

MEETING OF THE PRICE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

February 21, 2023

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: Pastor Larry Tenut.

Pledge of Allegiance recited by those in attendance.

Roll Call: Present (13): Alan Barkstrom, Doug Erickson, Brian Ernst, Jason Hastings, Jeff Hallstrand, Paula Houdek, Mark Kyle, Larry Palecek, Jordan Spacek, Patricia Stephan, Ginny Strobl, Lorelei Wakefield, Dennis Wartgow. Absent: Lorelei Wakefield. Also present: Nick Trimner, Leanna Samardich. Instructions were given to any members of the public attending electronically.

Approval of Minutes December 13, 2022: Motion Palecek/Hallstrand to approve the minutes of the December 13, 2022 meeting as presented. Motion carried.

Communications and Announcements: None.

Public Comments: In regard to agenda item Resolution #1: Shirley Smith, City of Phillips; Sally Huml, City of Phillip; Rebecca Puhl, Director Phillips Public Library; Patty Nutt, City of Phillips; Melinda Price, Town of Ogema; Rodney Price, Town of Ogema; Meredith Hueckman, City of Phillips; Jason Enderle, City of Park Falls; Sara Enderle, City of Park Falls.

Presentation:

1. Friends of Fred Smith – 2022 Year End Report: Ann Grzywnowicz, Operations Manager.
2. Phillips Area Chamber of Commerce – Tourism in Price County: Laura Palzkill, Executive Director.

Resolutions:

Resolution 1-23

Authority to Appoint Additional Members to the Phillips Library Board

WHEREAS, the County Board Chairperson currently has County Board approval to appoint two members to the Phillips Library Board; and

WHEREAS, State statute authorizes the county chairperson, with the approval of the county board, to appoint from the residence of the county additional members to library board of a public library of a municipality located in whole or in part in the county, for a term of three years from May 1 following the appointment, and thereafter for a term of three years, as follows:

If the annual sum appropriated by the county to the public library is equal to at least two-thirds, but less than the annual sum appropriated to the public library by any municipality in which the public library is located, four additional members; and

WHEREAS, the Phillips Public Library is funded by the City of Phillips and by the collection of funds according to the Price County Plan of Library Services, with Price County collecting \$154,741.00 representing 47.5% of the library's current budget. Therefore, under WI Statute §43.60(3)(a)(4), Price County would be entitled to appoint up to a total of four members.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Price County Board of Supervisors authorizes the county chairperson to appoint its authorized allocation of four members to the Phillips Library Board.

Submitted by the Price County Executive Committee. s/Alan Barkstrom, Chair; Brian Ernst, Jeff Hallstrand. Reviewed by County Administrator: s/Nicholas Trimner. Adopted by the Price County Board of Supervisors this 21st day of February 2023. s/Alan Barkstrom, County Board Chair; Jean Gottwald, County Clerk.

Motion Strobl/Wakefield to consider resolution for adoption. Roll call vote on resolution adoption: Yes (9): Barkstrom, Erickson, Ernst, Hallstrand, Hastings, Spacek, Stephan, Strobl, Wakefield. No (4): Houdek, Kyle, Palecek, Wartgow. Motion carried.

Resolution - Opioid Settlement Agreement (2): Resolution not available at this time.

Resolution 2-23

County Approval of Assuming Zoning Administration for the Town of Worcester and Reorganizing of Staffing for the Zoning and Forestry & Parks Departments

WHEREAS, the Town of Worcester had undertaken the obligation and authority to control zoning and land use planning to the extent that such authority is granted to the Town pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes; and had entered into a Memorandum of Understanding whereby the County and Town had agreed upon the division of such zoning and land use planning authority; and

WHEREAS, by action of the Worcester Town Board on December 20, 2022, the Town of Worcester has decided to turn the zoning function of the Town of Worcester over to Price County Zoning; and

WHEREAS, by such action by the Town of Worcester Board, the zoning administration for the Town of Worcester will default to the responsibility of the Price County Zoning Department; and

WHEREAS, with this additional workload of the Zoning Department and also the unrelated additional workload seen by the Forestry and Parks Department associated with the increased activity at County Parks and increased activity in other departmental functions; there is justifiable need to restructure the one support staff currently shared between the two departments.

