

MEETING OF THE PRICE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

June 21, 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 (12): Alan Barkstrom, Doug Erickson, Brian Ernst, Jeff Hallstrand, Jason Hastings, Paula Houdek, Mark Kyle, Larry Palecek, Patricia Stephan, Ginny Strobl, Lorelei Wakefield (remotely), Dennis Wartgow. Excused (1): Jordan Spacek. Also present: Nick Trimner.

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

Approval of Minutes May 17, 2022: Motion Houdek/Hallstrand to approve the minutes of the May 17, 2022 with correction as noted. Motion carried.

Communications and Announcements: Supervisor Houdek gave word of thanks for the Highway Road Tour on June 3rd.

Public Comments: None.

Presentations:

1. Price County Fair Association: Via email message: Fair will be August 24-28. Nine members on the Board.
2. Northwest Regional Planning Commission: Sheldon Johnson, Director reviewed the structure and functions which consist of planning, environmental, housing and business development. They work not only with counties, but closely with municipalities. Rick Roeser discussed their roles in economic development and the revolving loan fund.

Resolutions:

Strobl left meeting 9:33 a.m.

Amend Resolution 19-22

Request to Apply for WDNR Cost Share Grant:

WHEREAS, Price County is interested in obtaining a cost-share grant from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for the purpose of trail resurfacing on the Pine Line Rail Trail (as described in the attached proposals); and

WHEREAS, the respondent attests to the validity and veracity of the statements and representations contained in the proposals; and

WHEREAS, an Agreement is required to carry out each project; and

WHEREAS, anticipated estimated cost for the Pine Line Rail Trail project will be \$38,300, of which the State share will be \$31,040 of eligible project costs and a County share of \$7,760, *of which \$3,800 is to be in-kind shared by Price County and the Town of Ogema*; and

WHEREAS, Price County must designate an authorized representative to sign and submit proposals, enter into Agreements with the WDNR, submit annual and final reports to the WDNR to satisfy the Agreements, submit reimbursement request(s) to the WDNR per the Agreements, sign Public Access Easements, sign and submit other documentation as necessary to complete the projects per the Agreements.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Price County Board of Supervisors hereby authorizes and empowers the Price County Forest Administrator to be the aforementioned representative; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, Price County will meet the financial obligations necessary to complete the projects fully and satisfactorily; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the respondent will comply with all local, state and federal rules, regulations and ordinances relating to the projects and the cost-share agreements.

Financial Impact: Total estimated cost for the projects is \$38,800 with the State share of \$31,040 and the County share of \$7,760.

Original signatures on file.

Amended by the Price County Board of Supervisors this 21st day of June 2022. s/Alan Barkstrom, County Board Chair; Jean Gottwald, County Clerk

Motion Hallstrand/Ernst to approve the amendment to the resolution as presented. Motion carried on voice vote.

Resolution 23-22 Support WDNR Continued Maintenance of the Steve Creek Dam

WHEREAS, the Steve Creek Wildlife Flowage is one of six wildlife flowages on Price County Forest Land and is home to an abundance of wildlife and a source for wild rice; and

WHEREAS, the Steve Creek Flowage was permitted in 1958 to be constructed on Price County land by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) and managed by the WDNR; and

WHEREAS, the WDNR scheduled this dam to be replaced and funding was set aside for the replacement of the structure and renovation of the earthen dike and have already invested \$150,000 on planning and

site assessment: and

WHEREAS, the control structure failed March 25, 2022 due to faulty setting of the control structure during the last replacement; and

WHEREAS, the WDNR is now considering not replacing the dam and abandoning the project, and

WHEREAS, Price County has always had a strong partnership with the WDNR wildlife program, often supporting their projects in Price County, with the County getting no substantial benefit in return.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Price County Board of Supervisors hereby request the WDNR to continue support of wildlife programs in Price County and maintain their end of the partnership with Price County by completing the planned project to maintain the Steve Creek Wildlife Flowage.

Submitted by: Price County Forestry and Parks Committee: s/Jeff Hallstrand, Chair; Jason Hastings;

Jordan Spacek; Patricia Stephan; Ginny Strobl. Reviewed by County Administrator: s/Nicholas Trimner

Adopted by the Price County Board of Supervisors this 21st day of June 2022. s/Alan Barkstrom, County Board Chair; Jean Gottwald, County Clerk

Motion Palecek/Kyle to consider resolution for adoption. Motion carried on voice vote.

Strobl returned 9:42 a.m.

Resolution 24-22

Adopt Revised Employee Handbook and Administration Manual

WHEREAS, the Administration Committee has been charged by the Price County Board of Supervisors with the responsibility of developing, maintaining and enforcing policies and guidelines for personnel management and has also been charged with the responsibility of periodically reviewing said policies and procedures; and

WHEREAS, the Administration Committee has determined the need for various additions and/or edits to the language in the existing policies; and

WHEREAS, the Administration Committee has reviewed and approved the attached revisions to the Price County Employee Handbook and Personnel Administration Manual and recommends them for adoption by the County Board.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Price County Board of Supervisors adopt the revised Price County Employee Handbook and Administration Manual.

