



BARRON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Tuesday, April 21, 2026 - 9:00 a.m.

Barron County Government Center — Veterans Memorial Auditorium
335 East Monroe Avenue — Barron, Wisconsin 54812

Link to View Meeting: <http://youtube.com/e/BarronCountyMeetings>
Live streaming of the meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m.

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Oath of Office & Swearing In of All Supervisors –Judge James Babler
3. Roll Call- Public Notification
4. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance
5. Special Matters and Announcements (Non-Action Items)
 - a. Committee Interest Forms
6. Approve Agenda
7. Introduction of Supervisors (2 Minutes Each)
8. Approve Minutes of March 17, 2026
9. Public Comment (*Prior Registration with County Clerk Required /Maximum Allotted Time is 3 Minutes*)
10. Election of County Board & Highway Committee Elective Positions
 - a. County Board Chair
 - b. County Vice Chair
 - c. County Board 2nd Vice Chair
 - d. Highway Committee (Five Members)
11. Resolution – Authorizing Creating the Position of Assistant County Administrator
12. Report from County Administrator
 - a. Ice Age Trail Open House
 - b. Highway Cost Data

(Agenda Continued on Next Page)

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 can be made to accommodate your request.

13. Appointments

- a. Buildings & Maintenance Director – Appoint Aaron Mickelson
- b. West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (WCWRPC) – Appoint Supervisor Stacey Wenzel (*Replacing Supervisor Patti Anderson*)
- c. Cumberland Library – Reappoint Supervisor Craig Turcott and Citizen Member Chris Hopkins-Hile

14. Claims, Petitions & Correspondence

15. Suggestions for Future Agenda Items

- a. Resolution – In Support of Bill AB1033
- b. Closed Session for 2024-2026 Health Insurance Data – Tim Deaton, Horton Group
- c. Special County Board Meeting in June or July – Discussion of County’s Five Year Strategic Plan and Review of County Board’s Rules & Procedures
- d. Tour of Government Center & WTE Facility for County Board Supervisors – May 28th
- e. Tour of Justice Center & Highway Facility for County Board Supervisors – June 10th

16. Adjournment

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 can be made to accommodate your request.



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 Kohnen, 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, Kohnen, 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, Kohnen & 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.

BARRON COUNTY RESOLUTION NO. 2026 - _____

Resolution Authorizing Creating the Position of Assistant County Administrator

TO THE BARRON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

1
2 **WHEREAS**, attached to this document is the Succession Plan: Version #4.1,
3 developed by County Administrator French at the direction of the Executive Committee
4 with the objective of naming a single County Employee as Assistant County Administrator;
5 and
6

7 **WHEREAS**, the County Board has the authority to create positions for the
8 effective operations of Barron County; and
9

10 **WHEREAS**, it is the desire of the Barron County Board of Supervisors to have a
11 named Assistant County Administrator to assist the County Administrator in her/his daily
12 administrative duties and to provide a continuity of operations should the County
13 Administrator become incapacitated or be absent for an extended period of time; and
14

15 **WHEREAS**, Authority, Duties, Responsibilities and Compensation of this
16 position are subject to the terms and limitations contained in the attached Succession Plan;
17 Version 4.1 as currently approved or amended by the Executive Committee; and
18

19 **WHEREAS**, with passage of this Resolution the Barron County Board of
20 Supervisors also retains the right to amend, change or modify the intent of this Resolution
21 and the accompanying Succession Plan 4.1, in the future as necessary to meet the
22 operational needs of Barron County; and
23

24 **WHEREAS**, the drafting of this Resolution was approved by the Executive
25 Committee on April 1st, 2026 with Supervisors Okey, Thompson, Kusilek, P. Anderson,
26 Wenzel, Cook, Bartlett, Rogers and Olson voting in favor and no Supervisors voting
27 against.
28

29 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, with passage of this resolution, the
30 Barron County Board of Supervisors names Rachael Richie Assistant County
31 Administrator; and
32

33 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Authority, Duties,
34 Responsibilities and Compensation of this position are subject to the terms and limitations
35 contained in the attached Succession Plan; Version 4.1 as currently approved or amended
36 by the Executive Committee; and
37

38 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, with passage of this
39 Resolution the Barron County Board of Supervisors also retains the right to amend, change
40 or modify the intent of this Resolution and the accompanying Succession Plan 4.1 in the
41 future as necessary to meet the operational needs of Barron County; and
42

BARRON COUNTY RESOLUTION NO. 2026 - _____

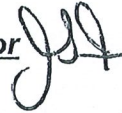
Resolution Authorizing Creating the Position of Assistant County Administrator

43 **NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that publication of this
44 resolution may occur through posting in accordance with Section 985.02 of the Wisconsin
45 Statutes.

