



Executive Committee Meeting

Wednesday, August 5, 2026 – 8:00 a.m.

Barron County Government Center – Auditorium
335 East Monroe Avenue – Barron, Wisconsin 54812

MINUTES

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT IN PERSON: Patti Anderson, Karolyn Bartlett, Randy Cook, Craig Fowler, Audrey Kusilek, Louie Okey, Pete Olson and Stacey Wenzel.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS APPEARING VIRTUALLY: None at this time.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Craig Turcott.

STAFF PRESENT IN PERSON: Executive Assistant Coleman, Finance Director Drury, County Clerk Hodek, Register of Deeds Katterhagen, Corporation Counsel Muench, Technology Director Peterson, Human Resources Director Richie and Treasurer Sommerfeld.

OTHER COUNTY BOARD SUPERVISORS PRESENT: None at this time.

OTHERS PRESENT: Ruth Erickson (Chronotype).

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Okey called the meeting to order at 8:00AM.

PUBLIC MEETING NOTIFICATION: County Clerk Hodek stated the County's compliance with Wisconsin Open Meeting Laws.

SPECIAL MATTERS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS (NON-ACTION ITEMS): Kusilek distributed flyers prior to the meeting regarding upcoming Agriculture Community Engagement (ACE) meetings.

APPROVE AGENDA: Motion: (Cook/Olson) to approve. Carried.

APPROVE MINUTES OF JULY 1, 2026: Motion: (Olson/Bartlett) to approve. Carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None at this time.

PRESENTATION AND REVIEW OF COUNTY INSURANCES: Executive Assistant Coleman reviewed the County's various insurance policies including: Liability, Property & Auto Physical Damage, Worker's Compensation, Equipment Breakdown and Storage Tank Liability and the Crime Policy. Coleman, IT Director Peterson and Corporation Counsel Muench also answered questions from the Committee.

APPROVAL OF SALE PRICES FOR IN-REM TAX DEED PARCELS: Motion: (Kusilek/Cook) to approve. Treasurer Sommerfeld reviewed the 15 parcels that will be listed at auction and discussed the current policy used to determine the recommended minimum bids. Further discussed was the origin of many landlocked parcels and the current policy giving precedence for bidders who own adjoining land with legal access. Treasurer Sommerfeld and Corporation Counsel Muench answered questions from the Committee. Carried.

RECODIFICATION OF SECTIONS – CODE OF ORDINANCES: Corporation Counsel Muench reviewed the process for reviewing and updating the County's Code of Ordinances. County Clerk Hodek distributed a list of the current Barron County Code of Ordinance Chapters. *Future agenda item.*

STAFF REPORTS & UPDATES:

- a. **REFINANCING OF WTE DEBT – EHLERS CORRESPONDENCE:** The County will not be refinancing at this time.



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- b. **PROPOSED REVISIONS TO OMB CIRCULAR PERTAINING TO GRANTS & SINGLE AUDIT REQUIREMENTS:**
- c. **INCREASE IN HIGHWAY 53 & HIGHWAY 8 DIFFERENTIAL PAY:** Human Resource Director Richie noted this is only an update and there is no cost to the County.
- d. **POSSIBLE DATA CENTER MORATORIUM ORDINANCE – SPECIAL COUNTY BOARD MEETING ON MONDAY, AUGUST 31, 2026 AT 1:00PM:** Chair Okey reviewed the request for the special meeting later this month, noted the potential speakers and answered questions from the Committee. Cook requested a Representative from Dairyland Power and Xcel Energy attend the meeting.

REVIEW VOUCHER EDIT LISTS: Finance Director Drury answered questions from the Committee. No action taken.

SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

- a. Barron County Fair & Pioneer Village Museum – Financial Review
- b. County Self-Funded Workman’s Compensation Presentation
- c. Possible Data Center Moratorium Ordinance – Special County Board Meeting on Monday, August 31, 2026 at 1:00PM
- d. Recodification of Sections – Code of Ordinances

SET DATE FOR NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, September 2, 2026 at 8:00AM.

SANDHILL SOLAR, MN 8 JOINT DEVELOPERS AGREEMENT AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN: Motion: (Bartlett/Kusilek) to enter into Closed Session to pursuant to 19.85(1)(e) “Conducting Public Business with Competitive or Bargaining Implications” and 19.85(1)(g) “Conferring with Legal Counsel with Respect to Litigation” to include Finance Director Drury, Corporation Counsel Muench and Human Resource Director Richie. Carried.

Human Resource Director Richie took minutes for the remainder of the meeting.

Motion: (Olson/Cook) to return to Open Session. Carried.

ADJOURNMENT: By unanimous consent at 9:43AM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jessica Hodek, Barron County Clerk

Minutes are not official until approved by the Executive Committee at their next meeting.