

MEETING OF THE PRICE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

August 16, 2022

Meeting Minutes

County Board Room 101, 126 Cherry St, Phillips, WI 54555

Meeting called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Alan Barkstrom, County Board Chair.

Invocation provided by Pastor Larry Tenut.

Pledge of Allegiance recited by those in attendance.

Roll Call: Present (13): Alan Barkstrom, Doug Erickson, Brian Ernst, Jeff Hallstrand, Jason Hastings, Paula Houdek (remotely), Mark Kyle, Larry Palecek, Jordan Spacek, Patricia Stephan, Ginny Strobl, Lorelei Wakefield, Dennis Wartgow. Also present: Nick Trimner.

Instructions were given to any members of the public attending electronically.

Approval of Minutes June 21, 2022: Motion Palecek/Strobl to approve the minutes of the June 21, 2022 meeting as presented. Motion carried.

Communications and Announcements: Sylvia Kerner, Wisconsin Register of Deeds Association recipient of the 2022 Governor's Award for Archival Innovation.

Public Comments: None.

Presentations:

1. Friends of Fred Smith: Gay Marschke, Marge Brzeskiewicz.
2. Phillips Area Chamber of Commerce / Price County Tourism: Laura Palzkill: Governor's Fishing Opener in May 2023.
3. Wisconsin Counties Association – Board Training Session: Sarah Diedrick-Kasdorf presented Key Elements to Be Aware of as a County Board member.

Resolutions:

Resolution 26-22

Appointment of Price County Audit Firm:

WHEREAS, there are numerous requirements for Price County to have an annual financial audit performed; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the County Board to appoint the county's audit firm with the installation of each new board; and

WHEREAS, the Executive Committee, along with recommendation from the County Administrator, determined that the current firm we have contracted with is doing a satisfactory job.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Baker Tilly Virchow Krause, LLP is hereby designated Price County's audit firm for the fiscal years ending December 31, 2022 and 2023, or such time as the Board wishes to make a change; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED Price County agrees that the annual fees will not exceed \$75,600 and \$79,400 respectively.

Submitted by the Price County Executive Committee. s/Alan Barkstrom, Chair; Brian Ernst, Jeff Hallstrand, Paula Houdek. Reviewed by County Administrator: s/Nicholas Trimner. Adopted by the Price County Board of Supervisors this 16th day of August 2022. s/Alan Barkstrom, County Board Chair; Jean Gottwald, County Clerk. For: 13, Against: 0.

Motion Hallstrand/Strobl to consider resolution for adoption. Roll call vote on resolution adoption: Yes (13): Barkstrom, Erickson, Ernst, Hallstrand, Hastings, Houdek, Kyle, Palecek, Spacek, Stephan, Strobl, Wakefield, Wartgow. No (0). Motion carried.

Resolution 27-22

Ratifying 2022 Price County Spring Land Sale

WHEREAS, Price County has exercised its right to conduct a sale of tax foreclosed properties; and WHEREAS, Price County has authorized the Land Use and UW-Extension Committee to set up and administer such land sale; and

WHEREAS, the Price County Clerk has now exercised her statutory duty and has had deeds prepared and has signed such deeds to the successful purchaser upon their payment under the authorized process set out in the Price County Code, Chapter 511, Land Sales, all as itemized on the attached exhibit; and WHEREAS, it is in the benefit of the taxpayers of Price County for the Price County Clerk to have accepted the funds from such sale and to have concluded and recorded the deed for such sale.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Price County Board of Supervisors hereby authorizes the Price County Clerk's preparation and execution of any documents necessary to conclude the real estate sale set forth on the attached exhibit and fully ratifies any such documents already prepared, executed and/or recorded.

Submitted by the Price County Executive Committee. s/Alan Barkstrom, Chair; Brian Ernst, Jeff Hallstrand, Paula Houdek. Reviewed by County Administrator: s/Nicholas Trimner. Adopted by the Price County Board of Supervisors this 16th day of August 2022. s/Alan Barkstrom, County Board Chair; Jean Gottwald, County Clerk.

