



BARRON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Monday, June 15, 2026 - 5:00 p.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 5:00 p.m.

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call- Public Notification
3. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance
4. Special Matters and Announcements (Non-Action Items)
 - a. Barron County Housing Authority Remodel Tour – August 3
5. Approve Agenda
6. Approve Minutes of May 18, 2026
7. Public Comment (*Prior Registration with County Clerk Required /Maximum Allotted Time is 3 Minutes*)
8. Resolution – Recommend Approval of the 2027 Budget & Timeline
9. Resolution – Recommend Approval Authorizing (1) FTE in Economic Support
10. Resolution – DNR Grant for Kayak Launch
11. Zoning Ordinance Amendment – Rezoning – Town of Stanley, Breyen K. & Suzanne Beranek, Owners
12. Report from County Administrator
 - a. 1st Quarter 2026 Financials
 - b. 2025 Management Discussion & Analysis
 - c. BCEDC Newsletter
13. Appointments
 - a. Travel Northwest Wisconsin Tourism Committee – Brandi Nelson, Tourism Representative

(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.

14. Claims, Petitions & Correspondence

15. Suggestions for Future Agenda Items

- a. Special County Board Meeting with Discussion of County's Five Year Strategic Plan and Review of County Board's Rules & Procedures – June 23, 2026 at 10:00am at the Highway Facility
- b. County Insurance Presentation
- c. Recodification of Sections – Code of Ordinances
- d. Appointment of Land Services Director
- e. Resolution - \$20,000 for Discover MediaWorks

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

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 18th 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 28th
2. Tour of Justice Center and Highway Facility for County Board Supervisors – June 10th
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.

BARRON COUNTY RESOLUTION NO. 2026 -

**RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING 2027 BARRON COUNTY
BUDGET PREPARATION GUIDELINES**

TO THE BARRON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

1
2 **WHEREAS**, pursuant to Wis. Stat. §59.18(5), it is the responsibility of the County
3 Administrator to prepare an annual budget for County Board review and final
4 consideration; and

5
6 **WHEREAS**, it is prudent for the County Administrator and Departmental
7 Directors to have certain guidelines and policies to follow in order to plan, compile, and
8 present a proposed annual budget; and

9
10 **WHEREAS**, it is the objective of the Barron County Board of Supervisors to
11 remain under the state imposed levy cap for operating expenses; and

12
13 **WHEREAS**, expected revenue reductions from the State of Wisconsin and Federal
14 Government make it prudent to identify all County programs, services and funding sources
15 in order to prioritize the needs and expenditures of the County; and

16
17 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Barron County Board of
18 Supervisors that the following guidelines and policies shall be used for the preparation of
19 the County's 2027 Annual Budget:

20
21 **SERVICES:** New County services shall be considered only if:

- 22
23 A. State or federal law specifically mandates such services: or
24 B. The County Board approves a new service or an increase in the level of
25 existing services based on the recommendation of a department, its standing
26 committee, board or commission, County Administrator, and the Executive
27 Committee; or
28 C. An existing program or activity is replaced with a new program or activity
29 which has been approved by the appropriate standing committee, board or
30 commission, County Administrator, and the new program or activity has no
31 adverse impact on the tax levy; or
32 D. The County Board has, by resolution, made a commitment or other
33 contractual arrangement for the support of a new program or activity.

34
35 **REVENUES:** General Guidelines and Policies:

36
37 A. Property Tax (Real Estate Tax Revenue):

- 38
39 1. The 2027 County Budget shall comply with the rules set forth by the
40 Wisconsin Legislature for property tax rate limits, including Wis. Stat. §§
41 59.605, 67.03 and 67.045.

- 42 2. The tax rate for debt service shall be determined by the County Board if
43 new debt service is incurred.
44 3. The special tax rates for the Library Tax Levy and the Highway Special
45 Bridge Aids shall be set as required by contract, petition, or statute.
46

47 B. Intergovernmental Revenues:

- 48
49 1. Intergovernmental grants-in-aid will be budgeted using a calendar year
50 accounting basis, but the actual grant award may be allocated according to
51 the grantor agency fiscal period.
52 2. Continuing grants will be budgeted based upon the unexpended or prorated
53 term of the fiscal grant, provided that the County's contribution toward the
54 project does not exceed the total amount authorized.
55 3. New grant application amounts will only be incorporated in the budget if
56 they have been previously approved by the appropriate standing committee,
57 board or commission, and County Administrator.
58 4. Intergovernmental charge for service fees will be adjusted to reflect any
59 proportionate increase in costs associated with providing services or as
60 directed by statute, administrative rule, or by action of any authorized board,
61 committee or commission.
62

63 C. User Fees and Charges:

64
65 Every effort will be made to establish appropriate user fees or charges and to
66 re-evaluate existing charges.

67 D. Use of County Sales Tax:

68 Pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 77.70 it is the desire of the County Board to utilize the
69 county sales tax for the purpose of reducing the property tax levy. However, if
70 the revenues collected from the sales tax exceed the budget amount any amount
71 determined by the County Board will be used to reduce the operating tax levy.
72

73 III. EXPENDITURES: General Guidelines and Policies: (The classification of
74 expenditures/expenses shall follow the Uniform Chart of Accounts for Wisconsin
75 Counties)
76

77 A. Personnel

- 78
79 1. Staffing Levels - The County Administrator and Executive Committee
80 shall recommend to the County Board staffing levels and all new
81 positions or position changes in compliance with the Position
82 Justification Process.
83
84 2. All departments shall make a diligent effort to minimize budgeted
85 overtime and compensatory time and must justify any overtime or
86 compensatory time.
87
88 3. Employee Compensation - Personnel services (salaries, wages and
89 fringe benefits) will be budgeted utilizing the Salaries and Fringe
90 Benefit worksheet. Sufficient funds shall be budgeted to cover the
91 wages and benefits contained within the established WPPA collective

92 bargaining agreement. The County Administrator and Executive
93 Committee shall recommend increases to be budgeted for non-
94 represented employees.

95
96 B. Contracted Services - Contracted services will be identified on the
97 Contracted Services Worksheet using a zero-based budgeting approach.

98
99 C. Operation and Maintenance - The following specific line items contained
100 with the operation and maintenance category shall be detailed on the
101 Operation and Maintenance Worksheet using a zero-based budgeting
102 approach: #314 Small Equipment Under \$500 per item; # 322
103 Subscriptions, Newspapers & Periodicals; #320 Publications; #329
104 Manuals/Books & Pamphlets; #324 Membership Dues; # 325
105 Conference/Training Registration Fees; # 335 Meals & Lodging; #'s
106 330,332,337,338,339 relating to Travel; and #'s 310, 312, 319, 349 relating
107 to Office, Operating Supplies & Expenses.

