PROPERTY COMMITTEE MEETING
Monday, October 5, 2026 – 1:00 p.m.

Barron County Government Center - Veterans Memorial Auditorium
335 East Monroe Avenue - Barron, WI 54812

MINUTES

Members Present: Karolyn Bartlett *(met the Committee at the Housing Authority tour)*, Mark Eby, Craig Fowler, Dana Heller, Kathy Krug, Carol Moen and Bill Schradle.
Absent: None at this time.
Others Present: Land Services Director Cole, County Forester Bygd, Finance Director Drury, County Administrator French, Land Services Conversation Technician Gruetzmacher, County Clerk Hodek, Building & Maintenance Director Mickelson, County Board Chair Okey, IT Director Peterson and Supervisor Turcott.

Call Meeting to Order: Chair Heller called the meeting to order at 1:00PM.

Public Meeting Notification: County Clerk Hodek noted the meeting met WI Open Meeting Law Requirements.

Tour of the Barron County Housing Authority Apartment Remodel Located at 611 Woodland Avenue in Barron: The Committee adjourned to tour the Barron County Housing Authority remodel.

Reconvene Meeting in the Auditorium: The meeting reconvened in the Auditorium at 1:58PM.

Special Matters and Announcements: Administrator French thanked the Maintenance Department for the pavement reconstruction which fixed the curb on Monroe Avenue.

Approve Agenda: Motion: (Eby/Schradle) to approve. Carried.

Approve Minutes of August 27, 2026: Motion: (Moen/Krug) to approve. Carried.

Public Comment: None at this time.

Approval of $27,615.00 Transfer from Capital Improvement Fund to the Fleet Vehicle Fund, Allowing for a Two Vehicle Purchase in 2026: Administrator French gave a description of the request for this year and asked for approval. **Motion: (Schradle/Eby)** to approve. Carried.

Maple Plain Rifle Range

a. **Photo Presentation:** Building & Maintenance Director Mickelson reviewed various photos taken at the Arland and Maple Plain rifle ranges. Discussion. The Committee asked Mickelson to contact the land owner that allegedly mowed various rows of recently planted trees to discuss the concerns and report back to the Committee next month.
b. **Priority List of Potential Improvements:** Mickelson explained each of the six proposed updates and answered questions from the Committee. Mickelson also distributed a document with vehicle counts from the last few months comparing both ranges usage. Administrator French noted that he

and Mickelson met with the WI DNR and they were in support of the current County practices. Discussion.

c. **Discuss & Approval of Cost to Plant Trees on North Berm:** This is included in the 2027 Forestry budget.

Ordinance – Repealing and Recreating Barron County General Code Entitled Parks & Recreation: Administrator French asked for approval of the ordinance that was updated by Corporation Counsel Muench with the requested changes from the Committee at the August meeting. Discussion. The Committee requested the additional changes to the ordinance as listed below:

- Change the term "rifle ranges" to "shooting ranges" throughout the ordinance.
- Section 42.17, 3.B. – (Any individual under the age of 18 ~~must~~ ***should*** possess a valid Hunter's Safety Certificate.)
- Section 42.17, 3.D.i – Effective the first day of January ~~2026~~ ***2027*** the County ~~Rifle~~ Shooting Ranges shall be closed all day on Sundays going forward.
- Section 42.17, 4.B. – Define "motor vehicle."
- Section 42.17, 4.C. - Rewrite paragraph language.

Discussion. **Motion: (Bartlett/Krug)** to move the ordinance forward to County Board with the recommended changes listed above. Discussion. Carried. Discussion.

Eby departed at 2:21PM prior to the vote on the Rifle Range Ordinance.

Staff Report

a. **Dam Updates:** Land Conservation Technician Gruetzmacher reviewed pictures from the replacement of a large screw at the Mikana Dam. A second photo of the Little Sand Lake Dam was discussed with future construction estimates. The upcoming Rice Lake Dam project with the engineering of new walkaway continues. The Chetek Dam project anticipated in October 2027 will have 50% State grant funding. Gruetzmacher also mentioned an upcoming project on the Indian Mounds on October 24th and asked for volunteer help.

b. **Update on Improvements to Learning Center on UWEC-Barron County Campus with the Rice Lake Area School District (RLSD) – Electronic Controls:** RLSD would like to discuss new improvements and Administrator French has asked them to present at a future meeting.

c. **2026 County Forestry Annual Partnership Meeting Minutes:** Included in the packet.

d. **Wisconsin County Forestry Association Documents:** Included in the packet. Schradle highlighted various items he learned while attending the recent Forestry conference.

Review Voucher Edit Lists: No action taken.

Suggestions for Future Agenda Items:

a. Review of Final Engineering Plans & Study at the UWEC-Barron County Campus and Associated Costs.

b. Review of Upper 90 Solar Feasibility Study at UWEC-Barron County Campus – November 9, 2026.

c. Playground at the UWEC-Barron County Campus – Hours of Operation

Set Next Meeting Date: 1:00PM on Monday, November 9, 2026.

Adjournment: By unanimous consent at 2:45PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jessica Hodek, Barron County Clerk

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