

REGULAR MEETING OF THE PRICE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
JUNE 18, 2019

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

Meeting called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Robert Kopisch, County Board Chairperson. Invocation: Pastor John Trewyn. Pledge of Allegiance recited by those in attendance. Roll Call: Present (12): Larry Palecek, James Adolph, Sheryl Slaby, Jeffrey Hallstrand, James Hintz, Paula Houdek, Dennis Wartgow, Sue Bocock, Robert Kopisch, John Vlach, Bruce Jilka, William Teeters. Excused: (1): Jordan Spacek. Also present: Nick Trimner.

Approve minutes of the May 21, 2019 meeting: Motion Hintz/Adolph to approve the minutes of the May 21, 2019 meeting as presented. Motion carried.

Communications and Announcements: Loren Adams was introduced as the new Health & Human Services Department – Aging and Disability Resource Center Manager. A thank you was received from the Chequamegon School District Charter School for the Government Day that was held.

Public Comments: Laurie Hansen – Town of Elk – County Highway W bridge project and the concern of County Highway S road being used as the detour.

Presentation:

1. Norvado – Chad Young provided information about the purchase of Price County Telephone Company by Norvado.

Resolutions:

Resolution 16-19

Adopt the 2020-2029 Price County Land and Water Resource Management Plan

WHEREAS, per Wisconsin State Statute §92.10, counties are required to develop a Land and Water Resource Management Plan (LWRM); and

WHEREAS this requirement provides Price County the opportunity to assess its resource conditions and needs and to decide how it can best meet its goals, as developed; and

WHEREAS, Price County brought diverse groups of stakeholders together including local government officials and staff, special interest groups and citizens to assist in the development of the Land and Water Resource Management Plan; and

WHEREAS, Price County held a public hearing on May 23, 2019 to accept comments on the Price County Land and Water Resource Management Plan; and

WHEREAS, to be eligible to receive soil and water resource management grant funds from the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP), counties must submit a plan and funding request based upon an approved Land and Water Resource Management Plan.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Price County Board of Supervisors approves the ten-year Land and Water Resource Management Plan presented by the Zoning and Land Conservation Department.

Submitted by the Land Use / UW-Extension Committee: s/Sheryl Slaby, Chairperson; James Adolph; Paula Houdek; Bruce Jilka; William Teeters; Donald Onchuck. Reviewed by County Administrator: s/Nicholas Trimner. Adopted by the Price County Board of Supervisors this 18th day of June 2019. s/Robert D. Kopisch, County Board Chair; Jean Gottwald, County Clerk. For: 12, Against:0. Motion Jilka/Teeters to consider resolution for adoption. Roll call vote on resolution adoption: Yes (12): Palecek, Adolph, Slaby, Hallstrand, Hintz, Houdek, Wartgow, Bocock, Kopisch, Vlach, Jilka, Teeters; No (0). Motion carried.

Resolution 17-19

Request Additional State Funding for Child Protective Services

WHEREAS Price County is experiencing a dramatic increase in the need for protective services for children resulting in placing these children in safe environments outside of the homes; and

WHEREAS, since 2015, the number of children placed outside of the home has risen from 25 to 66 children in 2018; and

WHEREAS, the percentage of placements related to drug use over the same period has risen from 24% to 47%; and

WHEREAS, the out-of-pocket costs of these placement services has risen from \$308,880 in 2015 to \$1,150,308 in 2018, an increase of 372% in placement costs incurred by Price County from 2015 - 2018; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin counties have an annual operating levy cap of 0% or the percentage of net new construction, whichever is greater. From 2015 through 2018, the percentage of net new construction in Price County has been .531%, .472% and .610%, respectively; generating a cumulative additional levy capacity of \$116,762 for all Price County operating levy needs for three years (2016 – 2018); and

WHEREAS, to pay for these increased costs out of our operating levy, the County has been forced to borrow for highway construction expenditures, which in 2018 amounted to \$700,000 of incremental borrowing, which realistically transferred operating levy from the Highway Department to the Health and Human Services Department; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's 2019-2021 biennial budget includes an additional \$15 million in each year to address the costs of Child Protective Services; although, the Wisconsin Counties Association requested that amount be \$30 million; and

WHEREAS, both the Governor's budget proposal and the Wisconsin Counties Association's (WCA) request are grossly inadequate in addressing the costs of providing these mandated services; and