108
109 D. Fixed Charges - Fixed charges shall be budgeted by each department as
110 necessary.

111
112 E. Capital Improvement Capital Outlay Plan - Each department will update the
113 five-year Capital Improvement Request Plan. New major capital projects,
114 which require the issuance of debt, shall be accounted for in a Capital
115 Projects Fund.

116
117 F. Contingency Fund - There shall be a Contingency Line Item Appropriation
118 in the 2026 Budget for costs that cannot be identified at the time the budget
119 is prepared and are not ordinary expenses. Pursuant to Wis. Stats 65.90 §
120 4(b) the Executive Committee is authorized to transfer funds between
121 budgeted items of an individual county office or department, if such
122 budgeted items have been separately appropriated, and to supplement the
123 appropriations for a particular office, department or activity by transfers
124 from the contingent fund. Such committee transfers shall not exceed the
125 amount set up in the contingency fund as adopted in the annual budget, nor
126 aggregate in the case of an individual office, department or activity in excess
127 of 10 per cent of the funds originally provided for such office, department
128 or activity in such annual budget.

129
130 G. An expenditure is defined as those which are ordinary, reasonable and
131 necessary for the purposes for which that department and its' statutory
132 functions were created and /or in accordance with the governing rules of a
133 grant agreement.

134
135 H. Revenue shall be defined per the basis of accounting of the fund in which
136 the revenue is to be recognized in accordance with the Government
137 Accounting Auditing and Financial Reporting Guide as prepared by the
138 Government Finance Officers Association.

139
140 I. Any ambiguity as to the appropriateness of an expenditure of the
141 recognition of revenue shall be referred to the County Administrator.

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143 IV. FUND BALANCES:

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Fund Balances shall be maintained in accordance with Barron County Rules and Procedures.

V. COMPLIANCE WITH BUDGET PROCEDURES:

- A. All county departments shall submit a listing of programs, services and funding sources including services provided to other units of government and county overmatches of state and federal funds in a format as determined by the County Administrator.
- B. All county departments shall prepare and submit their 2026 budget request in accordance with the budget calendar attached hereto, which may be updated or amended by the County Administrator and Executive Committee.
- C. Failure to provide timely information on the required form or in the required format may result in a department's 2026 budget being set at an amount as determined by the County Administrator.
- D. The County Administrator shall first review each department's budget prior to review by each appropriate standing committee, board or commission.
- E. No department shall transfer funds between the individual line items without permission of the Executive Committee.
- F. No department shall expend funds other than for the purpose for which the original appropriation was authorized by the final County Board approved budget.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that publication of this resolution may occur through posting in accordance with Section 985.02 of the Wisconsin Statutes.

OFFERED THIS 15th day of June, 2026.

Number of readings required: One Two ()

Vote required for passage: Majority
2/3 Entire Board (20) ()

Source of funding: Budgeted General Fund ()
Grant () Contingency ()
Other () Details _____

Fiscal impact:

- Current year total amount: \$ Budgeted
- Future years total amount \$ Budgeted
- Effect on tax levy – current year \$ Budgeted
- Effect on tax levy – future years \$ Budgeted

Fiscal impact reviewed by:

Michelle Drury, Finance Director

Approved as to form by:

Jeffrey French, County Administrator

John Muench, Corporation Counsel

Louie Okey, Executive Committee Chair

(The Committee Chair signature verifies the
action taken by the Committee.)

Board Action: Adopted () Failed () Tabled ()

Barron County
2027 Budget Process Timeline

Event	Date	Responsible Party
1. Adopt Budget Guidelines	June 15	County Board
2. Deliver Budget Worksheets to Departments	July 10	Finance Director
3. Administrator Meets with Department Heads	July 13-Aug 7	Administrator/Dept. Heads/Finance Director
4. Committee Budget Approval	July-Sept	Administrator/Dept. Heads/Finance Director/Committees
5. Budget Request Deadline	Aug 7	Department Heads/Finance Director
6. Preliminary Budget Presentation to Executive Committee	Sept 2	Administrator/Executive
7. Preliminary Budget Presentation to County Board	Sept 14	Administrator/County Board
8. Executive Committee Recommendation to County Board	Oct 7	Administrator/Executive
9. Publish Budget Publication Per Statute 65.90	Oct 12	Finance Director
10. County Board Meeting	Oct 19	Administrator/County Board
11. Public Hearing***	Nov 2 – 9:00 am	County Board
12. Adoption of 2027 budget (If Necessary)	Nov 10 – 9:00 am	County Board

*****The County Board may adopt the 2027 Budget after the close of the Public Hearing during the November 2nd County Board meeting.**

BARRON COUNTY RESOLUTION NO. 2026 -

Resolution Authorizing One (1) Full Time Equivalent Economic Support Lead or Worker

TO THE BARRON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

1
2 **WHEREAS**, Assembly Bill 180 was passed on March 23rd, 2026 resulting in 2025
3 Wisconsin Act 116, Food Share Program Prohibition, Position Authorization, and
4 Appropriation; and

5
6 **WHEREAS**, this action increases appropriations to the State Department of
7 Human Services, in an amount of \$72,727,600.00; and

8
9 **WHEREAS**, this act increases DHS's authorized FTE positons; and

10
11 **WHEREAS**, Barron County is a member of the Great Rivers Consortium, which
12 will receive additional dollars as a result of the passage of 2025 Wisconsin Act 116; and

13
14 **WHEREAS**, Health and Human Service Director Karla Potts-Shufelt drafted a
15 position paper which explains this situation more full and is attached to this resolution; and

16
17 **WHEREAS**, there is also attached to this Resolution Wisconsin Legislative
18 Council Act Memo prepared by: Kelly McGraw, Staff Attorney, so as to also more fully
19 explain the details of 2025 Wisconsin Act 116; and

20
21 **WHEREAS**, on May 26th, 2026 the Health and Human Services Board met and
22 recommend the hiring one additional FTE as recommend in the Position Paper; and

23
24 **WHEREAS**, the drafting of this Resolution was approved by the Executive
25 Committee on June 3rd, 2026, with Supervisors P. Anderson, Bartlett, Cook, Fowler,
26 Kusilek, Okey, Olson, Turcott & Wenzel, 9 voting in favor, and Supervisors, 0 voting
27 against.

