PROPERTY COMMITTEE MEETING
Monday, November 9, 2026 – 1:00 p.m.

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

MINUTES

Members Present: Karolyn Bartlett, Mark Eby, Craig Fowler, Dana Heller, Kathy Krug, Carol Moen and Bill Schradle.
Absent: None at this time.
Others Present: County Forester Bygd, DNR Forester Cain, Land Services Director Cole, Finance Director Drury, UWEC-Barron County Campus Director Fischer, County Administrator French, Land Services Conservation Technician Gruetzmacher, County Clerk Hodek, Building & Maintenance Director Mickelson, Corporation Counsel Muench, County Board Chair Okey and IT Director Peterson.

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

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

Special Matters and Announcements: Administrator French provided a follow-up to the Committee regarding the UWEC-Barron County Little Learners Daycare facility. The daycare has to be locked at all times to meet State requirements. Corporation Counsel Muench noted the forestry land purchase in the Town of Doyle will be presented at the County Board meeting tomorrow and needs 22 yes votes for the approval of the land purchase.

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

Approve Minutes of October 5, 2026: Motion: (Eby/Moen) to approve. Carried.

Public Comment: None at this time.

Solar Feasibility Study at UWEC-Barron County Campus – Upper 90: Administrator French reviewed the two possible options for the Committee to consider with one scenario providing electricity for the Campus while the other scenario would involve a partnership and cost agreement with an outside agency. UWEC-Barron County Campus Director Fischer, Building & Maintenance Director Mickelson, Corporation Counsel Muench and Administrator French answered questions from the Committee. Discussion. **Motion: (Heller/Schradle)** to table indefinitely. Carried. *(This item would require 2/3rds vote be brought back to the Committee at a later date.)*

Resolution – Motorized Trail Authorization for Years 2027-2028: Forester Bygd explained this is an annual resolution which allows him to apply for various grants and asked for approval. Discussion. **Motion: (Bartlett/Eby)** to approve. Carried.

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Review Park & Recreation Ordinance – Firearms and Weapons, 42.17 Section 1: Corporation Counsel Muench gave a background of recent updates to this ordinance and the request regarding changes to the section mentioned. Discussion. Corporation Counsel Muench and Building & Maintenance Directory Mickelson answered questions from the Committee. **Motion: (Bartlett/Fowler)** to add language to beginning of paragraph 42.17 Section 1 permitting conceal and carry at these specific locations unless signage states otherwise. Carried.

CICOP Transfer – Reallocate $40,000 from Building Automation to Parks & Recreation for Camper Purchase at Waldo Carlson Campground: Building & Maintenance Director Mickelson explained the request to the Board. The current caretaker at this campground is not returning next summer and the purchase was not budgeted for in 2027. He also noted the other County campgrounds have one camper at each location for caretakers. Discussion. **Motion: (Fowler/Schradle)** to approve. Carried.

Staff Reports:

a. **Museum Well GT626 Notice of Violation Nitrate Exceedance:** Administrator French noted he recently received correspondence from the DNR issuing a notice of violation for a .05% exceedance of the current nitrate levels. The County owns the land but the responsibility is for the Museum to comply with the DNR restrictions. The Museum Board is reviewing two possible options including replacing the entire well or drilling horizontally with the existing well. He also asked the Museum to have a response in place by January 2027.
b. **Architectural Engineering Services for HVAC System as UWEC-Barron County Campus:** Building & Maintenance Director Mickelson hired Westlund Engineering for plans throughout the various buildings which would eliminate all underground piping.
c. **POWTS Approval & Building Construction at UWEC-Barron County Campus: – Rice Lake Youth Baseball Association:** Administrator French said the group is currently working on hiring a general contractor for the construction project.
d. **Lumbering Hall of Fame – Ribbon Cutting:** Administrator French noted he attended this ceremony and was pleased with the new construction.
e. **Pleasant Plain Update:** County Conservation Technician Gruetzmacher reviewed pictures of the continuing project and discussed the next steps of the process.
f. **Dam Updates**: County Conservation Technician Gruetzmacher gave an overview of the proposed upgrades to the Rice Lake dam walkway with photos and estimated costs. He will also send out an RFP for the Chetek dam once he receives final approval from the DNR. Gruetzmacher reviewed various grant options and answered questions from the Committee.

Review Voucher Edit Lists: No action taken.

Suggestions for Future Agenda Items:

a. 2027 Forestry Work Plan – January 2027

Set Next Meeting Date: 1:00PM on Monday, December 7, 2026.

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Adjournment: By unanimous consent at 1:59PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jessica Hodek, Barron County Clerk

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