

MEETING OF THE PRICE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

August 15, 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: None – moment of silence.

Pledge of Allegiance recited by those in attendance.

Roll Call: Present (12): Alan Barkstrom, Doug Erickson, Brian Ernst, Jason Hastings, Jeff Hallstrand, Paula Houdek, Mark Kyle, Larry Palecek, Jordan Spacek, Patricia Stephan, Ginny Strobl, Dennis Wartgow. Also present: Nick Trimner, Leanna Samardich.

Communications and Announcements: None.

Public Comments: Representative from Tom Tiffany's office provided updates on legislative initiatives and task force efforts. Tara Tervort, Mayor of Park Falls, discussed things going on in the city. Received \$1 million and \$250,000 grants for the new city park project. Groundbreaking for expansion project at the Marshfield Clinic Medical Center. Have been in communication with the owners of the Park Falls Mill.

County Board Supervisor District 10

1. Term of Office for Appointee: Until April 16, 2024.
2. Appoint County Board Supervisor District 10: Motion Wartgow/Palecek to appoint Robert Kopisch to County Board Supervisory District #10. Roll call vote: Yes (8): Erickson, Ernst, Hallstrand, Houdek, Kyle, Palecek, Spacek, Wartgow. No (4): Barkstrom, Hastings, Stephan, Strobl. Motion carried.
3. Oath of Office administered by Jean Gottwald, County Clerk. Mr. Kopisch took the seat as the Supervisor District 10 representative.

Approval of Minutes June 20, 2023: Motion Houdek/Ernst to approve the minutes from the June 20, 2023 meeting as presented. Motion carried.

Presentations:

1. Chanz Green, Representative to the Assembly, 74th District: Available for Lower Steves Creek Flowage Dam discussion.

Resolutions:

Resolution 23-23

2022 Transfer to 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 Wisconsin Department of Transportation storage reimbursements for 2022 were \$81,564; and the amount of depreciation recorded for 2022 was \$117,071; and the amount of expenditures for 2022 were \$16,869; resulting in a transfer amount of \$3,706 from the Highway General Cash.

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

WHEREAS, the designated transfer of \$3,706 would bring the 2022 ending fund balance to \$300,000.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the amount of \$3,706 be transferred from the Highway General Fund to Highway Facilities Fund for the year 2022.

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

Adopted by the Price County Board of Supervisors on this 15th day of August 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, Kopisch, Palecek, Spacek, Stephan, Strobl, Wartgow. No (0). Motion carried.

Resolution 24-23

2022 Transfer to 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 2022 was \$81,178; and the amount of depreciation recorded for 2022 was \$319,415; and the net amount of any profit from the annual equipment audit for 2022, not to exceed net operating income per the audit report for matching revenues (cash in) with expenditures (cash out), was \$147,716; and the equipment purchases were \$537,002

resulting in a net transfer amount of \$11,307 into the Highway Equipment Fund.
WHEREAS, such transfer shall not reduce the general cash fund below \$600,000; and
WHEREAS, in 2022, the general cash fund was used for project expenditures; and
WHEREAS, the 2022 year end general cash fund was \$205,133, since the loan proceeds was not received until January 2023 to replenish \$2.4 million of the general cash fund; and
WHEREAS, the designated transfer of \$11,307 would bring the 2022 ending equipment fund balance to \$183,975 and the January 2023 ending general cash fund to \$3,318,896.
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the amount of \$11,307 be transferred from the Highway General Cash Fund into the Highway Equipment Fund for the year 2022.
Submitted by the Price County Executive Committee. s/Alan Barkstrom, Chair; Brian Ernst; Jeffrey Hallstrand; Paula Houdek; Larry Palecek. Reviewed by County Administrator: s/Nicholas Trimner.
Adopted by the Price County Board of Supervisors on this 15th day of August 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, Kopisch, Palecek, Spacek, Stephan, Strobl, Wartgow. No (0). Motion carried.

Resolution 25-23

Town of Georgetown Bridge and Culvert Aid

Whereas, the Town of Georgetown is requesting aid for design and installation of a new culvert/bridge on Skinner Creek Lane over Skinner Creek; and
Whereas, project costs are estimated at \$40,000, 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 Georgetown; 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 approves the Town of Georgetown Bridge and Culvert Aid Request.

Fiscal Impact: \$20,000 municipal tax levy (estimated)

Submitted by the Price County Executive Committee. s/Alan Barkstrom, Chair; Brian Ernst; Jeffrey Hallstrand; Paula Houdek; Larry Palecek. Reviewed by County Administrator: s/Nicholas Trimner.
Adopted by the Price County Board of Supervisors on this 15th day of August 2023. s/Alan Barkstrom, County Board Chair; Jean Gottwald, County Clerk.

