

REGULAR MEETING OF THE PRICE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

July 13, 2021

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: None.

Pledge of Allegiance recited by those in attendance.

Roll Call: Present (11): Alan Barkstrom, Brian Ernst, Jeff Hallstrand, James Hintz, Paula Houdek, Robert Kopisch, Mark Kyle, Waldemar Madsen, Larry Palecek, Ginny Strobl, Dennis Wartgow. Excused: Doug Erickson, Jordan Spacek. Also present: Nick Trimner.

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

Approval of Minutes – June 15, 2021: Motion Madsen/Barkstrom to approve the minutes of the June 15, 2021 meeting as presented. Motion carried.

Communications and Announcements: Ms. Strobl asked for clarification on requirement for requesting public attendance at meeting.

Public Comments: Peter Dahlie, Town of Elk and Lyn Ludwig, Town of Worcester regarding status of Fairgrounds property and ownership. Lynn Ludwig, Town of Worcester regarding Reimagine Price County.

Resolutions:

Resolution 28-21

Project Approval - Price County Normal Building Cooling/Air Handling – Chiller Replacement
WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of the Price County Buildings and Grounds Department to keep and maintain all County properties and buildings for the safe use by County residents; and
WHEREAS, the Normal Building cooling and air handling system failed; and
WHEREAS, it has been determined that the most cost effective and energy efficient solution is replacement of the building chiller system; and
WHEREAS, the Buildings and Grounds Committee reviewed the proposed project with a cost of \$357,600 and forwarded it to the Executive Committee for their consideration; and
WHEREAS, funding for the project will be determined by the Executive Committee.
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Price County Board of Supervisors approve the project to improve cooling and air handling for the congregate and Health Department areas by replacing the Normal Building chiller system at an estimated cost of up to \$357,600 with funding to be determined by the Executive Committee.
Submitted by the Price County Executive Committee. s/Robert D. Kopisch, Chair; Paula Houdek, Larry Palecek, Dennis Wartgow. Reviewed by County Administrator: s/Nicholas Trimner. Adopted by the Price County Board of Supervisors this 13th day of July 2021. s/Robert D. Kopisch, County Board Chair; Jean Gottwald, County Clerk. For: 11, Against: 0.
Fiscal Impact \$357,600.
Motion Ernst/Palecek to consider resolution for adoption. Roll call vote on resolution adoption: Yes (11): Barkstrom, Ernst, Hallstrand, Hintz, Houdek, Kopisch, Kyle, Madsen, Palecek, Strobl, Wartgow. No (0).
Motion carried.

Resolution 29-21

Approve Additional 2021 Funding for the Books-by-Mail Program

WHEREAS, Price County has funded a Books-by-Mail program for many years; and
WHEREAS, the number of current subscribers to the program is 131 Price County residents, primarily made up of senior citizens; and
WHEREAS, the total cost of the program in 2020 was \$17,500; and
WHEREAS \$8,900 has been budgeted for the program in 2021 with \$4,500 being levy dollars and \$4,400 being the balance of a dedicated library fund; and
WHEREAS, the Park Falls Public Library, which oversees the program, has spent the 2021 budgeted amount and fund balance and is requesting \$6,000 to continue operation of the program through the end of 2021.
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Price County Board of Supervisors approves exceeding the 2021 budget for library services by \$6,000 for the 2021 Books-by-Mail program.
Fiscal Impact: \$6,000
Submitted by the Price County Executive Committee. s/Robert D. Kopisch, Chair; Paula Houdek, Larry Palecek, Dennis Wartgow. Reviewed by County Administrator: s/Nicholas Trimner. Adopted by the Price

County Board of Supervisors this 13th day of July 2021. s/Robert D. Kopisch, County Board Chair; Jean Gottwald, County Clerk. For: 10, Against: 1.

Deb Hyde, Director Park Falls Public Library provided comment.

Motion Houdek/Kopisch to consider resolution for adoption. Roll call vote on resolution adoption: Yes (10): Barkstrom, Hallstrand, Hintz, Houdek, Kopisch, Kyle, Madsen, Palecek, Strobl, Wartgow. No (1): Ernst. Motion carried.