28
29 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that with passage of this Resolution
30 the Barron County Board of Supervisors hereby authorizes the hiring of one Full-Time
31 Equivalent (FTE) as allowed by 2025 Wisconsin Act 116; and

32
33 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the 2026 Health and Human Services
34 Budget his hereby adjusted to reflect this hiring; and

35
36 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that publication of this resolution may occur
37 through posting in accordance with Section 985.02 of the Wisconsin Statutes.

38

BARRON COUNTY RESOLUTION NO. 2026 -

Resolution Authorizing One (1) Full Time Equivalent Economic Support Lead or Worker

OFFERED THIS 15th day of June, 2026.

<p>Number of readings required: One (X) Two ()</p> <p>Vote required for passage: Majority () 2/3 Entire Board (20) (X)</p> <p>Source of funding: Budgeted () General Fund () Grant () Contingency () Other (X) Details: 100% Funded through State Appropriation(s) 2025 Wisconsin Act 116</p> <p>Fiscal impact: - Current year total amount: \$ Unknown - Future years total amount: \$ Unknown - Effect on tax levy – current year - \$ -0- - Effect on tax levy – future years - \$ -0-</p> <p>Fiscal impact reviewed by County Finance Department</p> <p>_____ Michelle Drury Finance Director\County Auditor</p> <p>Approved as to form by:</p> <p>_____ Jeffrey French, Administrator</p> <p>_____ John Muench, Corporation Counsel</p>	<p>_____ Karolyn Bartlett, Health and Human Services Chair</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>
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C:\word\corp counsel documents\E.S. Worker – Act 116.docx

BARRON COUNTY RESOLUTION NO. 2026 -

**Authorizing Resolution Applying for Cost-Share Grant
From Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources**

TO THE BARRON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

1 **WHEREAS**, Barron County is interested in obtaining a cost-share grant from the
2 Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for the purpose of locating kayak launches
3 along the Red Cedar River at the CTH D, CTH I and CTH A/I river access points; and
4

5 **WHEREAS**, the applicant attests to the validity and veracity of the statements and
6 representations contained in the application; and
7

8 **WHEREAS**, an agreement is required to carry out the project; and
9

10 **WHEREAS**, this resolution was approved by the Property Committee on June 1,
11 2026 on a vote of 8-0 with 8 voting in favor and 0 voting in opposition.
12

13 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that Barron County will meet the
14 financial obligations necessary to fully and satisfactorily complete the project and hereby
15 authorizes and empowers the following officials or employees to submit the following
16 documents to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for financial assistance that
17 may be available:
18

Task	Title of Authorized Representative	Email address and phone number if alternative is used
Sign and submit application	Building/Maintenance Director	aaron.mickelson@co.barron.wi.us 715-418-0234
Enter into an Agreement with the WDNR	Building/Maintenance Director	aaron.mickelson@co.barron.wi.us 715-418-0234
Submit annual and final reports to the WDNR to satisfy the Agreement, as appropriate	Building/Maintenance Director	aaron.mickelson@co.barron.wi.us 715-418-0234
Submit reimbursement request(s) to the WDNR per the Agreement	Building/Maintenance Director	aaron.mickelson@co.barron.wi.us 715-418-0234
Sign and submit other documentation as necessary to complete the project per the agreement	Building/Maintenance Director	aaron.mickelson@co.barron.wi.us 715-418-0234

19 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that applicant will comply with all local, state,
20 and federal rules, regulations, and ordinances relating to this project and the cost-share
21 agreement.

BARRON COUNTY RESOLUTION NO. 2026 -

Authorizing Resolution Applying for Cost-Share Grant
From Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

22 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that publication of this resolution may occur
23 through posting in accordance with Section 985.02 of the Wisconsin Statutes.
24

OFFERED THIS 15th day of June, 2026.

<p>Number of readings required: One (<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>) Two ()</p> <p>Vote required for passage: Majority (<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>) 2/3 Entire Board (20) ()</p> <p>Source of funding: Budgeted (<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>) General Fund () Grant (<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>) Contingency () Other () Details _____</p> <p>Fiscal impact: - Current year total amount: \$ - Future years total amount: \$ - Effect on tax levy – current year - \$ - Effect on tax levy – future years - \$</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>_____ Dana Heller, Property Committee Chair</p> <p>(The Committee Chair signature verifies the action taken by the Committee.)</p> <p>Board Action: Adopted () Failed () Tabled ()</p>
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BARRON COUNTY ZONING ORDINANCE NO. 2026 –

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ZONING CODE, (Re: Breyen K & Suzanne
Beranek),
COUNTY OF BARRON, WISCONSIN

The Barron County Board of Supervisors ordains as follows

1
2 **WHEREAS,** Breyen K & Suzanne Beranek, owners, filed a Petition to rezone
3 certain property in Barron County;

4
5 **WHEREAS,** the Zoning Map of Barron County, Wisconsin as specified in Section
6 17.26 of the Barron County Land Use Ordinance shall be amended to change the zoning
7 classification of the property in the County of Barron, Wisconsin, depicted in the attached
8 map, incorporated herein by reference, and described hereafter from:

9
10 _____ **Agricultural-2** _____ to _____ **Residential-1** _____

11
12 **LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY:**

13 Rezone that plats 10-1 & 9-1 NW-SW ex prt in 381/418 & ex CSM 20/149 #2949 & Incl prt
14 NE-SW Lyg Wly USH 53 (MOS #8022), shall not exceed more than 7.5 acres, located in
15 Section 29, T34N, R11W, Town of Stanley;

16
17 **WHEREAS,** this Amendment was approved by the Zoning Committee on June 3,
18 2026, on a vote of 5:0, with Jenkins, Cook, Bartlett, Sandmann and Kusilek all voting in
19 favor and 0 against.

20
21 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED,** that this Ordinance shall be effective
22 upon its adoption and publication and that publication of this ordinance may occur through
23 posting in accordance with Section 985.02 of the Wisconsin Statutes.
24

BARRON COUNTY ZONING ORDINANCE NO. 2026 -

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ZONING CODE, (Re: Breyen K & Suzanne
Beranek),
COUNTY OF BARRON, WISCONSIN**

Page 2

OFFERED THIS 15th day of June, 2026.