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

Resolution 26-23

Town of Knox Bridge and Culvert Aid

Whereas, the Town of Knox is requesting aid for design and installation of a new bridge on Brantwood Avenue over a ditch; and

Whereas, project costs are estimated at \$15,000, 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 Knox; 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 approves the Town of Knox Bridge and Culvert Aid Request.

Fiscal Impact: \$7,500 municipal tax levy (estimated)

Submitted by the Price County Executive Committee. s/Alan Barkstrom, Chair; Brian Ernst; Jeffrey Hallstrand; Paula Houdek; Larry Palecek. Reviewed by County Administrator: s/Nicholas Trimner.
Adopted by the Price County Board of Supervisors on this 15th day of August 2023. s/Alan Barkstrom, County Board Chair; Jean Gottwald, County Clerk.

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

Resolution 27-23

Town of Prentice (1) Bridge and Culvert Aid

Whereas, the Town of Prentice is requesting aid for design and installation of a new culvert/bridge on Goetzke Road over a ditch; and

Whereas, project costs are estimated at \$28,000, 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 Prentice; 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 approves the Town of Prentice Bridge and Culvert Aid Request (1).

Fiscal Impact: \$14,000 municipal tax levy (estimated)

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

Adopted by the Price County Board of Supervisors on this 15th day of August 2023. s/Alan Barkstrom, County Board Chair; Jean Gottwald, County Clerk.

Motion Strobl/Kopisch to consider resolution for adoption. Roll call vote on resolution adoption: Yes (12): Barkstrom, Ernst, Hallstrand, Hastings, Houdek, Kyle, Kopisch, Palecek, Spacek, Stephan, Strobl, Wartgow. No (0). Abstain (1): Erickson. Motion carried.

Resolution 28-23

Town of Prentice (2) Bridge and Culvert Aid

Whereas, the Town of Prentice is requesting aid for design and installation of a new culvert/bridge on Goetzke Road over a ditch; and

Whereas, project costs are estimated at \$10,000, 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 Prentice; 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 approves the Town of Prentice Bridge and Culvert Aid Request (2).

Fiscal Impact: \$5,000 municipal tax levy (estimated)

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

Adopted by the Price County Board of Supervisors on this 15th day of August 2023. s/Alan Barkstrom, County Board Chair; Jean Gottwald, County Clerk.

Motion Houdek/Spacek to consider resolution for adoption. Roll call vote on resolution adoption: Yes (12): Barkstrom, Ernst, Hallstrand, Hastings, Houdek, Kyle, Kopisch, Palecek, Spacek, Stephan, Strobl, Wartgow. No (0). Abstain (1): Erickson. Motion carried.

Amend Resolution 34-22

Town of Fifield Bridge and Culvert Aid

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 ~~were are estimated at \$270,795 \$306,714.48, 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~~ \$38,339.31 (estimated)

Original signatures on file. Adopted August 16, 2022.

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

Adopted by the Price County Board of Supervisors on this 15th day of August 2023. s/Alan Barkstrom, County Board Chair; Jean Gottwald, County Clerk.

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

Resolution 29-23

Ratifying 2023 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; Jeffrey Hallstrand; Paula Houdek; Larry Palecek. Reviewed by County Administrator: s/Nicholas Trimner. Adopted by the Price County Board of Supervisors on this 15th day of August 2023. s/Alan Barkstrom, County Board Chair; Jean Gottwald, County Clerk.

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

Resolution 30-23

Transfer from General Fund to Highway Department (truck purchase)

WHEREAS, Price County is obligated to keep county infrastructure safe for use by county citizens, provide funding for Highway Department operations and maintain a sustainable Highway Fund Balance; and

WHEREAS, the Price County Highway Department has identified a need to replace a triaxle plow truck due to a truck being removed from service because of structural damages; and

WHEREAS, the normal period needed to obtain certain pieces of highway equipment can be two to three years; and

WHEREAS, the Highway and Transportation Committee, at its August 15, 2023 meeting, has reviewed and approved the need to purchase of a triaxle plow truck in a timely manner and forwarded the request to fund the purchase to the Executive Committee; and

WHEREAS, the funding option that is in the best interest of Price County is to transfer the money from the General Fund Balance; and

WHEREAS, in the last year, the General Fund had unbudgeted revenue of \$399,170 from the Local Assistance and Tribal Consistency Fund, of which funds are not designated.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Price County Board of Supervisors approve purchase of a Highway Department triaxle plow truck, with the sum not to exceed \$350,000 to be transferred from the General Fund Balance to the Highway Equipment Fund to finance the purchase.

Fiscal Impact: up to \$350,000 transfer from General Fund Balance.

Submitted by the Price County Executive Committee. s/Alan Barkstrom, Chair; Brian Ernst; Jeffrey Hallstrand; Paula Houdek; Larry Palecek. Reviewed by County Administrator: s/Nicholas Trimner. Adopted by the Price County Board of Supervisors on this 15th day of August 2023. s/Alan Barkstrom, County Board Chair; Jean Gottwald, County Clerk.

