# BARRON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 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, Randy Cook, Sr., Mark Eby, Shelley Effertz, Carsten Ellison**,** Craig Fowler, Jim Gores, Dana Heller, Dennis Jenkins, Kathy Krug, Audrey Kusilek, Jamie McCready, Jeff Miller, Carol Moen, Gary Nelson, Louie Okey, Pete Olson, Dennis Sandmann, Pete Schneider, Bill Schradle (Arrived at 5:25PM), Craig Turcott, Lauren Wentz, Stacey Wenzel and Brad Wolf.
**APPEARING VIRTUALLY:** Karolyn Bartlett and Diane Vaughn (Departed at 5:46PM).
**ABSENT:** Fran Langman.

**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 Matthew Earls from the Northern Lakes Church located in Cumberland, Wisconsin.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Recited.

**SPECIAL MATTERS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS (NON-ACTION ITEMS):** Chaplain Cody Kargus spoke to the Board about the community goals of the Law Enforcement Foundation of Barron County and their new "Light Barron County Blue" program. Kargus also requested a moment of silence to honor the lives lost on September 11th, 2001. Chair Okey noted the Crash Responder Safety Week Proclamation was included in the packet. Administrator French announced an upcoming AI Data Center Seminar for County Board Supervisors and select County staff with potential dates for the seminar.

**APPROVE AGENDA: Motion: (Bachowski/Cook)** to approve. Carried with 27 Yes and 2 Absent (Langman & Schradle).

**APPROVE MINUTES OF AUGUST 17, 2026 & AUGUST 31, 2026: Motion: (Gores/Olson)** to approve both sets of minutes as presented. Carried with 27 Yes and 2 Absent (Langman & Schradle).

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None at this time.

**2026-23 RESOLUTION – BARRON COUNTY HEALTHY LAKES & RIVERS GRANT APPLICATION:** Lakeshore Technician Brown reviewed the application for a DNR cost sharing grant and how the grant would be utilized. Discussion. **Motion: (Kusilek/Nelson)** to approve. Carried with 27 Yes and 2 Absent (Langman & Schradle).

**2026-18 ORDINANCE – TO AMEND CHAPTER 42 – BARRON COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION ORDINANCE REGARDING ANIMALS KEPT OR GRAZING ON COUNTY PROPERTY: Motion: (Cook/Eby)** to approve. Corporation Counsel Muench gave an overview of the request and the need for an

ordinance amendment. Corporation Counsel Muench also answered various questions from the Board. Carried with 27 Yes and 2 Absent (Langman & Schradle).

**2026-19 ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENT – REZONING – TOWN OF PRAIRIE LAKE, OWNER PETER MIKKELSON: Motion: (Jenkins/Heller)** to approve. Carried with 27 Yes and 2 Absent (Langman & Schradle).

**2027 COUNTY BUDGET – FIRST DRAFT:** Finance Director Drury reviewed the first draft of the County budget and answered questions from the Committee. Administrator French reviewed the potential increase in the County's 2027 health insurance program and answered questions from the Board. Discussion.

*Supervisor Schradle arrived at 5:25PM.*
*Supervisor Vaughn departed the meeting at 5:46PM.*

**REPORT FROM COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR:**

A. **FORWARD ANALYTICS: LOSING GROUND: NET NEW CONSTRUCTION AND INFLATION:** Administrator French included the analysis in the packet.

**APPOINTMENTS**

A. **ZONING COMMITTEE – APPOINT LOUIE OKEY TO SERVE AS A VOTING MEMBER ON THE ZONING COMMITTEE FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSION, CREATION AND RECOMMENDATION OF A DATA CENTER MORATORIUM ORDINANCE: Motion: (Bachowski/Effertz)** to approve. Carried with 27 Yes and 2 Absent (Langman & Vaughn).

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

**SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

**A.** Second Draft of 2027 County Budget & Current Fund Balances
**B.** AI Data Center Moratorium Ordinance
**C.** Presentation on Barron County Fair and Financials

**NEXT MEETING DATE:** Monday, October 19, 2026 at 5:00PM.

**ADJOURNMENT:** By Unanimous Consent at 5:50PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jessica Hodek, County Clerk

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