NOW THEREFORE BE RESOLVED, that the Price County Board of Supervisors hereby acknowledges assuming the responsibilities of zoning administration for the Town of Worcester; and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the support staff structure be approved for an additional staff person in the Zoning Department and restructure of the support staff in the Forestry and Parks Department, with such recommendation being forwarded to Administration Committee for their consideration. Submitted by the Price County Land Use / UW-Extension Committee: s/Dennis Wartgow, Chair; Alan Barkstrom; Doug Erickson; Ginny Strobl; Lorelei Wakefield. Reviewed by County Administrator: s/Nicholas Trimner. Adopted by the Price County Board of Supervisors this 21st day of February 2023. s/Alan Barkstrom, County Board Chair; Jean Gottwald, County Clerk. 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 3-23

Restructure Staffing to Include Dedicated Full-time Forestry & Parks Administrative Assistant and Part-time Land Use & Zoning Administrative Assistant

WHEREAS, administrative support in the Forestry & Parks Department and the Land Use and Zoning Department has been one shared full-time position; and WHEREAS, with the additional workload of assuming zoning duties for the Town of Worcester, the increase in reporting requirements to the State of Wisconsin, the increase in use of and foreseeable expansion of County parks, the amount of work for support staff can no longer be handled by one full-time person; and WHEREAS, the cost of the restructuring of staffing for the two departments will come from the anticipated increase in county park revenues and the increase in fees collected through the Zoning Department. NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Price County Board of Supervisors does hereby approve restructure of the Forestry and Parks Department staffing to include a dedicated full-time administrative assistant and the Land Use and Zoning Department staffing to include a dedicated part-time administrative assistant and instructs the Administration Committee to develop job descriptions and approve recruitment process for the positions.

Fiscal impact for 2023: \$ 0 Fiscal Impact for 2024: \$10,000

Submitted by the Price County Administration Committee. s/Dennis Wartgow, Chair; Jeff Hallstrand; Paula Houdek; Mark Kyle; Jordan Spacek. 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 21st day of February 2023. 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 4-23

Create Full-time Position: Additional Social Worker (Behavioral Health Unit)

WHEREAS, in recent years the state of Wisconsin added numerous mandates and program expectations which increased county workload and costs for the Behavioral Health Unit; and

WHEREAS, the workload for the Behavioral Health Unit has steadily increased over the past several years in Children Long-Term Service cases due to the state mandating elimination of a waitlist for new client enrollment in as of August 2021, causing caseloads for unit social workers to grow to unreasonable levels, contributing to high levels of staff turnover and creating highly stressful working conditions with a significant increase in overtime worked, as well as an alarming decrease in resources available to the clients and families served; and

WHEREAS, mental health cases have increased across the state with the need for an increase in services involving a more determined focus on linkage and follow-up; and

WHEREAS, part of this role is to collaborate with schools to implement more services as well as to identify needs sooner resulting from an increase in youth crisis calls; and

WHEREAS, Price County Health and Human Services is in need of an additional social worker to help alleviate the workload and time constraints put on workers in the Behavioral Health Unit; and

WHEREAS, the fiscal impact should be minimal because of grants and the ability to focus on linkage and follow-up which can decrease the need for higher cost placements.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Price County Board of Supervisors does hereby approve the creation of an additional full-time social worker position in the Behavioral Health Unit of the Health and Human Services Department and instructs the Administration Committee to develop a job description and approve recruitment process for the position.