Motion Spacek/Wartgow to consider resolution for adoption. Roll call vote on resolution adoption: Yes (13): Barkstrom, Erickson, Ernst, Hallstrand, Hastings, Houdek, Kyle, Palecek, Spacek, Stephan, Strobl, Wakefield, Wartgow. No (0). Motion carried.

Resolution 28-22

Advisory Referendum Regarding Private Funding of Election Administration

WHEREAS, during Wisconsin's 2020 General Election a private, non-profit entity, the Center for Tech and Civic Life, furnished approximately \$8.5 million to five Wisconsin cities and an additional \$1.6 million to over 200 other Wisconsin municipalities; and

WHEREAS, in order to have a well-functioning election, voters need to have trust in the fairness of the process.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Price County Board of Supervisors insists upon the prohibition of the use of private donations from special interest groups, people, or other private entities by government for the purposes of election administration; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Price County Board of Supervisors, in legal session assembled, does hereby approve that the following question be placed on the November 8, 2022 General Election ballot as an advisory referendum question:

Question: Should the State of Wisconsin prohibit election officials from soliciting or using private funds, *technology* or services from special interest groups, people, or other private entities for the purpose of administering elections and referendums?

YES _____ NO _____

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Clerk is directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Governor of the State of Wisconsin, the Wisconsin Counties Association, the Wisconsin Towns Association, the Wisconsin League of Municipalities, all members of the state legislature, and to each Wisconsin County Board.

Submitted by the Price County Executive Committee. s/Alan Barkstrom, Chair; Brian Ernst, Jeff Hallstrand, Paula Houdek, Larry Palecek. Reviewed by County Administrator: s/Nicholas Trimner.

Adopted by the Price County Board of Supervisors this 16th day of August 2022. s/Alan Barkstrom, County Board Chair; Jean Gottwald, County Clerk.

Motion Hallstrand/Ernst consider resolution for adoption.

Motion Strobl/Hastings to amend to add the word "technology" to the referendum question. Roll call vote on amendment: Yes (7): Erickson, Ernst, Hallstrand, Hastings, Stephan, Strobl, Wakefield. No (6): Barkstrom, Houdek, Kyle, Palecek, Spacek, Wartgow. Motion carried. Roll call vote on resolution adoption: Yes (8): Barkstrom, Erickson, Ernst, Hallstrand, Hastings, Stephan, Strobl, Wakefield. No (5): Houdek, Kyle, Palecek, Spacek, Wartgow. Motion carried.

Resolution 29-22

Create Full-time Position – Program Coordinator/Community Outreach

WHEREAS, Price County has contracted with the UW-Extension, recently renamed Extension Price County, University of Wisconsin – Madison, to provide education, training and support to county citizens; and

WHEREAS, over the years that position has varied in title including Community Resource Development Educator, Family Living Educator and, most recently, Human Development and Relationships Educator; and

WHEREAS, the ability to recruit and retain a candidate for this position has proven very difficult; and

WHEREAS, participation in the programs offered by these positions has gradually declined; and

WHEREAS, various committees of the Price County Board of Supervisors have reviewed the viability of retaining a relationship with the UW-Extension in co-sponsoring this position; and

WHEREAS, it has been determined that a better fit for this position would be a change from oversight by the UW-Extension to oversight and direction under County supervision; and

WHEREAS, some of the programming and educational opportunities provided by these positions in the past would integrate very well into the services offered by the Health and Human Services Department; and

WHEREAS, creating a Program Coordinator/Community Outreach position would promote collaboration between the various units within the Health and Human Services Department, along with other government agencies, schools, community business and non-profit organizations, and the citizens of the county, including the ever-increasing senior population.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Price County Board of Supervisors does hereby approve the creation of a full-time Program Coordinator/Community Outreach position in the Health and Human Services Department.

Fiscal impact: \$15,000

Submitted by the Price County Administration Committee. s/Dennis Wartgow, Chair; Jeff Hallstrand; Paula Houdek; Mark Kyle; Jordan Spacek. Reviewed by County Administrator: s/Nicholas Trimner.

