECOGNITION OF RETIRING COUNTY BOARD SUPERVISORS - Banks, Effertz, Fall, Kohlen, Mosentine, Ploetz, Rogers & Thompson: Chair Okey thanked the retiring Supervisors for their service to the County and distributed each a plaque. County Clerk Hodek and the media took photos of the retiring Supervisors.

2026-12 RESOLUTION – AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE AND ESTABLISHING PARAMETERS FOR THE SALE OF NOT TO EXCEED \$5,025,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION PROMISSORY NOTES, SERIES 2026A: Motion: (Gores/Olson) to approve. Sean Lentz, Senior Municipal Advisor with Ehlers & Associates Inc., gave an overview of the refinancing opportunity and answered questions from the Board. Discussion. Carried with 25 Yes and 3 Absent (Fowler, McCready & Ploetz) and 1 No (Banks).

2026-7 ORDINANCE – REVISING AND ADOPTING BARRON COUNTY RULES & PROCEDURES: Chair Okey gave an overview of the request from Attolles Law to review current County Board Rules & Procedures. Corporation Counsel Muench reviewed the current County Board Rules & Procedures relating to the requirement of two readings to approve changes to the County Board Rules & Procedures. Discussion. **Motion: (Kusilek/Heller)** to approve. Discussion. **Motion: (Nelson/Wenzel)** to suspend the Rules & Procedures to approve with only one reading. Discussion. Carried with 20 Yes and 6 No (Banks, Cook, Effertz, Kusilek, Kohlen & Vaughn) and 3 Absent (Fowler, McCready & Ploetz). Discussion. Main motion carried with 25 Yes, 1 No (Effertz) and 3 Absent (Fowler, McCready & Ploetz).

2026-8 ORDINANCE – REPEALING AND RECREATING CHAPTER 46, ARTICLE II. RECYCLING OF THE BARRON COUNTY GENERAL CODE: Motion: (Cook/Thompson) to approve. Carried with 26 Yes and 3 Absent (Fowler, McCready & Ploetz).

2026-9 ORDINANCE – DESIGNATING ADDITIONAL PORTION OF COUNTY HIGHWAY AS ATV/UTV ROUTE: Motion: (Jenkins/B. Anderson) to approve. Carried with 26 Yes and 3 Absent (Fowler, McCready & Ploetz).

2026-13 RESOLUTION – AUTHORIZING RELEASE OF APPROXIMATELY 2.69 ACRES COUNTY FOREST LAND, TOWN OF CEDAR LAKE, PER WISCONSIN STATE STATUTES, SECTION 28: Motion: (Moen/Gores) to approve. Carried with 26 Yes and 3 Absent (Fowler, McCready & Ploetz).

REPORT FROM COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR:

- A. **WISCONSIN COUNTIES MAGAZINE ARTICLE: “UNDER THE DOME – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS ON THE DOCKET,” WRITTEN BY DAVE ARMSTRONG, 67TH ASSEMBLY REPRESENTATIVE AND BCEDC DIRECTOR** Article included in the packet.
- B. **FORWARD ANALYTICS – AFFORDABILITY** Article included in the packet.
- C. **TWO LIGHTS FOR TOMORROW NATIONWIDE INITIATIVE – CELEBRATING 250 YEARS OF HISTORY.** French reviewed the nationwide program.
- D. **LONA’S CORNER CAFÉ SENIOR DINING 4 YEAR ANNIVERSARY:** Discussed earlier in the meeting during Specials Matters and Announcements.

APPOINTMENTS: None at this time.

CLAIMS, PETITIONS & CORRESPONDENCE: None at this time.

SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- A. **COUNTY BOARD ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING – APRIL**
- B. **2024-2026 HEALTH INSURANCE DATA - MAY**

NEXT MEETING DATE: Tuesday, April 21, 2026 at 9:00AM at the Government Center located in Barron.

ADJOURNMENT: Chair Okey adjourned the meeting at 10:25AM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jessica Hodek, County Clerk

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