



# **BARRON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

**MONDAY, MAY 18, 2026 – 5:00 PM**

BARRON COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER – AUDITORIUM  
335 EAST MONROE AVENUE - BARRON, WISCONSIN 54812

## **MINUTES**

**PRESENT:** Patti Anderson, Robert Anderson, Scott Bachowski, Karolyn Bartlett, Randy Cook, Sr., Mark Eby, Shelley Effertz, Carsten Ellison, Craig Fowler, Dana Heller, Dennis Jenkins, Kathy Krug, Audrey Kusilek, Fran Langman, Jeff Miller, Carol Moen, Gary Nelson, Louie Okey, Pete Olson, Dennis Sandmann, Pete Schneider, Bill Schradle, Craig Turcott, Diane Vaughn, Lauren Wentz, Stacey Wenzel and Brad Wolf.

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

**ABSENT:** Jim Gores and Jamie McCready.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Okey called the meeting to order at 5:00PM.

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

**INVOCATION:** Led by Pastor Sue Eidahl from the Bethany Lutheran Church located in Rice Lake.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Recited.

### **SPECIAL MATTERS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS (NON-ACTION ITEMS):**

1. Please Respond with Your Availability to Attend Future Committee Meetings – This ensures a quorum for committee meetings.
2. 2026 Annual Conference: RSVP by May 22, 2026 at 9:00 AM to Administrator French or his Executive Assistant.
3. Update on Sally Port Remodel – Jail Captain Evenson reported the sally port is fully functional and any Supervisor that would like a tour of the remodel should contact him directly.
4. Dairy Breakfast – June 6, 2026 – See Supervisor Kusilek if you would like to volunteer at the event.
5. Updated County Board Timesheets – Committee assignments will be updated tomorrow on the timesheets.

**APPROVE AGENDA: Motion: (Cook/Turcott)** to approve. Carried with 28 Yes and 2 Absent (Gores & McCready).

**APPROVE MINUTES OF APRIL 21, 2026: Motion: (Bachowski/Jenkins)** to amend the Public Comment from Roshell to read the intersection of US Highway 8 and 18<sup>th</sup> Street/County Highway O and approve. Carried with 27 Yes and 2 Absent (Gores & McCready).

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Chair Okey noted that Zillmer lives in Washburn County and she had sent an email to the County Clerk and the Board over the weekend regarding the resolution on wakesurfing. Chair Okey asked the Board to allow her to speak even though she isn't a tax payer in Barron County as required in the Barron County Board Rules & Procedures. No one on the Board opposed this request. Linda Zillmer – 902 Holly Hill, Village of Birchwood located in Washburn County: Spoke regarding the Resolution in Support of Assembly Bill 1033, Regulation of Wakesurfing.

**PRESENTATION: HORTON GROUP ON 2025 AND 2026 SELF-FUNDED HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN RESULTS – TIM DEATON, EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT AND SALES CONSULTANT:**

Deaton reviewed 2025-2026 YTD plan reporting, 2026 plan renewal projection, plan changes recap and the 2027 renewal timeline. Deaton and Administrator French also answered questions from the Board.

**2026-15 RESOLUTION – AUTHORIZING THE FUNDING FOR AND CREATION OF A SINGLE JAIL LIEUTENANT POSITION IN THE BARRON COUNTY JAIL: Motion: (B. Anderson/Cook)** to approve. Discussion. Carried with 27 Yes and 2 Absent (Gores & McCready).

**2026-16 RESOLUTION – IN SUPPORT OF ASSEMBLY BILL 1033, REGULATION OF WAKESURFING: Motion: (Langman/Bachowski)** to approve. Chair Okey gave the background of this Assembly Bill and the process to submit the resolutions to the WCA Board in hopes of creating legislative support in 2027. Assemblyman Armstrong reviewed the bill process and noted the DNR doesn't want a depth description in the resolution itself and will not enforce the bill. This bill remains silent on local control. Discussion. Carried with 26 Yes and 1 No (Vaughn) and 2 Absent (Gores & McCready).

**2026-10 ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENT – REZONING – TOWN OF BARRON, SCOTT AND BRENDA SCHOENBORN, OWNERS: Motion: (Jenkins/Heller)** to approve. Discussion. Carried with 27 Yes and 2 Absent (Gores & McCready).

**2026-11 ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMANET – REZONING – TOWN OF CHETEK, JAY AND KELLY OLSON, OWNERS: Motion: (Cook/Jenkins)** to approve. Discussion. Carried with 27 Yes and 2 Absent (Gores & McCready).

**2026-12 ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENT – REZONING – TOWN OF MAPLE GROVE, PROPERTY OWNER TOWN OF MAPLE GROVE: Motion: (Kusilek/Eby)** to approve. Discussion. Carried with 27 Yes and 2 Absent (Gores & McCready).

**REPORT FROM COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR:**

1. Wisconsin Counties Association (WCA) Annual Conference Resolutions – Administrator French will forward the three resolutions to WCA.
2. Quarterly Financials – Postponed to a Future Agenda Item.
3. Management's Discussion and Analysis – Postponed to a Future Agenda Item.
4. ADRC of Barron and Rusk Counties: 2025 Tax Savings Report – Information was included in the packet.

**APPOINTMENTS**

1. Committee Reorganization Appointments: **Motion: (Heller/Eby)** to eliminate the CDBG Committee and approve all other appointments as presented. Carried with 27 Yes and 2 Absent (Gores & McCready).
2. Strategic Planning Work Group – Appoint Pete Olson and Reappoint Patti Anderson, Karolyn Bartlett, Randy Cook, Louie Okey, Craig Turcott, and Stacey Wenzel: **Motion: (Heller/Eby)** to eliminate the CDBG Committee and approve all other appointments as presented. Carried with 27 Yes and 2 Absent (Gores & McCready).

**CLAIMS, PETITIONS & CORRESPONDENCE:** None at this time.

**SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:**

1. Tour of Government Center and WTE Facility for County Board Supervisors – May 28<sup>th</sup>
2. Tour of Justice Center and Highway Facility for County Board Supervisors – June 10<sup>th</sup>
3. Special County Board Meeting with Discussion of County’s Five Year Strategic Plan and Review of County Board’s Rules and Procedures – June or July
4. Quarterly Financials
5. Management’s Discussion and Analysis

*Schradle departed the meeting at 5:58PM.*

**NEXT MEETING DATE:** Monday, June 15, 2026 at 5:00PM at the Government Center located in Barron.

**2025 AND 2026 SELF-FUNDED HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN RESULTS FROM TIM DEATON, HORTON GROUP, VICE PRESIDENT AND SALES CONSULTANT: Motion: (Eby/Effertz)** 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: Administrator French, Corporation Counsel Muench, HR Director Richie and Deaton from Horton. Carried with 26 Yes and 3 Absent (Gores, McCready & Schradle).

*The minutes during and after closed session were recorded by Administrator French.*

**Return to Open Session:** Motion Supervisor Cook/Supervisor Bachowski to return to Open Session, Carried.

No Action taken in Open Session

**Adjournment:** Chair Okey declared us adjourned by Unanimous Consent at 6.26pm

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jessica Hodek, County Clerk

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