Adopted by the Price County Board of Supervisors this 16th day of August 2022. s/Alan Barkstrom, County Board Chair, Jean Gottwald, County Clerk.

Motion Spacek/Wartgow to consider resolution for adoption. Roll call vote on resolution adoption: Yes (12): Barkstrom, Erickson, Ernst, Hallstrand, Houdek, Kyle, Palecek, Spacek, Stephan, Strobl, Wakefield, Wartgow. No (1): Hastings. Motion carried.

Resolution 30-22

2022 Employee Wage Schedule Revision

WHEREAS, the Price County Board of Supervisors approved Resolution 17-22, Employee Wage Adjustment for Cost of Living and Inflation; and

WHEREAS, along with approval of said resolution, a new 2022 wage schedule was also approved; and WHEREAS, with the restructure of the UW-Extension Human Development and Relationships position to the County Health and Human Services Department position of Program Coordinator/Community Outreach, it is necessary to create a new full-time employee on the Price County Wage Schedule; and WHEREAS, the Price County Administration Committee has placed this position on the Price County Wage Schedule at Grade G; and

WHEREAS, the Price County Administration Committee recommends this wage schedule be approved. NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Price County Board of Supervisors adopt the attached revised 2022 Price County Wage Schedule.

Submitted by the Price County Administration Committee. s/Dennis Wartgow, Chair; Jeff Hallstrand; Paula Houdek; Mark Kyle; Jordan Spacek. Reviewed by County Administrator: s/Nicholas Trimner.

Adopted by the Price County Board of Supervisors this 16th day of August 2022. s/Alan Barkstrom, County Board Chair, Jean Gottwald, County Clerk.

Motion Houdek/Wakefield to consider resolution for adoption. Roll call vote on resolution adoption: Yes (12): Barkstrom, Erickson, Ernst, Hallstrand, Houdek, Kyle, Palecek, Spacek, Stephan, Strobl, Wakefield, Wartgow. No (1): Hastings. Motion carried.

Resolution 31-22

2021 Transfer into Highway Facilities Fund

WHEREAS, the Price County Board of Supervisors approved resolution #20-15, Creating a Non-Lapsing Committed Fund for Highway Buildings and Grounds Facilities; and

WHEREAS, the Price County Board of Supervisors approved resolution #21-15, Non-Lapsing Committed Highway Facilities Fund for Buildings and Grounds Guidelines; and

WHEREAS, resolution #21-15 calls for providing a funding mechanism in development of a Non-Lapsing Committed Facilities Fund; and

WHEREAS, the DOT storage reimbursements for 2021 was \$75,860 and the amount of depreciation recorded for 2021 was \$117,642 and the amount of expenditures for 2021 was \$121,348 resulting in a transfer amount of \$3,706 from the Highway Facilities Fund.

WHEREAS, such transfer shall not create the fund balance to exceed \$300,000; and

WHEREAS, the designated transfer of \$3,706 would bring the 2021 ending fund balance to \$296,294.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the amount of \$3,706 be transferred from the Highway Facilities Fund to Highway General Fund for the year 2021.

Submitted by the Price County Executive Committee. s/Alan Barkstrom, Chair; Brian Ernst, Jeff Hallstrand, Paula Houdek. Reviewed by County Administrator: s/Nicholas Trimner. Adopted by the Price County Board of Supervisors this 16th day of August 2022. s/Alan Barkstrom, County Board Chair; Jean Gottwald, County Clerk.

Motion Palecek/Houdek to consider resolution for adoption. Roll call vote on resolution adoption: Yes (13): Barkstrom, Erickson, Ernst, Hallstrand, Hastings, Houdek, Kyle, Palecek, Spacek, Stephan, Strobl, Wakefield, Wartgow. No (0). Motion carried.

