

**PRICE COUNTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES**

Date: March 10, 2022

Time: 9:00am

Place: Courthouse County Board Room 101; 126 Cherry St; Phillips, WI 54555

Call to Order and Roll Call. Meeting called to order by Robert Kopisch, Committee Chairperson at 9:00 a.m. Present: Paula Houdek, Robert Kopisch, Larry Palecek, Dennis Wartgow. Excused: James Hintz

Also present: Nick Trimner, Carrie Kyle, Lynn Neeck, Sylvia Kerner, Jeff Hallstrand, Alan Barkstrom.

Items for discussion and possible action:

1. Meeting minutes February 10 and March 2, 2022: Motion Houdek/Palecek to approve the minutes from the February 10, 2022 meeting as presented. Motion carried. March 2, 2022 meeting was cancelled.
2. Broadband Status – Discussion with Chad Young, CEO of Norvado: 339 Project going well. Did not receive grant for the Southern Price County project. Currently working outside of Price County to bring more service paths in. Do not have any projects in this round of funding grants. Looking forward to the next round of grants. Discussed grant application, the award process and the upfront funding required to do expansion projects. Fiber project in Park Falls being done with no outside funding.
3. Broadband Expansion Project Status
  - a. Broadband Mapping Opportunity: Paula and Jeff attended the webinar regarding the program. It will provide updated information on broadband coverages and upgrade opportunities.
  - b. Charter Communications Project Proposal: Mike Hill reviewed project. 142 miles of fiber to 826 homes in northern Price County.
  - c. Resolution – Expanding Broadband Services in Price County (North Project): Motion Palecek/Wartgow to allocate \$75,000 in the resolution. Motion carried. Motion Palecek/Wartgow to approve the resolution and forward to the County Board for their consideration. Motion carried.
4. Public Comment and Communications: Lyn Ludwig, Town of Worcester insisting the Fairgrounds Property be reviewed by professionals in real estate, economic development and public private partnerships.
5. Treasurer Report – Lynn Neeck
  - a. Monthly reports: Sales tax doing well. The Wisconsin Help for Homeowners program has started to provide relief for qualifying property owners who are unable to pay their property taxes and utilities.
  - b. Delinquent Taxes and In Rem: Mailed property tax delinquency notices last week. No response from Phillips Lionite Wood Products Co, LLC. The owners of the Park Falls paper mill reached out regarding the status of their property taxes. Nick and Evan visited the properties taken during the last In Rem process. Auction process will move forward. Contact from Senator Petrowski notified that the bill to clean up the 5-R properties using DNR funds was passed. Need to decide if the County should take the property before or after the cleanup is done.
6. Resolution – Request State to Revise the Current Real Estate Transfer Fees Revenue Sharing Formula: Motion Palecek/Houdek to approve the resolution and forward to the County Board for their consideration. Motion carried.
7. Sale/Lease of Fairgrounds Property: Discussion.
8. Closed Session: Announcement and motion Houdek/Palecek to adjourn to closed session at 10:21 a.m. pursuant to the exemption in Wis. State Statute 19.85(1)(e) Deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session. For the purpose of:
  - a. Negotiation on Sale/Lease of Fairgrounds Property
  - b. Motion to Return to Open Session

Roll call vote: Yes (4): Houdek, Kopisch, Palecek, Wartgow. No: (0). Motion carried.

Also present during closed session: Nick Trimner, Carrie Kyle, Alan Barkstrom, Jeff Hallstrand. Also in attendance at a later time: Darin Baratka, Alexis Baratka

Motion Houdek/Wartgow in closed session to return to open session at 11:45 a.m.

Roll call vote: Yes (3): Houdek, Kopisch, Wartgow. No: (0). Motion carried.

Palecek out of room until 11:47 a.m.

9. Take Action, as needed, on closed session items: None.
  10. Resolution – Approve Sale of Price County Fairgrounds Property: Motion Wartgow/Houdek to approve the resolution and forward to the County Board for consideration. Motion carried.
  11. Emergency Management – Roxanne Kahan (remotely)
    - a. Wisconsin Statewide Mutual Aid Contract (WiSMAC) for Local Emergency Management Assistance: Motion Houdek/Palecek to approve the County Administrator enter the County into the agreement presented. Motion carried.
    - b. Training Requirements / Opportunities for New Board Members: Discuss at the May County Board meeting for planning in June.
  12. County Administrator - Nick Trimner
    - a. Financial Reports:
      - i. 2021 Actual vs Budget: Nothing new since last meeting.
      - ii. 2022 Actual vs Budget: Nothing noteworthy at this time.
    - ~~b. 2021 Annual Report of Wages~~
    - c. American Recovery Plan Act Update
      - i. Projects
        1. Interior Cellular Enhancement (ICE): Looking into enhancements to cellular reception in the Courthouse and Safety Building.
    - d. Administrator Report: Nothing else to add.
  13. COVID Updates: Cases are decreasing. Will ask the County Board to return to pre-COVID seating arrangements.
  14. Economic Development / Tourism Update
    - a. Billboard Project Invoice: Nick received an invoice for \$4,000 from Lyn Ludwig for payment for the Highway 51 billboard. The county did not agree to participate in the billboard project and will not be paying the invoice.
  15. Monthly Vouchers: Motion Palecek/Wartgow to approve the accounts payable and payroll for the month of February in the amount of \$3,359,454.01 and voucher in the amount of \$697,703.60. Motion carried.
  16. Date of Next Meeting – April 14
  17. Meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.
- Respectfully Submitted by Jean Gottwald, County Clerk