Fiscal impact: None

Submitted by the Price County Administration Committee. s/Dennis Wartgow, Chair; Jeff Hallstrand; Paula Houdek; Mark Kyle; Jordan Spacek. 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 21st day of February 2023. s/Alan Barkstrom, County Board Chair; Jean Gottwald, County Clerk. Motion Houdek/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 5-23

Create Part-time Position: Adult Protective Services Social Worker (Aging & Disability Unit)
WHEREAS workload for the Adult Protective Services portion of the Aging and Disability Unit within Price County Health and Human Services Department has steadily increased over the past three years due to the increasing proportion of county residents who are elderly and the increasing complexity of cases; and WHEREAS, Elder and Vulnerable Adult Investigations and responses are complex and time intensive, which requires maintaining an interdisciplinary team for joint problem solving and collaboration with community partners and in addition requires considerable outreach and education in order to protect our vulnerable citizens from the increasing rate of scams and financial exploitation; and WHEREAS, the need for Guardianships, Protective Placements and Emergency Protective Placements as a form of protective services to our community is increasing with the changes in demographics; and WHEREAS, the current Adult Protective Service Social Worker allocates half of their time to covering these duties, a position that has been determined is in need to be full-time to absorb the increased caseload for the department; and WHEREAS, after extensive review of existing staffing structure within the Health & Human Services Department, creation of a part-time Adult Protective Social Worker will provide the existing Adult Protective Service Social Worker position the ability to transition into a dedicated full-time position to cover the growing caseload; and WHEREAS, the fiscal impact is expected to be minimal due to availability of grants and state funding. NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Price County Board of Supervisors does hereby approve the creation of an additional part-time Adult Protective Service Social Worker position in the Aging and Disability Unit of the Health and Human Services Department and instructs the Administration Committee to develop a job description and approve recruitment process for the position.

Fiscal impact: Less than \$10,000 (unbudgeted)

Submitted by the Price County Administration Committee. s/Dennis Wartgow, Chair; Jeff Hallstrand; Paula Houdek; Mark Kyle; Jordan Spacek. 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 21st day of February 2023. s/Alan Barkstrom, County Board Chair; Jean Gottwald, County Clerk.

Motion Houdek/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 6-23

2023 Employee Wage Schedule

WHEREAS, the Price County Board of Supervisors provided for an employee wage increase in the 2023 budget; and

WHEREAS, the Price County Administration Committee was given the responsibility of overseeing the employee wage schedule and has decided on an across-the-board wage increase of 3%; and

WHEREAS, the result of the 3% increase is incorporated into the attached 2023 Price County Wage Schedule; and

WHEREAS, upon approving base salaries for County elected officials, the County Board directed that any subsequent across-the-board increases given to the Price County Wage Schedule would also be given to County elected officials; and

WHEREAS, the Price County Administration Committee recommends this wage schedule be approved and become effective March 5, 2023.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Price County Board of Supervisors adopt the attached 2023 Price County Wage Schedule effective March 5, 2023, reflecting a 3% increase to the base wage rate.

Annual Fiscal Impact: \$90,000 (budgeted)

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 21st day of February 2023. 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 7-23

Amend Chapter 530 Article VI (Wincentzen Rezone)

WHEREAS, Chapter 59, Wisconsin State Statutes require that the Price County Land Use & UW-Extension Committee hold a public hearing and report to the Price County Board of Supervisors on all petitions to amend Zoning Ordinances or Zoning District Maps; and

WHEREAS, the Price County Board of Supervisors must then act upon the recommendation of the Price County Land Use and UW-Extension Committee, either approving or disapproving or returning the petition with changes recommended by the Price County Board of Supervisors, and

WHEREAS, the Price County Land Use and UW-Extension Committee has held a public hearing and hereby recommends that the Price County Board of Supervisors approve the rezoning of the following described parcel:

One (1) parcel of land located within part of the NW1/4 NE1/4, Section 8, Township 34N, Range 3E, Town of Spirit, (W1899 State Highway 86), as indicated on the attached map.

This petition is to rezone the parcel from A-1 (Agriculture District) to RF-1 (Rural Residential-Forestry District).

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Price County Board of Supervisors approve the rezoning petition for Leanne Meidam Wincentzen.

Submitted by the Price County Land Use / UW-Extension Committee: s/Dennis Wartgow, Chair; Alan Barkstrom; Doug Erickson; Ginny Strobl; Lorelei Wakefield. Reviewed by County Administrator: s/Nicholas Trimner. Adopted by the Price County Board of Supervisors this 21st day of February 2023. s/Alan Barkstrom, County Board Chair; Jean Gottwald, County Clerk.