WHEREAS, Price County is rapidly approaching the end of our ability to borrow to pay for these costs. Once the option to borrow is exhausted, the only recourse will be to use money from our fund balance.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Price County Board of Supervisors requests the Wisconsin State Legislators to consider the following, in order for counties in Wisconsin to have some relief from the financial burden of providing State mandated services that have quickly gotten out of control:

1. Elimination of the operating levy caps imposed on Wisconsin counties, or
2. Excluding the cost of Child Protective Services from the operating levy cap calculation as are bridge and culvert aid, library services and debt, or
3. Having the State of Wisconsin fully fund the entire cost of Child Protective Services (the preferred solution).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Clerk is directed to send a copy of this resolution to Governor Evers, the Joint Finance Committee of the Wisconsin Legislature, the state legislators for Price County, all Wisconsin counties and the Wisconsin Counties Association, for consideration at the WCA annual business meeting to become part of the WCA platform.

Submitted by the Price County Health and Human Services Board: s/Bruce Jilka, Chair; James Adolph; Peter Dahlie; Sally Huml; Suzanne Ocker; Gerald Swenson; John Vlach; Dennis Wartgow. Reviewed by County Administrator: s/Nicholas Trimner. Adopted by the Price County Board of Supervisors this 21st day of June 2019. s/Robert D. Kopisch, County Board Chair; Jean Gottwald, County Clerk. For: 12, Against:0. Motion Wartgow/Adolph to consider resolution for adoption. Roll call vote on resolution adoption: Yes (12): Palecek, Adolph, Slaby, Hallstrand, Hintz, Houdek, Wartgow, Bocock, Kopisch, Vlach, Jilka, Teeters; No (0). Motion carried.

Resolution 18-10

Elimination of Zero Operating Levy Cap Imposed on Wisconsin Counties

WHEREAS, in 2012, the State of Wisconsin imposed limits on town, village, city and county property tax levies under Wis. Stat. §66.0602; and

WHEREAS, Wis. Stat. §66.0602 limits that increase to the local property tax levy to no more than the greater of (a) 0% of last year's actual levy or (b) a percentage equal to the percentage change in equalized value due to new construction less improvements removed; and

WHEREAS, the percentage of net new construction in Price County used to calculate the increase in the operating levy allowance has significantly lagged the CPI-U over this period; and

WHEREAS, as a result, Price County has been forced to absorb inflationary increases in normal operating expenditures with no offsetting increase in revenues; and

WHEREAS, unexpected increases in the expenditures for certain items, particularly unfunded mandates such as the cost of Child Protective Services, has compounded this issue; and

WHEREAS, Price County has taken measures to curb spending by cutting costs, eliminating positions, limiting employee wage increases, reducing program offerings and postponing necessary work on highway infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, to continue to provide essential services to county citizens, Price County has resorted to using debt to fund qualified expenditures previously funded in its operating levy resulting in a higher cost to Price County taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, Price County will be unable to continue to raise revenues using debt.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Price County Board of Supervisors requests complete elimination of the current 0% tax levy cap or replacing it with a levy allowance that adequately reflects the increases in everyday costs incurred by Wisconsin Counties; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Clerk is directed to send a copy of this resolution to Governor Evers, the Joint Finance Committee of the Wisconsin Legislature, the state legislators for Price County and the Wisconsin Counties Association for consideration at the WCA annual business meeting to become part of the WCA platform.

Submitted by the Price County Executive Committee. s/Robert D. Kopisch, Chairperson; James Adolph; James Hintz; Bruce Jilka; Larry Palecek. Reviewed by County Administrator: s/Nicholas Trimner. Adopted by the Price County Board of Supervisors this 18th day of June 2019. s/Robert D. Kopisch, County Board Chair; Jean Gottwald, County Clerk. For: 12, Against: 0. Motion Hintz/Slaby to consider resolution for adoption. Roll call vote on resolution adoption: Yes (12): Palecek, Adolph, Slaby, Hallstrand, Hintz, Houdek, Wartgow, Bocock, Kopisch, Vlach, Jilka, Teeters; No (0). Motion carried.