<p>Number of readings required: One <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Two ()</p> <p>Vote required for passage: Majority <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2/3 Entire Board (20) ()</p> <p>Source of funding: Budgeted () General Fund () Grant () Contingency () Other <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Details <u>N/A</u></p> <p>Fiscal impact: - Current year total amount: \$ - Future years total amount: \$ - Effect on tax levy – current year - \$ - Effect on tax levy – future years - \$</p> <p>Fiscal impact reviewed by: _____ Michelle Drury, Finance Director</p> <p>Approved as to form by: _____ Jeffrey French, Administrator</p> <p>_____ John Muench, Corporation Counsel</p>	<p>_____ Audrey Kusilek, Committee Chair</p> <p>(The Committee Chair signature verifies the action taken by the Committee.)</p> <p>Board Action: Adopted () Failed () Tabled ()</p>
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**BARRON COUNTY ZONING COMMITTEE
BARRON, WISCONSIN
ACTION AND REPORT**

FINDINGS OF FACT:

Having heard the testimony and considered the evidence presented, the Zoning Committee determines the facts of this case to be:

Filing Date: April 16, 2026

File # 044-2900-71-000

Hearing Date: June 3, 2026

Petitioner: **Breyen K & Suzanne Beranek**

Owner: Breyen J & Suzanne Beranek, PO Box 340, Cameron, WI

Property Address: 1347 19th Street, Cameron, WI
(Name and Address)

1. The petitioner is the owner/lessee/mortgagee of the following described property, which is the subject of the petition to rezone the following: PLATS 10-1 & 9-1 NW-SW EX PRT IN 381/418 & EX CSM 20/149 #2949 & INCL PRT NE-SW LYG WLY USH 53 (MOS #8022), located in Section 29, T34N, R11W, **Town of Stanley**, Barron County, Wisconsin.
2. The petitioner requests to rezone from the **Agricultural-2 district to Residential-1.**
3. The present use of the property is: vacant land.
4. Petitioner purpose of the rezoning request is: rezone 6 acres of mostly wooded land with about an acre of farmland to build a 3 bedroom home for grandson.
5. Per Section 17.81(3)(a) of the Land Use Ordinance, the committee finds that:

Based on the following findings of fact, the Committee Recommends the **APPROVAL** of the petition to rezone:

- 1.) Meets the requirements of Section 17.81 (3)(a) of the Barron County Land Use Ordinance.
- 2.) Consistent with neighboring properties.
- 3.) Town in favor of the request.
- 4.) Shall not exceed 7.5 acres.

Is the Committee's decision consistent with the County Plan? Yes X No

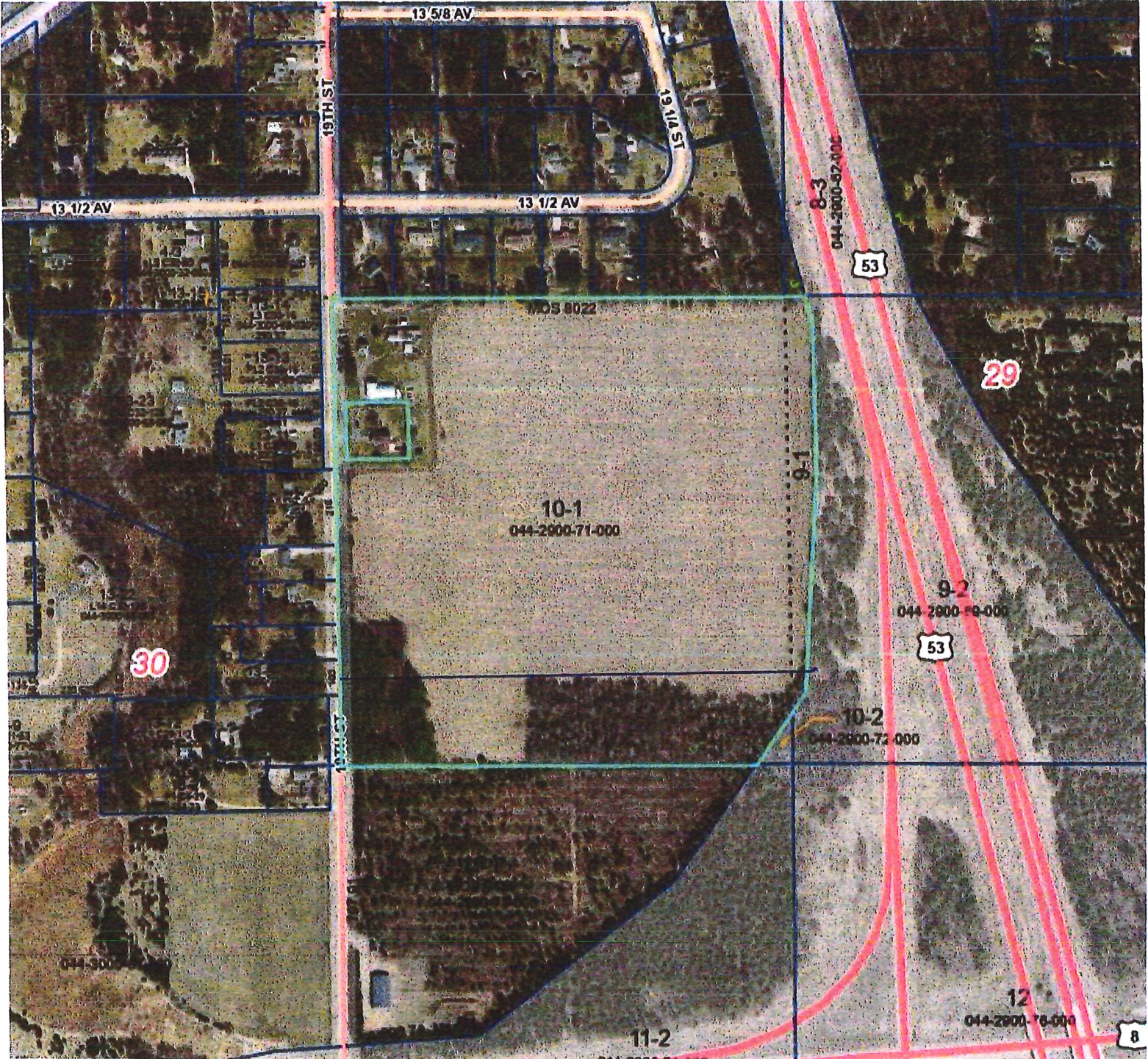
Barron County Zoning Committee:

