BARRON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

MONDAY, OCTOBER 19, 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 (Arrived at 5:43PM), Audrey Kusilek (Arrived at 5:50PM), Fran Langman, Jamie McCready, Jeff Miller (Departed at 6:31PM), Carol Moen, Gary Nelson, Louie Okey, Pete Olson, Dennis Sandmann, Pete Schneider, Bill Schradle (Departed at 6:22PM), Craig Turcott, Diane Vaughn, Lauren Wentz, Stacey Wenzel and Brad Wolf.
APPEARING VIRTUALLY: None at this time.
ABSENT: None at this time.

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 Reverend Sara Sadler from the United Presbyterian Church located in Rice Lake.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Recited.

SPECIAL MATTERS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS (NON-ACTION ITEMS)

A. **DEER DONATION MONTH PROCLAMATION:** Included in the packet.

APPROVE AGENDA: Motion: (Cook/Bachowski) to approve. Chair Okey reviewed Public Comment guidelines from the County Board Rules & Procedures. Carried with 27 Yes and 2 Absent (Krug & Kusilek).

APPROVE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 19, 2026: Motion: (Jenkins/Gores) to approve. Carried with 27 Yes and 2 Absent (Krug & Kusilek).

APPROVAL OF 30 MINUTE LIMITATION FOR PUBLIC COMMENT TIME PERIOD: Motion: (Turcott/Effertz) to approve. Chair Okey requested the Board vote No to this item since only four citizens requested to speak during Public Comment and the 30 minute limitation would not be needed. Failed with 27 No and 2 Absent (Krug & Kusilek).

PUBLIC COMMENT: Mike Sieser – 1313 2 ½ Avenue in Dallas spoke regarding Data Centers and Solar Farms. Steve Parliament – 556 21 ½ Avenue in Cumberland spoke regarding Data Centers. Jean Farrell – 2482 18th Street in Rice Lake spoke regarding Data Centers. Keith Hardie – 2195 10th Street in Cumberland spoke regarding Data Centers.

PRESENTATION – BARRON COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ON DATA CENTER ENERGY USAGE: Barron Electric Cooperative Director of Member Services Jennifer Beaudette presented on the Energy Usage of Data Centers and answered questions from the Board.

PRESENTATION – BARRON COUNTY FAIR & FINANCIALS – KEVIN ROSKE, FAIR BOARD MANAGER: Fair Board Manager Roske reviewed past staff bonuses, food stands, livestock sales, grant funding, various fairground events, recent upgrades to the fairgrounds, City utility fees including storm water run-off, insurance costs and coverage, security provided by the Barron County Sheriff's Department, tourism impact and the WI Fair Association Impact Study. Roske also answered questions from the Board. Supervisor Cook requested an annual audit of the Fair Board financials.

Supervisor Krug arrived at 5:43PM.
Supervisor Kusilek arrived at 5:50PM.

DRAFT ORDINANCE – AMENDMENT TO BARRON COUNTY ZONING ORDINANCES ON DATA CENTER DEVELOPMENT – DISCUSSION ONLY: Chair Okey reminded the Board this agenda item is for Discussion Only. Land Services Director Cole outlined the process of creating and editing the Draft Ordinance and encouraged feedback from the Board. Cole also answered questions from the Board.

2026-20 ORDINANCE – IMPOSING TEMPORARY MORATORIUM ON DATA CENTER DEVELOPMENT: Motion: (Bachowski/Olson) to approve. Carried with 28 Yes and 1 No (Kusilek).

2026-24 RESOLUTION – TO REVISE THE BARRON COUNTY INVESTMENT POLICY: Motion: (Heller/Langman) to approve. Carried with 29 Yes and 0 No.

2026-25 RESOLUTION – AMEND SUPERVISORY DISTRICTS DUE TO ANNEXATION – CITY OF BARRON: Motion: (Nelson/Gores) to approve. Carried with 29 Yes and 0 No.

2026-26 RESOLUTION – ADOPTION OF THE FARMLAND PRESERVATION PLAN MAP AMENDMENTS TO THE TOWN OF STANFOLD: Motion: (Cook/Ellison) to approve. Carried with 29 Yes and 0 No.

2026-27 RESOLUTION – APPROVAL OF CHANGES TO THE RURAL FUNCTIONAL CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM IN BARRON COUNTY: Motion: (Jenkins/Langman) to approve. Administrator French clarified the classification request from the Wisconsin Department of Transportation. Discussion. Carried with 29 Yes and 0 No.

2026-21 ORDINANCE – REPEALING AND RECREATING BARRON COUNTY GENERAL CODE ENTITLED PARKS AND RECREATION: Motion: (Eby/Wenzel) to approve. Discussion. Corporation Counsel Muench gave an outline of the process to update Section 3 regarding the County owned shooting ranges and answered questions from the Board. A request was made to ask the Property Committee to review Sections 1 and 2 of the same ordinance in the future. Discussion. Carried with 28 Yes and 2 Absent (Miller & Schradle).

Supervisor Schradle departed at 6:22PM.
Supervisor Miller departed at 6:31PM.

2027 COUNTY BUDGET – 2ND DRAFT AND RECOMMEND BUDGET PUBLICATION: Motion: (McCready/Eby) to approve as presented. Finance Director Drury highlighted the changes from the first to the second draft of the 2027 County budget. Administrator French reviewed data related to the self-funded health insurance which shows an improvement in the current year's fund balance. These changes will be incorporated

into the next budget draft. Discussion. Carried with 27 Yes and 2 Absent (Miller & Schradle). *Not all votes were recorded electronically due to technical issues.*

APPROVAL OF 2027 COUNTY BOARD MEETING DATES: Motion: (Wentz/Turcott) to approve the dates as presented. Discussion. Carried with 27 Yes and 2 Absent (Miller & Schradle).

REPORT FROM COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR:

A. **AI TRAINING – 8:30AM-11:45AM ON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2026:** Prior registration is requested with Administrator French or County Clerk Hodek. Supervisors should bring their Chromebooks to the training. This training session will not have a virtual attendance option or be recorded.
B. **POLICY FORUM – INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION AWARD:** An award application was submitted for Little Learners Daycare but the program was not granted the award.
C. **BOARD OF PUBLIC COMMISSIONERS OF PUBLIC LANDS PUBLIC SCHOOL LIBRARY AID DATA:** Information was included in the packet.

APPOINTMENTS: None at this time.

CLAIMS, PETITIONS & CORRESPONDENCE: None at this time.

SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

A. 2027 County Budget Public Hearing – November 2, 2026
B. 2026 End of Year Oakleaf Utilization Statistics & Cost Coverage
C. Recodification of Sections – Code of Ordinances
D. Solar Feasibility Study Presentation from Upper 90
E. Barron County Shoreland Zoning Ordinance Public Hearing – November 10, 2026

NEXT MEETING DATE: Monday, November 2, 2026 at 9:00AM and Tuesday, November 10, 2026 at 1:00PM.

ADJOURNMENT: By Unanimous Consent at 7:05PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jessica Hodek, County Clerk

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