Resolution 32-22

2021 Transfer into Highway Equipment Fund

WHEREAS, the Price County Board of Supervisors approved resolution #9-14, Non-Lapsing Committed Highway Equipment Fund Policy (amended September 15, 2015; September 19, 2017 and August 21, 2018); and

WHEREAS, resolution #9-14 calls for providing a funding mechanism in development of a Non-Lapsing Committed Equipment Fund; and

WHEREAS, the gross receipts from sale of Highway equipment for 2021 was 107,886 and the amount of depreciation recorded for 2021 was \$304,556 and the net amount of any profit from the annual equipment audit for 2021 not to exceed net operating income per the audit report for matching revenues (cash in) with expenditures (cash out) was \$0 and the equipment purchases were \$458,340 resulting in a transfer amount of \$45,898 out of the Highway Equipment Fund.

WHEREAS, such transfer shall not reduce the general cash fund below \$600,000; and

WHEREAS, the designated transfer of \$45,898 would bring the 2021 ending equipment fund balance to

\$172,668 and the ending general cash fund to \$2,756,789.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the amount of \$45,898 be transferred from the Highway Equipment Fund into the Highway General Cash Fund for the year 2021.

Submitted by the Price County Executive Committee. s/Alan Barkstrom, Chair; Brian Ernst, Jeff Hallstrand, Paula Houdek. Reviewed by County Administrator: s/Nicholas Trimner. Adopted by the Price County Board of Supervisors this 16th day of August 2022. s/Alan Barkstrom, County Board Chair; Jean Gottwald, County Clerk.

Motion Wartgow/Houdek to consider resolution for adoption. Roll call vote on resolution adoption: Yes (13): Barkstrom, Erickson, Ernst, Hallstrand, Hastings, Houdek, Kyle, Palecek, Spacek, Stephan, Strobl, Wakefield, Wartgow. No (0). Motion carried.

Amend – Resolution 9-14

Non-lapsing Committed Highway Equipment Fund Policy

WHEREAS, A non-lapsing committed equipment fund has been established effective for fiscal year 2014 for the purchase of Highway Department equipment per Price County Resolution, and

WHEREAS, the funding mechanism for this fund and the expenditures from this fund shall be by Price County policy,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the policy for the management of the non-lapsing committed equipment fund be established as follows:

- The Highway Department shall produce a five-year equipment plan to be updated and submitted to the County Board each year during the annual budget process
- The only purchases specifically approved are those included in a County operating budget and tax levy approved by Board resolution. Once the annual budget is approved by the County Board, the Highway Department can change the equipment purchased based on need, but may not exceed the total amount budgeted or purchase equipment not included in the five-year equipment plan without County Board approval
- Equipment shall be defined as any implement, attachment, self-propelled or otherwise, as defined and classified by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (DOT) Machinery Management Committee, **and have a purchase price of \$10,000 or greater**
- The Highway Department shall use the approved five-year equipment plan as a fiscal guideline for the yearly equipment purchases and equipment expenditure projections
- The source(s) of funding for the equipment fund shall be:
 - The gross proceeds from the sale of Highway equipment
 - The amount of depreciation recorded for equipment per the State of Wisconsin DOT equipment depreciation schedule and included in the annual audit of the Highway Department financial statements
 - The total net amount of any profit from the annual equipment audit shall be transferred into the equipment fund annually (not to exceed net operating income per the audit report as adjusted per General Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) for matching revenues (cash in) with expenditures (cash out)) but shall not reduce the general cash fund below the \$600,000 level
 - Future allocations from the Highway general cash fund, if necessary, and only if any such allocation does not reduce the general cash fund below the \$600,000 level
 - Transfer from tax levy for capitalization of repair and maintenance expenses per DOT requirements.
- Highway Department equipment shall be evaluated annually for recapitalization if the current value increases or decreases by 15% or more for the purpose of the depreciation schedule and budgeting
- The Highway & Transportation Committee shall evaluate the results of the annual equipment audit on receipt of the annual audit. If any single piece of equipment has a loss of greater than 25% of its total expenses or has a net loss for three consecutive years, the piece of equipment shall be considered for removal from active service and sold.

Original signatures on file.

Submitted for amendment by the Price County Highway and Transportation Committee: s/Larry Palecek, Chair; Doug Erickson, Brian Ernst, Mark Kyle, Jordan Spacek.