OFFERED THIS 21ST day of April, 2026.

<p>Number of readings required: One (X) Two ()</p> <p>Vote required for passage: Majority (X) 2/3 Entire Board (20) ()</p> <p>Source of funding: Budgeted (X) General Fund (X) Grant () Contingency () Other () Details _____</p> <p>Fiscal impact: - Current year total amount: \$ unknown - Future years total amount: \$ unknown - Effect on tax levy – current year - \$ unknown - Effect on tax levy – future years - \$ unknown</p> <p>Fiscal impact reviewed by County Finance Department</p> <p>_____ Michelle Drury, Finance Director</p> <p>Approved as to form by:</p> <p>_____ Jeffrey French, Administrator</p> <p>_____ John Muench, Corporation Counsel</p>	<p>_____ Louie Okey, Executive Committee Chair</p> <p>(The Committee Chair signature verifies the action taken by the Committee.)</p> <p>Board Action: Adopted () Failed () Tabled ()</p>
-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Barron County, Barron Wisconsin
Succession Plan: Version #4.1
Jeffrey S French County Administrator



Introduction:

Chair Okey, in mid-October, 2020, you approached me asking that I research and develop a Succession Plan for my position. This document, version #4.1 is meant to fulfill this request, and **after**, discussion by Executive Committee members desiring to have a specifically *named individual to fill in during my absence*.

Relevance:

Only about 14% of companies have a succession plan for top management.
What is the impact of my departure?
If I left, what would be the impact to County operations?

Objective:

To create a seamless plan should I become incapacitated, retire or resign along with preventing a power struggle or power vacuum.

Plan/Tracking:

Mr. Chair, I recommend the following approaches.

- #1. Immediate/Unexpected Departure
- #2. Planned/Phased Departure:
- #3. *Fill in for extended paid time off*

#1. Immediate/Unexpected Departure

Under the scenario outlined above I recommend HR Director, Richie be named Assistant County Administrator by Resolution at the appropriate County Board meeting. This request is in reference to discussions by the Executive Committee, October, 2025. I also put-forward that the Wisconsin/Illinois International City/County Managers Association be contacted and a Senior Advisor, with ICMA could help navigate this interim period. Also, Public Administration Associates, or Gov. Temp. could provide an interim administrator, or at minimum be an effective resource.

- A. At the next succeeding Executive Committee meeting they would either, a., direct the HR Director to commence a recruitment or b., direct the HR Director to contract with a professional recruiting company. Furthermore, *naming the H.R. Director as the individual to fill in during my absence will provide continuity to the Board's overall long-range goals, objectives and desires.*
- B. The goal then is that within six months a new CA would be on-site and

working.

#2. Planned/Phased Departure:

If I were to be in a position of a planned departure I would give the County Board an approximate 12-18 week lead time, or longer, so my replacement would be on-site and working prior to my final day. Furthermore, if the County Board would be so inclined I would be willing to work for a time with the new person. Bottom-line I would be amenable and flexible to the needs of the County!

#3. Fill in For Extended Period of Time:

For absences in which the County Administrator is off, the named individual will fill the role of County Administrator. Under the direction of the County Board Chair and Executive Committee as contained in the County Board Rules and Procedures, Page #34., Appendix A - Appointive Committees, Boards and Commissions, 4. Executive Committee, which states, "The Executive Committee shall provide oversight and supervision of the County Administrator."