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

Appointments:

1. Transportation Coordinating Committee – Two-year Term to End 4/30/2024 (Marty Stephan, City of Phillips Rep), Two-year Term to End 4/30/2025 (Dixie Weidman, City of Park Falls Rep). Motion Palecek/Spacek to approve appointments as presented. Motion carried.
2. Land Use and UW Extension Committee – Remainder of Term to End April 30, 2024 (Rachel Hoffman, Superintendent School District of Phillips): Motion Hallstrand/Erickson to approve appointment as presented. Motion carried.
3. Woodland Enhanced Health Services Committee (Paula Houdek): Motion Wartgow/Spacek to approve appointment as presented. Motion carried.

Reports:

1. Health and Human Services Department – 2022 Annual Report

Convened to Committee of the Whole at 9:31 a.m.

1. Board Chair Report – Alan Barkstrom: Wisconsin Supreme Court is reviewing legislative maps. NWRPC annual meeting. Friends of Fred Smith Board meeting. WCA annual conference in September.
2. County Administrator's Report – Nick Trimner
 - a. 2023 Financial Summary: Reviewed July report. Discussed items of overage or shortage.

- b. 2024 Budget: Not many significant changes anticipated. 1% net new construction. Increase in shared revenue and child support revenue. Anticipating no health insurance premium increase. The Board debt service exercise at the June meeting resulted in requesting Forestry & Parks truck, Highway Department additional truck, \$2 million highway construction projects, three squad cars, drone, increase debt levy. Requests from libraries for aid have gone down. Mill rate should go down about 80 cents. WCA lobbying for increase in county share of court costs and mental health funding. Draft of 2024 budget will be presented at next meeting.
 - c. Updates – Price County Library Board decided to eliminate Books-by-Mail.
 - i. Lower Steve Creek Flowage Dam Update: State biennial budget approved \$750,000. Joe Grapa, has been working with DNR engineer for project development. Resolution will be coming forward to take over ownership and maintenance of the dam. Acknowledged Representative Chanz Green for his work to secure funding.
3. Committee Chair Reports:
- a. Administration – Wartgow: Retention and recruitment continue to be an issue. Recruiting for 17 positions. Requesting funding in 2024 budget for updating the wage study. Updated several employee handbook policies. Not anticipating any changes in health insurance plan.
 - b. Buildings & Grounds – Spacek: Have not met.
 - c. Executive – Barkstrom: Damage to dam property and personal property on County land. Steve Creek Flowage dam discussion.
 - d. Forestry & Parks – Hallstrand: Steve Creek Flowage Dam project. Three active timber sales. Market has been slow. Solberg Lake Park projects coming to completion. Vandalism at Solberg and Tuscobia Parks. Timm’s Hill toilet project moving forward. Losing some access on a boat landing on Solberg Lake at Disappearing Creek due to bridge construction. Omaha Road paving project done to Smith Lake Park. Reviewing ordinances and fees.
 - e. Health and Human Services – Houdek: Quarterly unit reports. Out of home placements are down from previous years. Looking for new senior meal site in City of Phillips. Continue to recruit for several social worker positions. Held annual public participation meeting.
 - f. Highway & Transportation – Palecek: Mowing, replaced signs, culvert changing, rut filling, County Highways B & E projects ongoing, storm damage. Equipping one new plow truck. August 17th Hamburger Fly-in. Fall Road Tour August 28th.
 - g. Land Use & UW-Extension – Wartgow: Land divisions. Contracted for several snowmobile bridges. County is requesting an increase in the 4-H Educator position from half-time to full-time.
 - h. Law Enforcement – Palecek: Working on updating several County ordinances. Acknowledged Leanna Samardich’s 17 year tenure at the County.

Convene out of Committee of the Whole at 10:40 a.m.

Closed Session: Announcement and motion Houdek/Strobl to adjourn to closed session at 10:40 a.m. pursuant to the exemption in Wis. State Statute 19.85 (1)(c) for considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility and for the purpose of:

- a. County Administrator Performance Review
- b. Motion to Return to Open Session

Roll call vote: Yes (13): Barkstrom, Erickson, Ernst, Hallstrand, Hastings, Houdek, Kyle, Kopisch, Palecek, Spacek, Stephan, Strobl, Wartgow. No (0). Motion carried.

Motion Palecek/Kopisch in closed session to return to open session at 11:15 a.m. Roll call vote: Yes (13): Barkstrom, Erickson, Ernst, Hallstrand, Hastings, Houdek, Kyle, Kopisch, Palecek, Spacek, Stephan, Strobl, Wartgow. No (0). Motion carried.

Take Action, as needed, on closed session items. Motion Erickson/Houdek to approve the performance review of Nicholas Trimner, County Administrator. Motion carried.

Date of Next Meeting: September 12, 2023.

Meeting adjourned at 11:17 a.m.

Respectfully submitted: Jean Gottwald, County Clerk