Submitted for amendment by the Price County Executive Committee. s/Alan Barkstrom, Chair; Brian Ernst, Jeff Hallstrand, Paula Houdek. Reviewed by County Administrator: s/Nicholas Trimner. Adopted by the Price County Board of Supervisors this 16th day of August 2022. s/Alan Barkstrom, County Board Chair; Jean Gottwald, County Clerk.

Motion Spacek/Palecek to consider resolution for adoption. Roll call vote on resolution adoption: Yes (13): Barkstrom, Erickson, Ernst, Hallstrand, Hastings, Houdek, Kyle, Palecek, Spacek, Stephan, Strobl,

Wakefield, Wartgow. No (0). Motion carried.

Resolution - Price County Airport Six Year Plan: Not forwarded from committee.

Resolution 33-22

Price County Highway Department 2024-2028 Equipment Improvement Program and 2024-2026 Facilities Improvement Program

WHEREAS, per Resolutions 8-14 and 9-14 adopted by the Price County Board of Supervisors, a Non-lapsing Committed Fund for Highway Equipment was created and implemented; and

WHEREAS, per Resolutions 20-15 and 21-15 adopted by the Price County Board of Supervisors, a Non-lapsing Committed Fund for Highway Buildings and Grounds Facilities was created and implemented; and

WHEREAS, per said resolutions, on an annual basis, a five-year equipment plan and a three-year facilities improvement plan is to be developed by the Price County Highway Department, approved by the Highway and Transportation Committee and presented to the County Board for adoption; and

WHEREAS, the list of equipment and facility improvements defined on the plans presented can be changed by the Highway Department, based on need, but may not exceed the total amount budgeted or purchase equipment or make facility improvements not included in the plans without County Board approval; and

WHEREAS, the five-year equipment plan and the three-year facilities improvement plan have been presented to and reviewed by the Executive Committee.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Price County Board of Supervisors hereby approves the 2024-2028 Equipment Improvement Program and the 2024-2027 Facilities Improvement Program.

Submitted by the Price County Highway and Transportation Committee: s/Larry Palecek, Chair; Doug Erickson, Brian Ernst, Mark Kyle, Jordan Spacek. Reviewed by County Administrator: s/Nicholas Trimner.

Adopted by the Price County Board of Supervisors this 16th day of August 2022. s/Alan Barkstrom, County Board Chair; Jean Gottwald, County Clerk.

Motion Wartgow/Kyle to consider resolution for adoption. Roll call vote on resolution adoption: Yes (13): Barkstrom, Erickson, Ernst, Hallstrand, Hastings, Houdek, Kyle, Palecek, Spacek, Stephan, Strobl, Wakefield, Wartgow. No (0). Motion carried.

Resolution 34-22

Town of Fifield Bridge and Culvert Aid Request

Whereas, the Town of Fifield is requesting Federal Aid for design and installation of a new bridge on Forest Road 144 over Springstead Creek; and

Whereas, project costs are estimated at \$270,795, such costs to be determined upon project completion; and

Whereas, the funding criteria for the above-mentioned project is as follows:

75% Federal, 12.5% Price County; 12.5% Town of Fifield; and

Whereas, the County portion will be recovered by a direct/special tax levy per § 82.08(2)(a), Wis. Stats., assessed to townships participating in the Bridge and Culvert Aid Program.

Now therefore be it resolved that the Price County Board of Supervisors hereby approve the Town of Fifield Bridge and Culvert Aid Request.

Fiscal Impact: \$35,375 (estimated)

Submitted by the Price County Highway and Transportation Committee: s/Larry Palecek, Chair; Doug Erickson, Brian Ernst, Mark Kyle, Jordan Spacek. Reviewed by County Administrator: s/Nicholas Trimner.

Adopted by the Price County Board of Supervisors this 16th day of August 2022. s/Alan Barkstrom, County Board Chair; Jean Gottwald, County Clerk.

Motion Wartgow/Palecek to consider resolution for adoption. Roll call vote on resolution adoption: Yes (13): Barkstrom, Erickson, Ernst, Hallstrand, Hastings, Houdek, Kyle, Palecek, Spacek, Stephan, Strobl, Wakefield, Wartgow. No (0). Motion carried.