Motion Strobl/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 8-23

Request Wisconsin Department of Transportation to Prioritize the State Highway 13 Project (County Highway D to County Highway F)

WHEREAS, the portion of State Highway 13 within the City of Phillips has been severely deteriorating over the past decade; and

WHEREAS, the City of Phillips is dealing with failing infrastructure under this section of roadway that often requires closing of sections of this road to make repairs to the failing infrastructure, causing business disruptions, dangerous conditions and rerouting of state highway traffic; and

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) has had the reconstruction and pavement replacement of State Highway 13 from County Highway D to County Highway F on their project list for several years; and

WHEREAS, as recently as 2021, the WisDOT scheduled this project for 2023; and

WHEREAS, with the most recent road construction listing, this project has now been moved to 2026.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Price County Board of Supervisors requests the Wisconsin Department of Transportation to prioritize the State Highway 13 construction project from County Highway D to County Highway F and bring this project forward in the construction schedule.

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED, that his resolution be sent to Governor Evers; Wisconsin State legislators representing Price County; Craig Thompson, Secretary WisDOT; Tony Kemnitz, WisDOT Regional Safety Engineer; Wisconsin County Highway Association and the Wisconsin Counties Association.

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 21st day of February 2023. 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.

Appointments:

1. 2023 Emergency Fire Wardens: Motion Hallstrand/Erickson to approve appointments as presented. Motion carried.
2. Local Emergency Planning Committee: Motion Strobl/Spacek to approve appointments as presented. Motion carried.

Reports on File:

1. Register of Deeds – 2022 Annual Report
2. Friends of Fred Smith – 2022 Annual Report

Convened to Committee of the Whole at 10:33 a.m.

1. Board Chair Report – Alan Barkstrom: Alan and Nick met with local schools to implement the Starlink Program for students in need of internet access. Attended HazMat tabletop exercise. Attended NWRPC meeting.

2. County Administrator's Report – Nick Trimner
 - a. 2022 Financial Summary: Working on finishing year end journal entries as information becomes available.
 - b. 2023 Financial Summary: Starting out fairly normal. Self-funding health insurance implemented January 1st.
 - c. Updates: Primary Election Day. Visit from Representative Green. State biennial budget was released. Attended childcare symposium discussing the shortage of availability. Allocation of Opioid funds to be determined by work group, which is yet to be established.
3. Committee Chair Reports:
 - a. Administration – Wartgow: Approved RN job description. Self-funding health insurance going well. Resolutions that were forwarded to the Board.
 - b. Buildings & Grounds - Spacek: Have not met. Department dealing with ice/snow removal and completing project in the Courthouse.
 - c. Executive – Barkstrom: 5-R property DNR remediation scheduled. Temporary use of ARPA funds to continue with park expansion projects. Opioid settlement. Shortage of court reporters. Discussion of renewable energy sources. Resolutions that were forwarded to the Board.
 - d. Forestry & Parks – Hallstrand: Have not met. Stumpage budget met. Bid requests sent for summer projects. Working on carbon credit reporting. New Forester on staff.
 - e. Health and Human Services – Houdek: Review of Community Health Assessment Plan. Discussion on health equity. Discussion on the Senior Nutrition Program.
 - f. Highway & Transportation – Palecek: Ongoing winter maintenance. Attended Winter Road School. \$1 million received for County Highway E project funding. Discussion on use of debt service to cover project costs. New WCHA director. Recruitment and retention an issue everywhere.
 - g. Land Use & UW-Extension – Wartgow: Permit approvals. Minimum bids set for spring land sale. Land Use projects. 4-H program updates. Requesting input from members on UW-Extension programming.
 - h. Law Enforcement – Palecek: Will be reviewing several ordinance amendments.

Convene out of Committee of the Whole at 11:25 a.m.

Date of Next Meeting: April 18, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. in the County Board Room

Meeting adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted: Jean Gottwald, County Clerk