Policy Applications:

- A. This is a fill-in in the absence position, *and during my absence the HR Director shall fill in in all capacities as authorized by the County Board. With the direct oversight Committee being the Executive Committee.*
- B. Stipend paid with approval of County Board Chair in consultation with the County Administrator and corresponding notation of earned stipend on timesheet
- C. Stipend to be paid based on Pay Grade 519 as outlined in the most recent McGrath Study, at the same step as HR Director is currently on.
- D. *In the event the Assistant County Administrator is to act in the capacity of County Administrator for more than fifteen (15) business days approval will be obtained from the Executive Committee at the next regularly scheduled meeting or the County Board Chair may call a special meeting of the Executive Committee.*
- E. Also authorizes signatory authority, *in Administrator's absence*

Implementation:

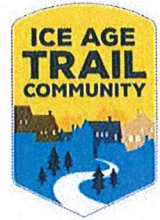
Incorporate this Position Paper along with an accompanying resolution, into section, 2.05, Department of Administration, in our existing Rules and Procedures.

Sources:

Robert Half
Td.org
SHRM and The Balance Careers.com
International City County Managers Association
Talking Talent.co
McGrath Consulting

Original Prep Date:	2020-11-6	2022-11-14	2026-02-04
Updated:	2020-12-1	2022-12-22	2026-03-02
	2020-12-4	2023-1-17	2026-03-03
	2020-12-7	2023-2-1	2026-03-04
	2020-12-29	2025-11-10	2026-03-31
	2021-1-6	2025-12-15	
	2021-1-14	2025-12-24	
	2021-1-20	2025-12-29	
	2026-1-7	2026-1-27	

g:\google\googledocs\Sucession Plan V4.docx



Contact:

Amy Lord, Ice Age Trail Alliance
608-798-4453, amy@iceagetrail.org

Three New Ice Age Trail Communities Announced

Designation celebrations to take place

Cross Plains, Wis. (April 1, 2026) — The Ice Age National Scenic Trail just became even more welcoming with the addition of three new Ice Age Trail Communities. Iola-Scandinavia, Cumberland-Barronett, and Montello join a growing network that now includes 29 communities along the 1,200-mile Ice Age Trail. All three communities offer amenities for Trail users, including lodging, dining, and resupply services.

Iola-Scandinavia (Waupaca County)

Located in central Wisconsin, the neighboring villages of Iola and Scandinavia serve as a hub between multiple Trail segments (New Hope, Iola Ski Hill, Skunk and Foster Lake)—closing the Trail Community gap that once existed in the central part of the Trail.

Positioned between the New Hope, Iola Ski Hill, Skunk and Foster Lake segments, Iola-Scandinavia is a convenient stop for hikers exploring the heart of the state.

Trail Community Designation Ceremony:

Saturday May 9

10 a.m.

Iola Winter Ski Club and Chalet

Cumberland-Barronett (Barron and Washburn Counties)

Cumberland-Barronett offers access to eight Ice Age Trail segments within a 15-mile radius, making it an ideal basecamp for exploration.

With nearby trailheads, growing recreation infrastructure like the Timberland Hills area, and new remote campsites planned for 2026, the region is quickly becoming a destination for outdoor enthusiasts.

“Our city takes great pride in its natural beauty, outdoor recreational opportunities, and strong community spirit—values that align perfectly with the mission of the Ice Age Trail Alliance,” said Daniel Shoemaker, Mayor of Cumberland. The designation enhances Cumberland’s identity as a hub for outdoor recreation while fostering economic growth and environmental stewardship, he said.

Trail Community Designation Ceremony:

Saturday May 2-during the Spring Outdoor Expo at Timberland Hills

Ribbon Cutting at 10:30 a.m.
Timberland Hills Trails, 1788 Boyd Lane, Barronett

Montello (Marquette County)

Montello brings its strong outdoor recreation identity and small-town hospitality to the Ice Age Trail Community network.

The two-mile Montello segment of the Trail runs through the city, which is intentionally building its future around sustainable, nature-based tourism. The Ice Age Trail Community designation elevates the Trail as a cornerstone of that vision—connecting visitors and residents to local businesses and natural resources.

Trail Community Designation Ceremony:

Saturday May 2-during the Montello FishnFun Festival
Ribbon Cutting at 2:00 p.m.

10 Years of Connecting Communities

Launched in 2016, the Ice Age Trail Community program, which is administered by the Ice Age Trail Alliance, helps communities leverage the Ice Age Trail as an economic and social engine. The Alliance promotes the communities as “hiker destinations” helping to increase tourism and economic activity. Within the communities, a strengthened sense of pride and connection to the Trail often develops.