Resolution 19-19

Designating General Fund Money for Parcel Replanting

WHEREAS, Price County has 92,307 acres of land entered into the Wisconsin County Forest Law (Wis. State Statue 28.10 and 28.11); and

WHEREAS, the timber management program on the Price County Forest is governed by the Wisconsin DNR's Silvicultural and Forest Aesthetics handbook which states:

Artificial regeneration is the most reliable and most commonly practiced method to regenerate red pine stands. Proper site selection, site preparation and competition control are important for artificial regeneration to be successful; and

WHEREAS, included in the Spring 2019 Timber Sale bid packet is Tract #8-19, which contains 126 acres of red pine and white pine that is ready for final harvest: and

WHEREAS, per bids approved at the May 14, 2019 Forestry and Parks Committee meeting, Tract #8-19 sold for \$465,107; and

WHEREAS, the entire 126 acres will need to be artificially regenerated at an estimated cost of \$75,600.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that when the time comes to artificially regenerate the 126-acre Tract #8-19, money from the General Fund, not to exceed \$75,600, will be transferred to the Forestry and Parks Department to cover the related expenses.

Submitted by: Price County Forestry and Parks Committee: s/James Hintz, Chair; Jeff Hallstrand; Paula Houdek. Reviewed by the Price County Executive Committee: s/Robert D. Kopisch, Chair; James Adolph; James Hintz; Bruce Jilka; Larry Palecek. Reviewed by County Administrator: s/Nicholas Trimner. Adopted by the Price County Board of Supervisors this 18th day of June 2019. s/Robert D. Kopisch, County Board Chair; Jean Gottwald, County Clerk. For: 12, Against: 0. Motion Houdek/Slaby to consider resolution for adoption. Roll call vote on resolution adoption: Yes (12): Palecek, Adolph, Slaby, Hallstrand, Hintz, Houdek, Wartgow, Bocock, Kopisch, Vlach, Jilka, Teeters; No (0). Motion carried.

Resolution 20-19

Support Improved Broadband Access in Price County

WHEREAS, having access to high speed (broadband) Internet is a necessity for full participation in today's economy and society. It is essential infrastructure for Price County, its communities and its citizens to remain competitive in the 21st Century for economic development, business development, job creation, communication, public safety, education, healthcare, entertainment and other future uses; and WHEREAS, significant portions of Price County are below average in Internet speed, adoption and capacity compared to the rest of the state, nation and worldwide competitors; and

WHEREAS, the citizens and businesses in Price County have expressed their desire and need for improved broadband Internet service to their local government officials and their Internet service provider; and

WHEREAS, Price County could serve as a catalyst for supporting improvements in broadband Internet service throughout the county by partnering with local, private broadband providers and going forward with the Public Service Commission Community Certification Programs (Broadband Forward and Telecommuter Forward); and

WHEREAS, Price County could collaborate with area broadband providers to either apply for state Public Service Commission Broadband Expansion Grant Program funds, or benefit from Federal Communications Commission Connect America Program Grant funds provided to area broadband providers, for the purpose of constructing broadband infrastructure in unserved and underserved areas of the County; and

WHEREAS, cooperation and collaboration between Price County and area broadband providers will be necessary for success; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Price County Board of Supervisors assembled this 18th day of June 2019, hereby strongly supports the goal of providing the best possible broadband Internet availability in terms of speed, adoption rate by its citizens and data capacity for the citizens of the county.

Submitted by the Price County Ad Hoc Committee on Broadband: William Teeters, Chair; Jeffrey Hallstrand; Paula Houdek; Evan Lund; T.J. Podmolik. Reviewed by County Administrator: s/Nicholas Trimner. Adopted by the Price County Board of Supervisors this 18th day of June 2019. s/Robert D.

Kopisch, County Board Chair; Jean Gottwald, County Clerk. For: 12, Against: 0. Motion Hallstrand/Houdek to consider resolution for adoption. Roll call vote on resolution adoption: Yes (12): Palecek, Adolph, Slaby, Hallstrand, Hintz, Houdek, Wartgow, Boccock, Kopisch, Vlach, Jilka, Teeters; No (0). Motion carried.

Resolution 21-19

Ratifying 2019 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/Robert D. Kopisch, Chair; James Adolph; James Hintz; Bruce Jilka; Larry Palecek. Reviewed by County Administrator: s/Nicholas Trimner. Adopted by the Price County Board of Supervisors this 18th day of June 2019. Robert D. Kopisch, County Board Chair; Jean Gottwald, County Clerk. For: 12, Against: 0. Motion Adolph/Slaby to consider resolution for adoption. Roll call vote on resolution adoption: Yes (12): Palecek, Adolph, Slaby, Hallstrand, Hintz, Houdek, Wartgow, Boccock, Kopisch, Vlach, Jilka, Teeters; No (0). Motion carried.

