



BARRON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

MONDAY, AUGUST 17, 2026 – 5:00 PM

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

MINUTES

PRESENT: Patti Anderson, Scott Bachowski, Karolyn Bartlett, Shelley Effertz, Carsten Ellison, Craig Fowler, Jim Gores, Dana Heller, Dennis Jenkins, Kathy Krug, Fran Langman, Jamie McCready, Jeff Miller, Carol Moen, Gary Nelson, Louie Okey, Pete Olson, Dennis Sandmann, Pete Schneider, Craig Turcott, Diane Vaughn, Lauren Wentz, Stacey Wenzel and Brad Wolf.

APPEARING VIRTUALLY: None at this time.

ABSENT: Robert Anderson, Randy Cook, Sr., Mark Eby, Audrey Kusilek & Bill Schradle.

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 Wendy Slaback from the First United Methodist Church located in Barron.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Recited.

SPECIAL MATTERS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS (NON-ACTION ITEMS):

1. Proclamation for National "See Tracks, Think Train" Week – September 21-27, 2026
2. Mosaic's Investment in Barron County

APPROVE AGENDA: Motion: (Bachowski/Heller) to amend by removing the agenda item titled "Recodification of Sections – Code of Ordinances" and approve. Carried with 24 Yes and 5 Absent (B. Anderson, Cook, Eby, Kusilek & Schradle).

APPROVE MINUTES OF JULY 20, 2026: Motion: (Bachowski/Heller) Carried with 24 Yes and 5 Absent (B. Anderson, Cook, Eby, Kusilek & Schradle).

PUBLIC COMMENT: None at this time.

PRESENTATION ON COUNTY INSURANCE POLICIES: 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 and Chair Okey also answered questions from the Committee.

PRESENTATION FROM WEST CENTRAL WISCONSIN REGIONAL PLANNING

COMMISSION (WCWRPC) – SUSAN BADTKE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: Executive Director Badtke discussed the history of the local regional planning committees and current funding projects around the region. Lending Specialist Amanda Veith spoke in regards to the partnership with the Regional Business Fund and the West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission.

PRESENTATION FROM PIONEER VILLAGE MUSEUM – MARK DOBBERFUHL: The Board watched a short video highlighting the new Welcome Center. Dobberfuhl gave an overview of the history of the museum, the newly built Welcome Center, volunteer & visitor statistics, various current program funding and potential funding requests from the County. Dobberfuhl also answered questions from the Board.

RESOLUTION – PURCHASE OF PROPERTY IN THE TOWN OF DOYLE FOR BARRON COUNTY FOREST PURPOSES: Chair Okey updated the Board and clarified the resolution on the agenda is to approve moving forward with the loan program for the purchase of the property in the Town of Doyle for forestry purposes. **Motion: (Moen/Heller)** to approve. DNR County Forest and Public Land Specialist Doug Brown reviewed the County Forest Program. Discussion. County Forester Bygd, Corporation Counsel Muench and County Administrator French also answered questions from the Board. Carried with 23 Yes and 6 Absent (B. Anderson, Cook, Eby, Kusilek, Schradle & Wenzel).

Supervisor Wenzel departed the meeting at 6:26PM.

RECODIFICATION OF SECTIONS – CODE OF ORDINANCES: *Pulled when approving the agenda earlier in the meeting.*

Chair Okey reminded the County Board Supervisors of the importance of following the Wisconsin Open Meeting Laws and to avoid potential Walking Quorums.

ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENT – REZONING - TOWN OF LAKELAND, TONJA METNIK, OWNER: Motion: (Jenkins/McCready) to approve. Carried with 23 Yes and 6 Absent (B. Anderson, Cook, Eby, Kusilek, Schradle & Wenzel).

ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENT – REZONING – TOWN OF CUMBERLAND, SCOTT & MARY BELLEFEUILLE: Motion: (Jenkins/Gores) to approve. Carried with 23 Yes and 6 Absent (B. Anderson, Cook, Eby, Kusilek, Schradle & Wenzel).

REPORT FROM COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR:

1. Ehlers Correspondence – Refinancing of WTE Debt: Interest rates have remained steady and no action will be pursued at this time.
2. Proposed Revisions to OMB Circular Pertaining to Grants and Single Audit Requirements: Postponed until later this year.

APPOINTMENTS

1. Community Development Block Grant Committee (CDBG) – Supervisor Effertz, Supervisor Sandmann & Supervisor Wentz: **Motion: (Moen/Olson)** to approve. Carried with 23 Yes and 6 Absent (B. Anderson, Cook, Eby, Kusilek, Schradle & Wenzel).

CLAIMS, PETITIONS & CORRESPONDENCE: None at this time.

SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

1. Possible Data Center Moratorium Ordinance – Special County Board Meeting at 1:00PM on August 31, 2026 at Veteran’s Memorial Auditorium in Barron
2. First Draft of 2027 County Budget
3. Presentation on Barron County Fair & Financials

4. Recodification of Sections - Code of Ordinances
5. LTE Open Records Position Request
6. Presentation from Barron County Housing Authority on Recent Remodel

NEXT MEETING DATE: Special County Board Meeting (Committee of the Whole) - Monday, August 31, 2026 at 1:00PM at the Government Center located in Barron.

Supervisor P. Anderson complimented the Barron County Veterans Outreach Program Event which took place on Saturday, August 16th at Northwoods Technical College located in Rice Lake. She also mentioned the Haugen area hosted a children's event with Barron County's Fairest of the Fair on Sunday, August 17th.

ADJOURNMENT: By Unanimous Consent at 6:35PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jessica Hodek, County Clerk

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