Signed: Audrey Kusilek
Audrey Kusilek, Committee Chairperson

Attest: Becky Melton
Becky Melton, Committee Secretary

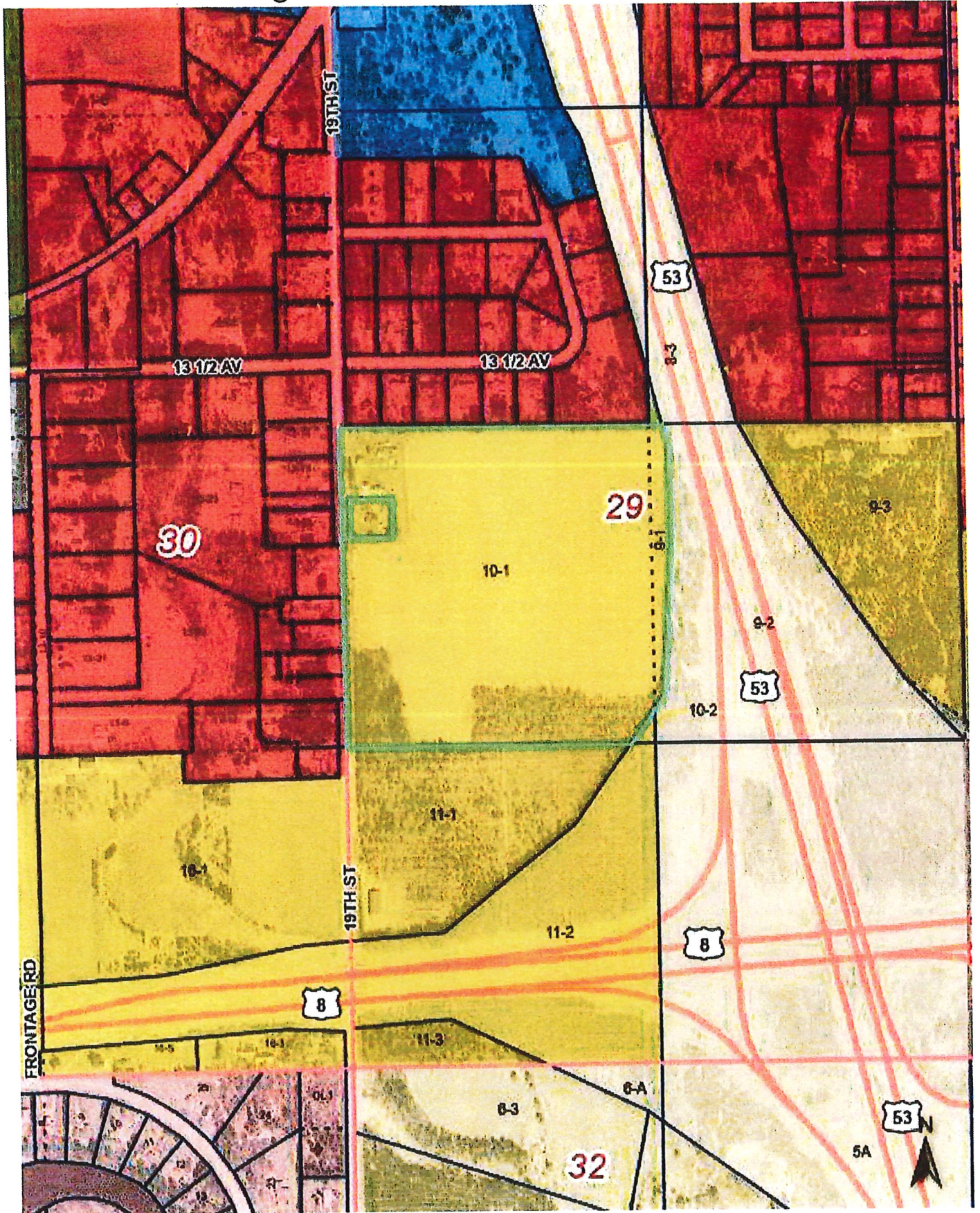
Dated: 6.3.2026

(Signed by Committee Chairperson _____ on _____.)
Committee action is not final until approved by County Board Resolution.



Beranek Rezoning

Created by: null



Internal Management Memorandum
Unaudited Draft for Discussion Purposes Only

<u>Revenues in Total for all Funds</u>									<u>Five Year Average</u>
				<u>2026</u>	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2022-2026</u>
Taxes & Transfer Fees	A.	41		2,604,658	2,532,932	2,613,900	2,524,090	2,380,252	2,531,166
Intergovernmental Revenues	B.	43		2,441,556	2,222,899	2,375,292	2,066,568	1,934,637	2,208,190
Licenses & Permits	C.	44		125,868	139,270	151,310	168,009	165,242	149,940
Fines, Forfeitures - Penalties	D.	45		80,323	67,292	49,802	61,831	55,466	62,943
Public Charges for Services	E.	46		1,389,357	1,493,893	1,425,528	1,247,822	1,141,014	1,339,523
Intergovernmental Charges for Services	F.	47		1,493,976	1,247,566	1,212,202	1,635,136	1,102,547	1,338,285
Misc. Revenues (interest & donations)	G.	48		3,274,859	3,090,253	3,114,871	3,953,956	2,578,300	3,202,448
Other Financing Sources	H.	49		1,450	508,036	125,664	0	0	127,030
Total Revenues				11,412,047	11,302,140	11,068,570	11,657,413	9,357,459	10,959,526

	\$	%
2026 versus 2025	109,907	0.97%
2026 versus Five Year Average	452,521	4.13%

Brief explanations to revenue variances from prior year

A. Taxes & Transfer Fees	71,726	Increased Sales Tax & highway levy
B. Intergovt Revenues	218,657	HHS Claims submitted promptly reducing lag in payments
C. Licenses & Permits	(13,403)	NR-135 permits decreased (as budgeted) & Sanitarian decreased \$1900
D. Fines, Forfeitures - Penalties	13,032	Jail Assessments & OWI Surcharges increased
E. Public Charges for Services	(104,536)	WTE collections & Out of County Prisoner charges down
F. Intergovern Chgs for Services	246,410	Winter maint sales to munis - More plowing in 2026
G. Misc Revenues	184,606	Highway winter maintenance increased per weather
H. Other Financing Sources	(506,586)	2025 had \$500,000 in loan proceeds for CICOP
	<u>109,907</u>	

Barron County, Barron Wisconsin
 Quarterly Historical Analysis
 1-1 to 3-31 - Expenditures

