BARRON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2026 – 1:00 PM

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

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Okey called the Public Hearing to order at 1:00 PM.

PUBLIC HEARING – SHORELAND PROTECTION ORDINANCE & PRESENTATION: Land Services Director Cole reviewed the changes to the Shoreland Protection Ordinance and answered questions from the Board.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None at this time.

CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING: Chair Okey closed the Public Hearing at 1:09 PM.

PRESENT IN PERSON: Patti Anderson, Scott Bachowski, Karolyn Bartlett, Randy Cook, Sr., Shelley Effertz, Carsten Ellison**,** Craig Fowler, Jim Gores, Dana Heller, Dennis Jenkins, Kathy Krug, Audrey Kusilek, Fran Langman, Jeff Miller, Carol Moen, Gary Nelson, Louie Okey, Pete Olson, Dennis Sandmann, Pete Schneider, Bill Schradle, Craig Turcott, Diane Vaughn, Lauren Wentz, Stacey Wenzel and Brad Wolf.
ATTENDING VIRTUALLY: Mark Eby.
ABSENT: Robert Anderson and Jamie McCready.

CALL TO ORDER-ROLL CALL-PUBLIC NOTIFICATION: Chair Okey called the meeting to order at 1:09 PM. County Clerk Hodek took attendance and stated compliance with the Wisconsin Open Meeting Laws.

INVOCATION: Led by Pastor Wendy Slaback from the United Methodist Church located in Barron, Wisconsin.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Recited.

SPECIAL MATTERS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS (NON-ACTION ITEMS):

- **A.** I Am Responding App – Administrator French requested that if any County Board Supervisor has not received this text to contact Emergency Manager Judy for assistance.
- **B.** National 4-H Awards for Barron County Extension Team – Administrator French congratulated Human Development and Relationships Educator Missy Bablick for receiving the Distinguished Service Award and 4-H Program Educator Sara Waldron for receiving the Educational Piece-Communicator Award.
- **C.** New County Board Voting Process in January 2027 – County Clerk Hodek reviewed the new voting process which will start at their next meeting.
- **D.** Election Statistics Recap – County Clerk Hodek reviewed various midterm election statistics from Barron County and thanked the Municipal Clerks and Poll Workers for their dedication to the voting process.

APPROVE AGENDA: Motion: (Cook/Olson) to approve. Carried with 27 Yes and 2 Absent (B. Anderson & McCready).

APPROVE MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 2, 2026: Motion: (Heller/Langman) to approve. Carried with 27 Yes and 2 Absent (B. Anderson & McCready).

PUBLIC COMMENT: Julie Amundson - 1451 1st Avenue in Ridgeland spoke on the Solar Feasibility Study at UWEC-Barron County Campus.

2026-22 ORDINANCE – ADOPT BARRON COUNTY SHORELAND PROTECTION ORDINANCE: Motion: (Kusilek/Effertz) to approve. Carried with 27 Yes and 2 Absent (B. Anderson & McCready).

PRESENTATION – SOLAR FEASIBILITY STUDY AT UWEC-BARRON COUNTY CAMPUS FROM UPPER 90: Administrator French reviewed the discussion held at the Property Committee yesterday. The Property Committee took action to table this item indefinitely. *(This item would require 2/3rds vote be brought back to the Committee at a later date.)*

2026-31 RESOLUTION – PURCHASE OF COUNTY FORESTRY LAND IN THE TOWN OF DOYLE: Motion: (Cook/Fowler) to approve. Chair Okey reviewed changes to the resolution. Forester Bygd answered questions from the Board. Carried with 27 Yes and 2 Absent (B. Anderson & McCready).

2026-32 RESOLUTION – MOTORIZED TRAIL AUTHORIZATION FOR YEARS 2027-2028: Motion: (Jenkins/Turcott) to approve. Forester Bygd reviewed the resolution and answered questions from the Board. Carried with 27 Yes and 2 Absent (B. Anderson & McCready).

2026-23 - REZONING ORDINANCE – TOWN OF MAPLE GROVE, FOUR MILE CREEK, LLC, OWNER: Motion: (Jenkins/Effertz) to approve. Carried with 26 Yes, 2 Absent (B. Anderson & McCready) and 1 Abstain (Kusilek).

2026-24 REZONING ORDINANCE – TOWN OF OAK GROVE, STEWART D. & NADINE M. WILLIAMS, OWNERS: Motion: (Jenkins/Heller) to approve. Carried with 27 Yes and 2 Absent (B. Anderson & McCready).

2026-25 REZONING ORDINANCE – TOWN OF ALMENA, 1764 RANCH LLC, OWNER: Motion: (Kusilek/Jenkins) to approve. Carried with 27 Yes and 2 Absent (B. Anderson & McCready).

2026-26 REZONING - TOWN OF MAPLE GROVE, CLAYTON DAVID CECKA, OWNER: Motion: (Cook/Turcott) to approve. Carried with 26 Yes, 2 Absent (B. Anderson & McCready) and 1 Abstain (Kusilek).

REPORT FROM COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR:

A. **AI Training – 8:30am – 11:45am on Wednesday, November 18, 2026:** County Board Supervisors should bring their Chromebooks to this training and sit at their regular assigned seating. No action will be taken by the County Board at this meeting and the County Clerk has posted a Quorum Notice.
B. **HealthJoy Utilization:** A high level report from Health Joy was included in the packet. Administrator French noted the 94% usage rate by County employees.
C. **Treasurer's Report of Receipts & Disbursements (November 1, 2025 - October 31, 2026):** Information was included in the packet.

APPOINTMENTS: None at this time.

CLAIMS, PETITIONS & CORRESPONDENCE: None at this time.

SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

A. 2026 End of Year Oakleaf Utilization Statistics & Cost Savings
B. Recodification of Sections – Code of Ordinances
C. 2027 Annual Forestry Plan
D. Recommendation of Naming of Island within the City of Rice Lake – Correspondence from the DNR
E. Meridia County Board Training

NEXT MEETING DATES: Tuesday, January 19, 2026 at 9:00 AM.

ADJOURNMENT: Chair Okey adjourned the meeting at 1:44 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jessica Hodek, County Clerk

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

All past Barron County Board of Supervisor meetings starting in August 2020 can be viewed at the link provided below: https://www.youtube.com/c/BarronCountyMeetings