Amend Resolution 21-21

Expanding Broadband Services in Price County

WHEREAS, Price County has established itself as a Broadband Forward! Community per Ordinance #2019-02, Chapter 492 and a Telecommuter Forward! Community per Resolution #24-19, and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of Price County citizens to expand broadband services within the County, especially to its underserved areas, and

WHEREAS, the ability to receive grant funding to expand broadband services is enhanced when there are local partners participating financially in the grant application, and

WHEREAS, the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) allocates funding directly to the State of Wisconsin and separately to Wisconsin counties for broadband infrastructure.

WHEREAS, it is imperative to get involvement from local municipalities to reinforce their commitment to broadband expansion for their residents.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Price County Board of Supervisors hereby gives express authority to the Price County Executive Committee to allocate up to \$100,000 **for the 339 exchange broadband expansion project** from the above funding sources, directly from ARPA or State of Wisconsin funding, as a partner **with Norvado** in **an any-such** application for funding to expand broadband services within Price County; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Price County Board of Supervisors also gives express authority to the Price County Executive Committee to allocate up to another \$150,000 for any future broadband expansion projects from the above funding sources, directly from ARPA or State of Wisconsin funding, as a partner in any additional application for funding to expand broadband services within Price County; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Price County will contribute \$50,000, with another \$100,000 available based on contributions from local municipalities, to the extent that Price County's contribution will be a dollar-for-dollar match of any local municipality's contribution, with a minimum contribution from Price County of \$50,000 and a maximum of \$150,000; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the underserved areas of Price County shall be a priority for any such grant applications.

Fiscal Impact: ~~\$100,000~~ \$250,000

Original resolution signatures on file.

Motion Houdek/Hintz to consider resolution amendments. Roll call vote on resolution amendments: Yes (10): Barkstrom, Ernst, Hallstrand, Hintz, Houdek, Kopisch, Kyle, Madsen, Palecek, Wartgow. No (0).

Abstain (1): Strobl. Motion carried.

Resolution 30-21

2020 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 2020 was \$78,258 and the amount of depreciation recorded for 2020 was \$117,642 and the amount of expenditures for 2020 was \$92,494 resulting in a transfer amount of \$25,148 to the Highway Facilities Fund.

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

WHEREAS, the designated transfer of \$25,148 would bring the 2020 ending fund balance to \$325,148.

WHEREAS, the Highway Facilities Fund balance cannot exceed \$300,000, therefore the designated transfer is none.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the amount of \$0 be transferred from the Highway Fund into the Highway Facilities Fund for the year 2020.

Submitted by the Price County Executive Committee. s/Robert D. Kopisch, Chair; James Hintz; Paula Houdek, Larry Palecek, Dennis Wartgow. Reviewed by County Administrator: s/Nicholas Trimner.

Adopted by the Price County Board of Supervisors this 13th day of July 2021. s/Robert D. Kopisch, County Board Chair; Jean Gottwald, County Clerk. For: 11, Against: 0.
Motion Hallstrand/Palecek to consider resolution for adoption. Roll call vote on resolution adoption: Yes (11): Barkstrom, Ernst, Hallstrand, Hintz, Houdek, Kopisch, Kyle, Madsen, Palecek, Strobl, Wartgow. No (0). Motion carried.

Resolution 31-21

2020 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 2020 was 163,481 and the amount of depreciation recorded for 2020 was \$310,798 and the net amount of any profit from the annual equipment audit for 2020 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 \$372,276 resulting in a transfer amount of \$102,003 into the Highway Equipment Fund.

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

WHEREAS, the designated transfer of \$102,003 would bring the 2020 ending equipment fund balance to \$218,564 and the ending general cash fund to \$2,011,609.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the amount of \$102,003 be transferred from the Highway General Cash Fund into the Highway Equipment Fund for the year 2020.

Submitted by the Price County Executive Committee. s/Robert D. Kopisch, Chair; James Hintz; Paula Houdek, Larry Palecek, Dennis Wartgow. Reviewed by County Administrator: s/Nicholas Trimner.

Adopted by the Price County Board of Supervisors this 13th day of July 2021. s/Robert D. Kopisch, County Board Chair; Jean Gottwald, County Clerk. For: 11, Against: 0.