Submitted by the Price County Administration Committee. s/Jeff Hallstrand, Paula Houdek, Mark Kyle,

Dennis Wartgow. Reviewed by County Administrator: s/Nicholas Trimner

Adopted by the Price County Board of Supervisors this 21st day of June 2022. s/Alan Barkstrom, County Board Chair; Jean Gottwald, County Clerk.

Motion Wartgow/Houdek to consider resolution for adoption. Motion carried on voice vote.

Resolution 25-22

2022 Regular Non-benefit Eligible and Casual Employee Wage Schedule

WHEREAS, the Administration Committee has been charged by the Price County Board of Supervisors with the responsibility for all matters pertaining to salary and wages for all County employees and has also been charged with the responsibility to review wage/salary data and make appropriate recommendations; and

WHEREAS, after review of these wages, the Administration Committee recommends the Regular Non-benefit Eligible and Casual Employee Wage Schedule as attached.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Price County Board of Supervisors adopt the attached Regular Non-benefit Eligible and Casual Employee Wage Schedule, effective retroactive to May 1, 2022.

Submitted by the Price County Administration Committee: s/Jeff Hallstrand, Paula Houdek, Mark Kyle, Jordan Spacek, Dennis Wartgow.

Reviewed and approved 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 June 2022. s/Alan Barkstrom, County Board Chair; Jean Gottwald, County Clerk

Motion Houdek/Palecek to consider resolution for adoption. Motion passed on voice vote.

Appointments:

1. Nutrition Advisory Council (two-year term to expire 4/30/24): Jean Klimowski: Motion Strobl/Ernst to approve the appointment as presented. Motion carried on voice vote.

2. Zoning Board of Adjustment (three-year term to expire June 30, 2025): Dan Haupert, Terry Wasti Motion Houdek/Wartgow to approve the appointments as presented. Motion carried on voice vote.

Committee of the Whole at 10:00 a.m.

1. Board Chair Report

a. Future WCA Training/Presentation: WCA staff will be attending at the August meeting. Suggestions: roles and responsibilities, open meetings.

b. WCA Annual Conference – September 18-20, 2022

i. Attendance: Barkstrom and Houdek have registered to attend.

- ii. Conference Resolutions: None.
- 2. County Administrator's Report – Nick Trimner
 - a. 2022 Financial Summary – May 31, 2022: Reviewed. Cost for health services for the Jail has come in significantly over budget. ARPA funding has been received. Projects have been identified, but not all have been expensed. Stumpage doing well. Tax collections going well. Majority of amount of tax delinquencies are two to three large properties.
 - b. 2023 Budget: Expect preliminary budget in September or October. Goal is no change to tax levy mill rate. Departments are working on their individual budgets.
 - c. Board Goals and Expectations: Continued retention and recruitment. Available housing and daycare continue to be issues. Improvements to internet access.
 - d. Updates: Land Sale Group will meet to discuss the new legislation requiring profit from tax deed land sales going to the prior landowner.
- 3. Committee Chair Reports:
 - a. Administration – Wartgow: No resignations or retirements this month. Recruiting for Highway Commissioner, Highway Operators, Social Workers, Deputy Sheriff, Correction Officer/Dispatch. Evaluating UW Human Development & Relationships Extension Educator Position. Health insurance updates. Handbook updates.
 - b. Buildings & Grounds – Hastings: Safety Building and Courthouse projects moving forward. Summer maintenance. Normal Building chiller replacement done. Window project starting. Friends of Fred Smith House restoration being done.
 - c. Executive – Barkstrom: Discussed tax delinquencies. No response regarding Phillips Lionite's past due amounts. BART requested assistance in bus replacement. Carbon Credit allocations. Funding for campground expansion at Solberg Lake and Smith Lake County Parks.
 - d. Forestry & Parks – Hallstrand: Campgrounds getting good use. Expansion project planning going forward. New forester hired. \$741,000 in stumpage. Seven active sales. Park Falls Bark Park open house on June 26th. Carbon credit sales have been high.
 - e. Health and Human Services – Houdek: Board member orientation. June 15th HHSD open house held, targeted toward seniors. Senior meals in Park Falls expanding. Job description presented for transfer of the UW position to the County. Foster Care appreciation banquet.
 - f. Highway & Transportation – Palecek: Summer maintenance projects. County YY bridge project going well. County D road project ongoing. Road tour well attended. Dam water levels remain consistent. Weimers Dam project finishing. Airport Improvement project paving to begin. Alan presented information from the Highway Road School.
 - g. Land Use & UW-Extension – Wartgow: Public hearings. Permit approvals. Programming reports from 4-H and FoodWise.
 - h. Law Enforcement – Palecek: Jail, dispatch, response statistics. New K-9 Unit: Kane. Recruiting for Sheriff Deputy and Jail/Dispatch.

Convene out of Committee of the Whole at 10:52 a.m.

Date of Next Meeting: August 16, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. in the County Board Room

Meeting adjourned at 10:52 a.m.

Respectfully submitted: Jean Gottwald, County Clerk