Date 5/12/26
 Time 8:51 AM
 Preparer MLD

Internal Management Memorandum
Unaudited Draft for Discussion Purposes Only

<u>Expenditures in Total for all Funds</u>								Five Year Average
			<u>2026</u>	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2022-2026</u>
General Government	A.	51	3,393,613	3,430,861	3,116,661	2,682,988	2,695,819	3,063,988
Public Safety	B.	52	2,632,161	2,702,351	2,388,979	2,136,752	2,107,208	2,393,490
Public Works	C.	53	4,495,601	4,251,344	4,904,144	5,359,968	3,534,488	4,509,109
Health & Human Services	D.	54	5,830,861	5,954,482	5,609,157	5,333,150	4,506,505	5,446,831
Culture, Recreation, Education	E.	55	933,558	975,109	875,580	867,197	886,069	907,503
Conservation & Development	F.	56	1,302,830	1,304,819	1,280,145	1,146,752	1,344,456	1,275,800
Capital Outlay	G.	57	770,464	1,111,297	777,097	1,256,974	3,075,819	1,398,330
Debt Service	H.	58	310,936	251,250	251,250	400	1,740,052	510,778
Other Financing Uses		59	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Expenditures			19,670,024	19,981,513	19,203,014	18,784,181	19,890,415	19,505,829
2026 versus 2025			\$\$(311,490)	%%-1.56%				
2026 versus Five Year Average			164,194	0.84%				

Brief explanations to expenditure variances from prior year

A. General Government	(37,248)	Vendor pymts to Honeywell not paid in Q1 2026
B. Public Safety (Sheriff)	(70,190)	2025 included Sheriff Dept tasers & K9 training
C. Public Works (Highway)	244,257	Winter maintenance costs up per weather
D. Health & Human Serv	(123,622)	DHHS decreases in placements, CSP & CCS
E. Culture, Recreation, Education	(41,551)	2025 included large ATV trail project
F. Conservation & Development	(1,988)	Less expense for WTE employee health insurance
G. Capital Outlay	(340,833)	2025 included CDBG & Hwy - 2026 Sallyport & more CICOP
H. Debt Service	59,686	Increased per 2025 WTE shredder debt pymt
I. Other Financing Uses	0	
	<u>(311,490)</u>	

Internal Management Memorandum
Unaudited Draft for Discussion Purposes Only

	<u>2026</u>	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>Five Year Average</u> <u>2022-2026</u>
Total Revenues	11,412,047	11,302,140	11,068,570	11,657,413	9,357,459	10,959,526
Total Expenditures	19,670,024	19,981,513	19,203,014	18,784,181	19,890,415	19,505,829
Revenues minus Expenditures	(8,257,976)	(8,679,373)	(8,134,445)	(7,126,769)	(10,532,956)	(8,546,304)
Versus prior year	421,396	(544,928)	(1,007,676)	3,406,187		

3/31/26 G/F Unassigned Fund Balance (unaudited)	12,230,794	
Less deficit	<u>(8,257,976)</u>	41%
	3,972,818	

**\$8.26 million represents the amount of cash that we need available to cover our Expenditures.
 We need healthy Fund Balance Reserves to cover our expenses when funding is delayed.**

Benefits of a Strong Reserve:

- * Ability to respond to significant, unplanned, and unavoidable costs or revenue losses
- * Aids in buffering local government from volatility
- * Helps governments as resources become more constrained
- * Rising costs paired with stagnating revenue growth
- * Ability to better handle natural disasters - FEMA reimbursements can take up to 18 months
- * Reserves support a strong bond rating by signaling to investors that we have resources to pay back debt even with potential disruptions to our financial position

Examples:

- Highway Facility Overage
- Gas Prices - Supply Chain Issues
- DHHS / Health Insurance Overages
- Economic Downturns / Recession
- 2017 Tornado / 2019 Windstorm
- AA Bond Rating

"Reserves" is a budget and policy term that describes the resources available outside of the budget for use if the resources appropriated inside of the budget are sufficient.

BARRON COUNTY, WISCONSIN

**MANAGEMENT’S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
For the Year Ended December 31, 2025**

CURRENTLY KNOWN FACTS

Barron County began collecting the ½ cent sales tax in 1986 with a total collection of \$517,493. In 2025, this amount has grown to a record annual figure of \$6,368,645. This equates to an increase of \$5,851,152 or over twelve times the first year’s collections. During the 40 year period since 1986, average annual increases have been approximately \$146,279. This translates into a yearly percentage increase of approximately 3%.

Annually, 33% of sales tax fund balance in excess of budget is utilized in the subsequent budget year. For the year ended December 31, 2025, the County used sales tax revenue as a direct reduction in the general operating property tax levy in the amount of \$6,720,000.

- Comparative Unemployment Rates:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Barron Cty</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>National</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Barron Cty</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>National</u>
2025	4.0%	3.2%	4.3%	2020	6.1%	6.3%	8.1%
2024	3.4%	3.0%	4.1%	2019	3.0%	3.5%	3.7%
2023	3.4%	3.2%	3.6%	2018	3.3%	3.0%	3.9%
2022	3.3%	3.0%	3.5%	2017	3.6%	3.3%	4.4%
2021	2.2%	3.1%	3.9%	2016	4.5%	3.7%	4.7%

- Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics & Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis (County)
- Comparative Values of Building Permits as Issued by the Barron County Zoning Department:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Amount</u>
2025	\$59,834,566	2021	\$54,611,693	2017	\$33,541,753
2024	\$76,047,492	2020	\$29,994,620	2016	\$29,118,477
2023	\$80,879,532	2019	\$32,906,304	2015	\$60,872,544
2022	\$59,348,550	2018	\$37,608,189	2014	\$20,911,494

- Data on Barron County Foreclosure *Filings* is as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Filings</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Filings</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Filings</u>
2025	51	2021	11	2017	80
2024	57	2020	30	2016	81
2023	56	2019	87	2015	80
2022	49	2018	84	2014	88

BARRON COUNTY, WISCONSIN

**MANAGEMENT’S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
For the Year Ended December 31, 2025**

- Levy limit rates are based on \$1,000/valuation. Comparative data is as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Operating</u>	<u>Debt</u>	<u>Library</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Operating</u>	<u>Debt</u>	<u>Library</u>
2025	\$ 2.86	\$.29	\$.14	2020	\$4.23	\$.61	\$.21
2024	\$ 3.10	\$.31	\$.15	2019	\$ 4.29	\$.64	\$.19
2023	\$ 3.49	\$.28	\$.16	2018	\$ 4.40	\$.66	\$.19
2022	\$ 3.93	\$.53	\$.18	2017	\$ 4.48	\$.57	\$.19
2021	\$ 4.14	\$.56	\$.18	2016	\$ 4.42	\$.63	\$.19