Amend Resolution 7-18

Request to Apply for WDNR 2018 Municipal Dam Grant Program (Musser Dam)

(amended February 19, 2019) (amended June 18, 2019)

WHEREAS, Price County Board of Supervisor Resolution #4-12 was adopted as:

Now Therefore Be It Resolved, that Resolution #48-09 be amended to require Price County Board approval, by resolution, of any County funding required by the awarding of a grant to Price County under the WDNR Municipal Dams Grant Program prior to submitting any such application for financial aid from the Program for any specific County dam project.; and

WHEREAS, needed repairs have been identified at Musser Dam, WDNR F.F. #50.17; and

WHEREAS, Price County, Wisconsin may make applications for grant monies for maintenance, repairs and modifications to their County owned dams from the Wisconsin State Statute §31.385 and §227.11 and Wisconsin Administrative Code Chapter NR 335; and

WHEREAS, anticipated estimated cost for the project will be ~~\$25,000~~ ~~\$33,000~~ \$34,000; and

WHEREAS, the State share for such a project may not exceed 50% of the first \$400,000 of eligible project costs; and

WHEREAS, Price County must designate an authorized representative to: submit applications to the WDNR for financial aid; sign grant agreement documents; take all necessary action to complete the projects and submit for reimbursement claims associated with aforesaid grant program.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Price County Board of Supervisors hereby authorizes the Price County Highway Commissioner and Dams Superintendent to be those aforementioned representatives; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, Price County agrees to pay their share of the eligible costs which is equal to the total project cost minus the State share authorizing funds to be transferred on an as needed basis from the Capital Improvement Fund to the Dams Department account number 100-83-49270, Transfer from Capital Improvement Fund.

Financial Impact: Total estimated cost for this project is ~~\$25,000~~ ~~\$33,000~~ \$34,000. State share is estimated to be ~~\$12,500~~ ~~\$16,500~~ \$17,000 and County share is estimated to be ~~\$12,500~~ ~~\$16,500~~ \$17,000.

Submitted by: all prior signatures on original

Amended by the Price County Board of Supervisors this 18th day of June 2019. s/Robert Kopisch, County Board Chair; Jean Gottwald, County Clerk. For: 12, Against: 0. Motion Wartgow/Palecek to consider resolution amendments for adoption. Roll call vote on amended resolution adoption: Yes (12): Palecek, Adolph, Slaby, Hallstrand, Hintz, Houdek, Wartgow, Boccock, Kopisch, Vlach, Jilka, Teeters; No (0). Motion carried.

Amend Resolution 8-18

Request to Apply for WDNR 2018 Municipal Dam Grant Program (Solberg Dam)
(amended February 19, 2019) (amended June 18, 2019)

WHEREAS, Price County Board of Supervisor Resolution #4-12 was adopted as:

Now Therefore Be It Resolved, that Resolution #48-09 be amended to require Price County Board approval, by resolution, of any County funding required by the awarding of a grant to Price County under the WDNR Municipal Dams Grant Program prior to submitting any such application for financial aid from the Program for any specific County dam project.; and

WHEREAS, needed repairs have been identified at Solberg Dam, WDNR F.F. #50.20m; and

WHEREAS, Price County, Wisconsin may make applications for grant monies for maintenance, repairs and modifications to their County owned dams from the Wisconsin State Statute §31.385 and §227.11 and Wisconsin Administrative Code Chapter NR 335; and

WHEREAS, anticipated estimated cost for the project will be ~~\$25,000 \$42,000~~ \$54,000; and

WHEREAS, the State share for such a project may not exceed 50% of the first \$400,000 of eligible project costs; and

WHEREAS, Price County must designate an authorized representative to: submit applications to the WDNR for financial aid; sign grant agreement documents; take all necessary action to complete the projects and submit for reimbursement claims associated with aforesaid grant program.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Price County Board of Supervisors hereby authorizes the Price County Highway Commissioner and Dams Superintendent to be those aforementioned representatives; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, Price County agrees to pay their share of the eligible costs which is equal to the total project cost minus the State share authorizing funds to be transferred on an as needed basis from the Capital Improvement Fund to the Dams Department account number 100-83-49270, Transfer from Capital Improvement Fund.