Motion Hintz/Madsen to consider resolution for adoption. Roll call vote on resolution adoption: Yes (11): Barkstrom, Ernst, Hallstrand, Hintz, Houdek, Kopisch, Kyle, Madsen, Palecek, Strobl, Wartgow. No (0). Motion carried.

Committee of the Whole: 9:46 a.m.

1. County Fairgrounds Property – Future Ownership/Operation: Darin and Alexis Baratka have approached the County regarding purchasing/managing the Fairground properties. Nick is finding information on how ownership originated, what other counties do with their fairgrounds, what the options for selling or leasing the property. The County continues to face several expensive maintenance issues with property and buildings. The Open Class Building needed to be removed and the Barn has been deemed unusable. The County would need a guarantee that the County Fair, Antique Association and other entities are allowed to continue.
2. County Administrator Report – Nick Trimner
 - a. 2020 Financial Summary Report as of 12/31/20: Single audit needed to be expanded.
 - b. 2021 Financial Summary Report as of 6/30/21: Reviewed six-month report. High expenses with Buildings & Grounds for AC failure in the normal building. Relocating the Park Falls senior meal site to start September 1st. Sales tax revenue doing well.
 - c. 2022 Preliminary Budget: First budget August. 0% operations, 2% wage increase, 5-8% health insurance increase. Discussing Books-by-mail, fairgrounds, additional K-9 unit, recreational officer, project and highway borrowing, additional highway operator. Will state allow borrowing for high-cost placements? State budget passed. Will need to wade through the changes.
3. COVID-19 Pandemic Update: Within County operations. Continue to allow working remotely. Emergency sick leave ended. Distancing at meetings still in place. Following CDC guidelines. Continue to monitor cases in the County.
4. American Recovery Plan Act
 - a. Update: Explanation of how spending can be used and calculations involved.
 - b. Approve Spending Levels: Reviewed three spending levels.
5. Repair/Replacement Projects
 - a. Normal Building: Chiller failed and needed to be replaced. Safety Building.
 - b. Safety Building: Ventilation issues. Chillers and air handler replacement needed for Courthouse and Safety Building.

6. Continued Broadband Expansion
 - a. Bug Tussel: They requested the County guaranteeing a \$12 million bond. Have presented a downsized project.
 - b. Other Projects: Have received multiple requests from other vendors.
7. Park Falls Paper Mill
 - a. Update: Future still unknown.
 - b. Legislation: Governor Evers vetoed the paper mill bill because of using ARPA funding. Another bill is circulating with a different funding source and changing parameters of the funding.
8. Redistricting
 - a. Legislation: 2020 census information has not been released. Bill to alter the redistricting timeline did not pass.
 - b. Ad Hoc Committee: Will be formed when information becomes available.
9. Opioid Settlement: Passed and signed on the state level. Allocation to be determined. To be used for prevention going forward.
10. Committee Chair Reports:
 - a. Administration – Wartgow: No report.
 - b. Buildings & Grounds – Kyle: Nothing additional.
 - c. Executive – Kopisch: Rejoined the Northwoods Rail Trail Commission.
 - d. Forestry & Parks – Hallstrand: Campgrounds remain full. Received grants from DNR \$77,467 and NRA \$24,612 for Cranberry Lake Shooting Range improvements. Timber sales \$1,131,000. Current poor market may have effect going forward.
 - e. Health and Human Services – Houdek: No meeting. Orientation held for new board members.
 - f. Highway & Transportation – Palecek: Highway C Bridge project completed. Highway A Bridge project in process. Summer projects. Soo Lake draw down to determine project scope. BOA tree removal project at Airport.
 - g. Land Use & UW-Extension – Barkstrom: Seven public hearings for conditional use permits and exceptions. Approved developing a septic tank fee. Summer projects in Land Conservation. 4-H summer intern introduced. Assistant Dean Catherine Neiswender attended meeting to discuss programming. Libby Huber resigned effective July 6th. Discussing future of vacant position.
 - h. Law Enforcement – Jim Hintz: No meeting. Fundraiser held for K-9 Unit.

Date of next meeting: August 17, 2021.

Meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.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 July 13, 2021 and the whole thereof.



Jean Gottwald, County Clerk