- Current Net New Construction rules allow the annual levy limit ceiling increase to be equal to zero, or Net New Construction, whichever is greater. Comparative Net New Construction data is as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>% Increase</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>% Increase</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>% Increase</u>
2025/2026	1.66%	2022/2023	1.226%	2019/2020	1.198%
2024/2025	1.550%	2021/2022	1.119%	2018/2019	1.255%
2023/2024	1.311%	2020/2021	.932%	2017/2018	1.491%

- Total maximum and actual tax levy based on current laws are:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Maximum</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Maximum</u>	<u>Actual</u>
2026	\$22,703,569	\$22,703,569	2021	\$ 22,629,074	\$ 22,199,961
2025	\$22,022,702	\$ 22,022,702	2020	\$ 22,662,099	\$ 21,955,284
2024	\$21,871,979	\$ 21,867,534	2019	\$ 22,255,124	\$ 21,315,394
2023	\$21,167,126	\$ 21,164,743	2018	\$ 22,087,857	\$ 20,916,813
2022	\$ 22,228,979	\$ 21,817,601	2017	\$ 21,247,314	\$ 20,210,095

To address economic impacts of the pandemic, the Biden Administration launched the American Rescue Plan Act in 2021, allocating \$350 billion in funding to state, local, territorial and tribal governments. Barron County’s piece of the pie totals just under \$8.8 million. Per the guidelines, Barron County is focusing these funds to be used for government services under the Lost Revenue Replacement rules, which frees up tax levy to be used for various County projects. To date, the following projects have been encumbered:

- IT equipment \$ 215,163
- Attorney Fee / Financial Advisor Fees \$ 7,318
- County Highway Maps \$ 6,723
- County ATV/Snow Trail Maps \$ 8,143
- Highway Speed Signs for Tourist Areas \$ 10,000
- Well Testing \$ 8,000

BARRON COUNTY, WISCONSIN

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS For the Year Ended December 31, 2025

• Barron County Housing Authority Rehabilitation	\$ 3,500,000
• PPE	\$ 23,096
• Auditorium Seating	\$ 47,164
• Snowmobile/ATV Bridge Rehab & Light-Weight Grooming Equip	\$ 482,320
• Hwy T Vermillion Creek Bridge Rehab	\$ 293,926
• Fiber to Communications Towers	\$ 672,000
• Owen Anderson Rifle Range Improvements	\$ 25,000
• JC Stanley Security Upgrades	\$ 80,975
• WPPA Wage Increases 2024-2025	\$ 300,000
• Straw Pit Rifle Range Improvements	\$ 25,000
• Aging Kitchen Engineering/Design	\$ 2,145,338
• UWEC-BC Water Line Design	\$ 86,600
• Government Center Boilers	\$ 150,000
• DHHS Software	\$ 1,000,896
• UWEC-BC Roofs – Student Center / Gymnasium	\$ 267,390
• Sally Port IT Improvements	\$ 50,000
• Kayak Launch & Dock – Red Cedar River	\$ 12,563

The Barron County Housing Authority has 70 multi-family housing units scattered across Barron County that were constructed in 1978. Housing Authority Staff, along with the County Board of Supervisors, would like to rehabilitate these properties through the use of a combination of low income housing tax credits, grants, loans, and American Rescue Plan dollars. Housing Authority staff has been working with Tom Landgraf Consulting to apply for the tax credits and bring the project to fruition. Barron County has committed \$3.5 million of American Rescue Plan dollars to the rehab. Construction has started in 2025 with project completion expected in 2026.

To lend financial stability to the project, The Executive Committee approved an Escrow Agreement with Sterling Bank in October, 2024 for the remaining ARPA balance of \$3,208,576.68. Sterling Bank is providing third party oversight for thoroughness, accuracy and propriety until the funds are expended in 2026.

The main shop of the Barron County Highway facility was built in 1947 with the office being built in 1999. Barron County had been discussing the need for a new Highway Facility since 2008. In August of 2019, the County Board approved Resolution 2019-22 to officially begin the process of designing a new Highway Facility. In December of 2020, Resolution 2020-32 awarded the sale of \$25,120,000 GO debt to Baird, Red Bank, New Jersey at a true interest cost of \$1.53% over 20 years. With financing firmly in place, Resolution 2020-33 was passed authorizing the rebuilding of the Barron County Highway Facility with the official ground breaking ceremony occurring on May 3, 2021.

BARRON COUNTY, WISCONSIN

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS For the Year Ended December 31, 2025

The final facility includes a 167,000+ square foot maintenance building with equipment storage and offices, an unheated storage building, county vehicle storage building, two wash bays, and modifications to existing structures.

Through the construction process, there were several bumps along the way. Issues with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) caused delays in permitting which snowballed into added costs. Poor soils at the building site requiring correction added to the bill, along with various budgeting issues, which created a \$4.6 million project deficit in 2022. On November 2, 2022 at a special meeting of the County Board of Supervisors, it was decided to restrict \$4.6 million of unrestricted fund balance in the Barron County Highway Internal Service Fund for the purpose of covering the estimated deficit so the project could be completed. Also approved was a Financial Oversight Committee consisting of selected County Board Supervisors and staff for the remainder of the project.

The facility construction was completed in 2025. The project came in under budget and \$272,392 was returned to the highway fund.

Since County Staff took over the management of the Barron County Waste to Energy Plant in 2017, several substantial repairs and upgrades have been completed. To remain in compliance of the air permit, it was time to address the installation of a new Acid Gas Removal System. With the estimated cost of \$4.4 million, a GO Debt State Trust Fund loan in the amount of \$4 million was obtained in 2022 to fund the project, along with an advance from the General Fund of \$390,000. The new system will provide various efficiencies and increase the daily burn capacity from 100 tons/day to 150 tons/day. The project was completed in 2025.

The County is working with Ehlers to pursue a bond to consolidate the two trust fund loans for the Waste to Energy Plant in 2026. A contract has been signed with DA Davidson and a bond issue will occur if the required rate and savings parameters are met.

In 2024, Waste to Energy management staff identified a new revenue stream that would support the purchase a material handler and shredder. In addition to the specific revenue stream, it also provides additional opportunities to shred and incinerate other types of waste. Resolutions 2024-30 and 2024-32 approved the purchase and State Trust Fund Loan in the amount of \$1.5 million over 10 years.