Financial Impact: Total estimated cost for this project is ~~\$25,000 \$42,000~~ \$54,000. State share is estimated to be ~~\$12,500 \$21,000~~ \$27,000 and County share is estimated to be ~~\$12,500 \$21,000~~ \$27,000. Submitted by: all prior signatures on original

Amended by the Price County Board of Supervisors this 18th day of June 2019. s/Robert Kopisch, County Board Chair; Jean Gottwald, County Clerk. For: 12, Against: 0. Motion Adolph/Palecek to consider resolution amendments for adoption. Roll call vote on amended resolution adoption: Yes (12): Palecek, Adolph, Slaby, Hallstrand, Hintz, Houdek, Wartgow, Bocock, Kopisch, Vlach, Jilka, Teeters; No (0). Motion carried.

Elections and Appointments – Nick Trimmer:

1. Council on Aging Advisory Committee and Nutrition Advisory Council – Three-year term ending April 30, 2022 (June Ellefsen): Motion Houdek/Jilka to approve appointment of June Ellefsen. Motion carried.
2. Board of Adjustment – Three-year term ending June 30, 2022 (Dan Hauptert, Terry Wasti): Motion Slaby/Adolph to approve appointment of Dan Hauptert and Terry Wasti. Motion carried.

Reports:

1. Health and Human Services 2018 Annual Report: On file.

Convene to Committee of the Whole at 9:50 a.m.

1. Tourism Update – Ed Kane and Laurie Hansen. Expanding on the scope of tourism marketing for the County.
2. Wisconsin Counties Association – County Board Roles and Responsibilities: Presentation by Jon Hochkammer.
3. 2018 Financial Summary Report as of 12/31/18: Audit work is complete. Any overages will be presented for approval.
4. 2019 Financial Summary Report as of 4/30/19: Law enforcement budgets will be over – it's challenging finding employees.
5. WCA Fall Conference
 - a. Attendance: Kopisch, Houdek and Vlach.
 - b. Resolutions for Submission: Child Protective Services funding and elimination of 0% levy cap.
6. Board Chair Report: Nothing more.
7. Committee Chair Reports
 - a. Ad Hoc Committee on Broadband – Teeters: Meetings have gone well. Moving forward with Community Certification program.
 - b. Administration – Wartgow: Nothing more to report.

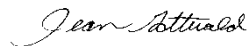
- c. Executive – Kopisch: Nothing more to report.
 - d. Forestry & Parks – Hintz: Stumpage \$1,163,405. Rail Trail Corridor and Timm's Hill tour.
 - e. Health and Human Services – Jilka: Bart Bus one year anniversary in Phillips. Expanding to a weekly route to Prentice. Free summer rides for students. Animal Control contract up for renewal September 30th. No July meeting. August meeting will include public participation.
 - f. Highway & Transportation – Palecek: Road tour held. Continued road maintenance and repair. June 27th Public information meeting for County Highway W bridge project. Water levels have stabilized. Musser Lake and Solberg Lake dam projects. Airport traffic is picking up. Summer maintenance. Air Show July 5 and 6.
 - g. Land Use & UW-Extension – Slaby: Seven of nine parcels sold in land auction. Summer projects picking up for Zoning and Land Conservation Department. UW-Extension reports from 4-H, FoodWise and Master Gardener programs.
 - h. Law Enforcement – Hintz: K9 Officer Dixon was introduced before the meeting.
8. County Administrator's Report: Trimner. Finalized contract with Counseling and Development Center for the sale of the Red Apple building. 2020 budget worksheets sent to departments. Health insurance looking good – possible 5% increase. 2019 Dog Fund will be strained due to a recent issue. K9 fundraisers and meet-n-greets planned. Several donations have already been received. Bark Park request at the Tuscobia Park still in works. Replacing 10 roofs on Fairgrounds buildings. Courts safety update. County Highway W bridge project scheduled for fall 2020. Emergency Management two tornadoes identified. Vance Pollitt has been hired as the new Patrol Superintendent. Recruiting for several positions.

Convene out of Committee of the Whole at 12:22 p.m.

Date of Next Meeting: August 20, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. in the County Board Room

Meeting adjourned at 12:22 p.m.

STATE OF WISCONSIN, COUNTY OF PRICE. I, Jean Gottwald, County Clerk in and for Price County do hereby certify that the within and foregoing is a true and correct record of all the proceedings held by and before the Price County Board of Supervisors at the meeting held on June 18, 2019 and the whole thereof. Dated this 21st day of June 2019.



Jean Gottwald, County Clerk