Resolution 35-22

Town of Ogema Bridge and Culvert Aid Request

Whereas, the Town of Ogema is requesting aid for design and installation of new culverts on Hallstrand Road over Ottertail Creek; and

Whereas, project costs are estimated at \$100,000, such costs to be determined upon project completion; and

Whereas, the funding criteria for the above-mentioned project is as follows:

50% Price County; 50% Town of Ogema; and

Whereas, the County portion will be recovered by a direct/special tax levy per § 82.08(2)(a), Wis. Stats., assessed to townships participating in the Bridge and Culvert Aid Program.

Now therefore be it resolved that the Price County Board of Supervisors hereby approve the Town of Ogema Bridge and Culvert Aid Request.

Fiscal Impact: \$50,000 (estimated)

Submitted by the Price County Highway and Transportation Committee: s/Larry Palecek, Chair; Doug Erickson, Brian Ernst, Mark Kyle, Jordan Spacek. Reviewed by County Administrator: s/Nicholas Trimner. Adopted by the Price County Board of Supervisors this 16th day of August 2022. s/Alan Barkstrom, County Board Chair; Jean Gottwald, County Clerk.

Motion Erickson/Hallstrand to consider resolution for adoption. Roll call vote on resolution adoption: Yes (13): Barkstrom, Erickson, Ernst, Hallstrand, Hastings, Houdek, Kyle, Palecek, Spacek, Stephan, Strobl, Wakefield, Wartgow. No (0). Motion carried.

Closed Session: Deemed not necessary.

Appointments:

1. Price County Highway Commissioner (term to end January 1, 2024): Motion Wartgow/Palecek to approve the County Administrator appointment of Roger Petrick as the Price County Highway Commissioner. Motion carried. September 1st will be Joe Baratka's last day with the County.

Convene to Committee of the Whole at 11:27 a.m.:

1. Board Chair Report – Alan Barkstrom: Presented to Price County Towns Association. WCA Board Chair forum. Presentation to Frank Dusek for dedication to snowmobiling in Price County.
2. County Administrator's Report – Nick Trimner
 - a. 2022 Financial Summary: Sales tax continues to do well. Nothing more unexpected than discussed in the past. Parks revenue is down.
 - b. 2023 Preliminary Budget: Reviewed. Preliminary levy \$11,337,045. Mill rate 6.44%.

Supervisor Erickson excused at 12:06 p.m.

- c. Updates: Attending a WCA Opioid settlement forum.
3. Committee Chair Reports:
 - a. Administration – Wartgow: Still recruiting for three social workers, deputy sheriff, highway operators. Looking into self-funding health insurance. Sheriff Deputy's union negotiations to begin. Implementing closing at noon on Friday has been well received by staff.
 - b. Buildings & Grounds – Spacek: Safety Building, Courthouse, Normal Building projects continuing. Waiting for hydrology study for Fairgrounds property transfer. Friends of Fred Smith house repairs ongoing.

Supervisor Wakefield excused at 12:12 p.m.

- c. Executive – Barkstrom: 2023 budget work.
- d. Forestry & Parks – Hallstrand: Park and campground projects. Ongoing problem of damage to gates and roads. Working on campground expansion and reservation system. Four active timber sales. \$829,532 revenue.
- e. Health and Human Services – Sarah Reese-Socha: Unit quarterly reports. Employee perks and change in hours well received by staff.
- f. Highway & Transportation – Palecek: Summer road projects. Equipment purchases scheduling issues. Lake levels low due to dry weather. Airport project continues. Dealing with hangar use issues.
- g. Land Use & UW-Extension – Wartgow: Conditional use and special use permits. Monitoring soil testing. Clean Sweep in September. UW working with County staff with position transition.
- h. Law Enforcement – Palecek: Reviewing ordinances.

Convene out of Committee of the Whole at 12:24 p.m.

Date of Next Meeting: September 13, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. in the County Board Room

Meeting adjourned at 12:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: Jean Gottwald, County Clerk