In 2023, the Sheriff was interested in expanding and improving the existing Sally Port at the Barron County Justice Center. Since then, design commenced with the County Board approving the expansion with Resolution 2024-40 at a total cost of \$2,876,370. Since then, bids have been obtained, which came in below budget, and a bonding has been completed to

BARRON COUNTY, WISCONSIN

**MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
For the Year Ended December 31, 2025**

fund the project. The project experienced delays with secure doors, but construction is expected to be completed in May 2026. The project will be well under budget.

The analog communications system formerly in service by the Barron County Sheriff's Department had met its useful life. Resolution 2024-2 approved \$1,500,000 of unassigned fund balance for the project, with any grant funds obtained, to offset the cost. In October, 2024, the County Board approved a Sterling Bank Note to replenish unassigned fund balance as no grants were awarded. The project was completed in early 2025 with the project coming in under budget by \$103,000.

REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

This financial report is designed to provide a general overview of Barron County's finances for all those with an interest in the government's finances. Questions concerning any of the information provided in this report or requests for additional financial information should be addressed to the Barron County Finance Director, 335 East Monroe Avenue, Room 2510, Barron, WI 54812.

Below is an update on EDC activities, focus areas, and tourism initiatives.

Business Services

BizStart Barron County

- Start up business program - over 200 new contacts a year
 - Business plan creation, marketing plan creation
 - 3 year financial forecast creation with SBDC partner
 - Site selection assistance
 - Prepare entrepreneurs for financing and start, follow up to ensure success

Retention Programs

- Business retention programs
 - Sales of existing businesses - 12 per year average
 - Assistance with State or local government to companies in need - 5 per year

Workforce Initiatives

- Youth apprenticeship coordination
- At risk youth career programs
- Career academy's/career exploration groups
- Employer specific initiatives
- Disabled workforce initiatives
- Workforce relocation to Barron County
- Childcare Initiatives - maintain existing providers - gain new providers



Working together to build a stronger Barron County!

Additional Services

Entrepreneur/Business Training Programs

- Wide variety of subjects
 - Quickbooks, website design, sales training, customer service training, supervisor training, basic accounting (Amish clients)
 - AI training
- Entrepreneurial Training Programs
 - Specific to business owners/start up entrepreneurs
- Economic Gardening Programs
 - Specific to business owners that are out of startup. Provide assistance to stage 2 companies
- K-12 Programs
 - Annual Career day at the Barron County Fairgrounds. September 17, 2026
 - 2025 - 700+ students and 30+ business participated - Always looking for more!
 - Discussions with K-12's and Charter Schools for entrepreneurial awareness programs
- Assistance for Municipalities/companies with State agencies

Community Development

Housing

- 2019 Housing survey - updated December 2023
- Focus - additional single and multifamily homes
 - Rice Lake, Cumberland, Barron, Turtle Lake, Chetek, and Cameron
- Affordable Housing
 - Pursuing affordable housing initiatives Countywide
 - Develop relationships with developers
- Senior Housing
 - Source additional capacity

Placemaking Initiatives -

Making vibrant places in our Cities

- Rice Lake, Barron, and Cumberland - Reboot in 2026

Facade Program Promotion

- Barron, Rice Lake, Cumberland, Turtle Lake, Cameron, and Dallas and soon to include Haugen

Sponsorship

We need assistance to continue our mission. Please contact a board member or Dave Armstrong for more information on how you can partner with Barron County Economic Development Corporation

Download sponsorship packet here 



May 2026

Monthly Tourism Report

BRANDI HOLUB

info@visitbarroncounty.com

715.651.9856

visitbarroncounty.com

WWW.VISITBARRONCOUNTY.COM

Social Media Highlights



Facebook

Total Followers **1,647**

New Followers **+22**

Page Visits **512**

Content Views **6,827**

Content Interactions **101**

Link Clicks **13**



Instagram

Total Followers **194**

New Followers **+6**

Page Visits **10**

Content Views **558**

Content Interactions **22**

Outreach & Engagement

- ★ Attended the 60th Anniversary WI Governor's Fishing Opener in Hayward, which provided valuable networking opportunities and regional tourism visibility for Barron County.
- ★ Attended the annual Chippewa County EDC breakfast



We received **\$2,500** from the County for giveaway items

Updates

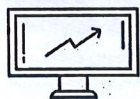


A brand new Barron County Visitors Guide will be coming out soon! This is our very first one so bare with us as this will be a start to it and we will make corrections and add things as we learn and find them.



State Tourism economic impact numbers will be released June 9 or 10. I can share that when they go live or they will be in the June report.

Website Activity



1,494
Sessions



2,094
Pageviews

New vs. Returning Visitors



Top Pages (by pageviews)

- Home - Visit Barron County
- ATV/UTV
- Things To Do
- Rice Lake Aquatic & Rec Center
- Me-Ki-Noc Restaurant at the Turtle Lake Casino
- Wolf's Den Campground Resort & Tavern

*New website coming soon

Upcoming Focus



- Summer tourism promotion
- Continue promotion of outdoor recreation and local attractions throughout Barron County
- Start paid marketing

Newsletter Growth



19
New Subscribers
this Month

135
Total Subscribers



Click to subscribe to our newsletter!

- Complete brand new website
- Grow newsletter subscribers
- Grow social media
- Finish brand new visitors guide

Current Board of Directors

President – County Board Rep
Dana Heller

City of Cumberland Rep
Adam Skinner

Vice President – Private Sector – Barron Electric
Jennifer Baudette

City of Rice Lake Rep
Bruce Markgren

Secretary – Private Sector – Mosaic Telecom
Chris Fitzgerald

Village of Haugen Rep
Patti Anderson

Treasurer – Village of Turtle Lake Rep
Karrie Stanford

Village of Cameron Rep
Tim Gerber

County Board Rep
Kathy Krug

Cameron School District – K-12 Education
Joe Leschisin

County Board Rep
Craig Fowler

Northwood Technical College – Higher Education
BJ Williams

Mayor – City of Rice Lake
Harlan Dodge

Private Sector – Xcel Energy
Megan Boldig

Mayor – City of Barron
Rod Nordby

Private Sector – Jennie O, The Turkey Store
Jeremy Miller

City of Chetek Rep
Dave Lentz

Employees

Executive Director of Barron County Economic Development
Dave Armstrong

Barron County Tourism Representative/Rice Lake Tourism Executive
Director/Barron County EDC Assistant
Brandi Nelson

Lastly

Barron County Career day sign up forms for both schools and business are going out for a second time soon. Please watch and share them!



Feedback

Have a suggestion? Would like to see other data? Comments or questions? Reach out!

[Click Here](#)