“Trail Communities ensure the Trail isn’t just a path through the landscape, but a shared experience that brings people and communities together,” says Luke Kloberdanz, Executive Director and CEO of the Ice Age Trail Alliance. “That the Trail runs through or near communities is one of the unique things about the Ice Age Trail among the National Scenic Trails. The founders of the Ice Age Trail believed that experiencing Wisconsin communities was an essential part of the journey on the Trail.”

#####

About the Ice Age National Scenic Trail:

The Ice Age National Scenic Trail is a 1,200-mile footpath contained entirely within Wisconsin. It traverses the state from St. Croix Falls in the west, to Sturgeon Bay in the east, going as far south as Janesville. One of 11 National Scenic Trails, the Ice Age Trail highlights the landscapes that were carved out by ancient glaciers, which happen to be some of the most beautiful areas in the state. Approximately 78% of Wisconsin residents live within 30 miles of the Ice Age Trail.

About the Ice Age Trail Alliance:

The Ice Age Trail Alliance is a nonprofit, member- and volunteer-based organization which conserves, creates, maintains, and promotes the Ice Age National Scenic Trail. For more information visit **IceAgeTrail.org**.

Barron County Highway Department Comparison of Annual Winter Equipment Expenses

\\bcusers\users\$\jeffrench\My Documents\Jen Holub\hwy financial analysis (1).xlsx]OH analysis

There is a tab hidden labeled "by class" that shows how these average hours were obtained

	County		State	
	HOURS	DOLLARS	HOURS	DOLLARS
2024	15,800.75	\$336,336.15	14,013.00	\$302,074.88
2023	24,376.75	\$590,059.36	23,801.25	\$544,571.24
2022	28,384.50	\$600,093.60	27,792.00	\$557,319.35
2021	19,103.25	\$349,869.70	19,187.75	\$557,319.35
2020	21,409.50	\$398,072.81	20,887.00	\$367,684.51
2019	32,049.75	\$573,171.06	32,222.25	\$560,574.53
2018	27,246.75	\$478,125.70	27,462.50	\$456,250.87
2017	18,563.75	\$302,613.97	18,739.00	\$294,942.37
2016	21,901.75	\$360,813.00	21,477.25	\$348,080.19
2015	17,902.75	\$324,585.00	16,584.25	\$281,452.30

Equipment Revenue - 2024 estimate assuming an average snow fall	
Average equipment hours charged to state winter for last 10 years	22,216.63
Using the 2024 equipment rates, estimated state revenue could have been	\$614,765.59
Actual state winter equipment revenue received in 2024	\$302,074.88
Additional state revenue, had we received an avg amount of snow in 2024*	\$312,690.71
<small>*this is equipment only and does not include potential amounts of additional labor, fringe, small tools, and material revenue that would have been charged to the state and not a county expensed cost pool.</small>	

Points of Interest....

2024 was the least amount of equipment hours for winter maintenance in the last 10 years.

Overall equipment rates have been rising, but when the hours aren't there, it doesn't matter.

State dollars are considered revenue, county dollars are considered expenses. I only included the county information as a point of reference.

When there's less snow, the crew tends to bill time to non-state cost pools - usually a county expense.

To keep the equipment revenue, we'd have to still bill our time to the state, which they don't always authorize if there's no snow.

Part of the issue on the overall loss of equipment revenue was also the steadily rising shop overhead rate.

Charging overhead to outside customers would help to reduce the overall overhead, in time.

BARRON COUNTY HIGHWAY FACILITY COST PER FOOT		
\$30,000,000.00		
BUILDING	S.F.	COST/S.F.
Main Facility	162,900	\$130.51
Wash Bay	10,320	
Unheated 1	9,955	
Unheated 2	40,200	
Salt Brine Building	1,500	
Salt Shed Lean-to	5,000	
TOTAL BUILDING S.F.	229,875	
RUSK COUNTY HIGHWAY FACILITY COST PER FOOT		
\$13,000,000.00		
BUILDING	S.F.	COST/S.F.
New in 2026	58,000	\$224.14
COST IF BUILDING WERE BUILT IN 2026		
BUILDING	S.F.	TOTAL COST
All Buildings	229,875	\$51,523,706.90
TOTAL SAVINGS		\$21,523,706.90