



BARRON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

MONDAY, JULY 20, 2026 – 5:00 PM

BARRON COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER – VETERANS MEMORIAL 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, Jim Gores, Dana Heller, Dennis Jenkins, Kathy Krug, Audrey Kusilek, Fran Langman, Jamie McCready (Arrived at 5:09PM), Jeff Miller, Carol Moen, Gary Nelson, Louie Okey, Dennis Sandmann, Pete Schneider, Bill Schradle, Craig Turcott, Diane Vaughn, Lauren Wentz, Stacey Wenzel and Brad Wolf.

APPEARING VIRTUALLY: None at this time.

ABSENT: Pete Olson.

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: Delivered by Pastor Rodger Prois of the Long Lake Lutheran Church.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Recited.

SPECIAL MATTERS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS (NON-ACTION ITEMS):

1. Ojibwe Village at the Pioneer Village Museum – John Mitchell, Development Director, spoke regarding the upcoming event on August 21, 2026 at the Pioneer Village Museum located in Cameron.
2. Introduction of Ben Cole, New Land Services Director.

APPROVE AGENDA: Motion: (Cook/Turcott) to approve. Carried with 27 Yes and 2 Absent (McCready & Olson).

Supervisor McCready arrived at 5:09PM.

APPROVE MINUTES OF JUNE 15, 2026 AND JUNE 23, 2026: Motion: (Heller/Kusilek) to approve. Carried with 28 Yes and 1 Absent (Olson).

PUBLIC COMMENT: None at this time.

APPROVAL OF LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR MOSAIC TECHNOLOGIES APPLICATION FOR THE WISCONSIN PUBLIC SERVICES COMMISSION FOR BROADBAND EXPANSION GRANT: Motion: (Nelson/P. Anderson) to approve. Chair Okey noted the West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Committee approved a letter of support for this grant. Discussion. Director of Public Relations Fitzgerald gave an overview of the grant, answered questions from the Board and asked for the Board's support with Mosaic's grant application process. Carried with 27 Yes, 1 No (Langman) and 1 Absent (Olson).

PRESENTATION FROM DISCOVER MEDIAWORKS ON UNIQUELY WISCONSIN: John Osterman, Content Marketing and Business Development, reviewed the Uniquely Wisconsin tourism marketing program and answered questions from the Board.

RESOLUTION – AUTHORIZING EXPENDITURE OF \$20,000.00 FOR A UNIQUELY WISCONSIN DISCOVER MEDIAWORKS INC., PRODUCTION: Motion: (Heller/Cook) to approve. Discussion. Carried with 28 Yes and 1 Absent (Olson).

RESOLUTION – AUTHORIZING APPLYING FOR COST SHARING GRANT FROM THE WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES FOR COUNTY OWNED RIFLE RANGES: Motion: (Jenkins/Eby) to approve. Administrator French reviewed the grant and answered questions from the Board. Discussion. Carried with 28 Yes and 1 Absent (Olson).

ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENT – REZONING - TOWN OF TURTLE LAKE, TOU YANG & MAYJOUA LY, OWNERS: Motion: (Jenkins/Kusilek) to approve. Carried with 28 Yes and 1 Absent (Olson).

ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENT – REZONING – TOWN OF DOYLE, CINDY GENG, OWNER: Motion: (Cook/Jenkins) to approve. Carried with 28 Yes and 1 Absent (Olson).

REPORT FROM COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR:

1. Consideration of One (1) LTE for Open Records Requests - Administrator French would like this position to be referred back to the Law Enforcement Committee for discussion due to possible changes in long term funding options. French also answered questions from the Board. *Future Agenda Item*
2. 2026 Veterans Outreach Program – Administrator French noted the Veterans Service Office’s upcoming event, Recognition Ceremony and Benefits Fair – Saturday, August 15, 2026 at Northwoods Tech in Rice Lake and the flyer was included in the packet.
3. Community Connections 2025 Impact Report – The report was included in the packet.

APPOINTMENTS

1. Traffic Safety Committee - Shane Massie, Education Representative (Replacing Hannah Mueller): **Motion: (Kusilek/Heller)** to approve. Carried with 28 Yes and 1 Absent (Olson).
2. Land Services Director - Ben Cole (Replacing Dave Gifford): **Motion: (Kusilek/Heller)** to approve. Carried with 28 Yes and 1 Absent (Olson).
3. Wisconsin Land & Water Board of Directors - Supervisor Randall Cook (New Appointment): **Motion: (Kusilek/Heller)** to approve. Carried with 28 Yes and 1 Absent (Olson).

Administrator French told the Board that he has no information on the closing of area DNR fish hatcheries. He is working with Pat Brown, Lake Technician, to identify additional information on the recent changes. French noted that ponds at the Brule hatchery have been drained. He is also concerned about the impact on the County’s tourism without the annual stocking of fish in area lakes.

CLAIMS, PETITIONS & CORRESPONDENCE: None at this time.

SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

1. Recodification of Sections - Code of Ordinances
2. First Draft of 2027 County Budget

3. Presentation on County Insurances
4. Presentation from West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (WCWRPC)
5. Presentation on Pioneer Village Museum
6. Presentation on Barron County Fair
7. LTE Open Records Position Request
8. Presentation from Barron County Housing Authority on Recent Remodel

NEXT MEETING DATE: Tuesday, August 17, 2026 at 5:00PM at the Government Center located in Barron.

Adjournment: By Unanimous Consent at 6:01PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jessica Hodek, County Clerk

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