

MEETING OF THE PRICE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

November 15, 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, Jason Hastings (joined remotely 9:55 a.m.), Paula Houdek, Mark Kyle, Larry Palecek, Jordan Spacek, Patricia Stephan, Ginny Strobl, Lorelei Wakefield, Dennis Wartgow. Excused (1): Jeff Hallstrand. Also present: Nick Trimner.

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

Approval of Minutes October 18, 2022: Motion Spacek/Strobl to approve the minutes of the October 18, 2022 meeting as presented. Motion carried.

Communications and Announcements: None.

Public Comments: None.

Public Hearing declared open at 9:06 a.m. for the Proposed 2023 Budget. No comments received. Public hearing declared closed at 9:07 a.m.

Presentation:

1. PMA Financial Network, LLC: Josh Barbian and Brian Della presented services provided for better yield for the County's available investable cash balance. Consensus of the members to forward to the Executive Committee for further consideration.

Resolutions:

Resolution 48-22

2022 Property Tax Levy

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Price County Board of Supervisors, duly assembled in Annual Session, this 15th day of November 2022, that the budget prepared by the Executive Committee, which has been approved by action of the Price County Board of Supervisors, be and hereby levied against the tax districts in Price County, and that the County Clerk be and hereby is authorized and directed to appropriate the levy to each tax district as provided by law:

2022 Property Tax Levy, payable in 2023: \$11,340,117.

Submitted by: s/Alan Barkstrom, County Board Chair. Reviewed by County Administrator: s/Nicholas Trimner. Adopted by the Price County Board of Supervisors this 15th day of November 2022. s/Alan Barkstrom, County Board Chair; Jean Gottwald, County Clerk.

Motion Palecek/Strobl to consider resolution for adoption. Roll call vote on resolution adoption: Yes (11): Barkstrom, Erickson, Ernst, Houdek, Kyle, Palecek, Spacek, Stephan, Strobl, Wakefield, Wartgow. No (0). Absent (2): Hallstrand, Hastings. Motion carried.

Resolution 49-22

Authorize the Issuance of Tax Deed for 2019

WHEREAS, the Treasurer of Price County has issued 2019 tax certificates on properties for nonpayment of real estate taxes; and

WHEREAS, the owners or claimants of the parcels have not satisfied redemption of said tax certificates and that said parcels continue to remain unredeemed.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Price County Board of Supervisors that the County Clerk be and is hereby ordered to issue tax deed against the properties listed as attached on the unredeemed tax certificates for 2019 and also those prior years pursuant to §75.14 Wisconsin Statutes, excepting that no tax deed will be taken for any property with visible evidence of contamination or determined to not be in the best interest of the County; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Executive Committee will have final authority in deciding if said tax deed properties are processed as tax deed pursuant to §75.14 Wisconsin Statutes or processed as In Rem pursuant to §75.521 Wisconsin Statutes.

Motion Houdek/Ernst to consider resolution for adoption.

Roll call vote on resolution adoption: Yes (11): Barkstrom, Erickson, Ernst, Houdek, Kyle, Palecek, Spacek, Stephan, Strobl, Wakefield, Wartgow. No (0). Absent (2): Hallstrand, Hastings. Motion carried. Hastings joined meeting remotely at 9:55 a.m.

Resolution 50-22

Providing Expanded Internet Access for Price County Students

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, the County Board of Supervisors realizes the importance of improved broadband to meet the needs of student access to educational opportunities from home; and

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

WHEREAS, per Resolution 21-21 Expanding Broadband Services in Price County, the County Board gave express authority to the Price County Executive Committee to allocate up to \$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 applications for funding to expand broadband services within Price County; and

WHEREAS, it has been identified there are areas that have not qualified for broadband expansion projects and are still in need of adequate internet access; and

WHEREAS, one vulnerable population that is in desperate need of adequate internet access are the students in Price County, who are to a greater extent needing the internet to perform educational duties.

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 \$30,000 to families identified by the school districts within the county to provide internet access to underserved students in Price County; and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the County Administrator will work with school districts within Price County to identify students in need of assistance to acquire adequate internet access and develop guidelines and policies for providing such services and present to the Executive Committee for approval and implementation.

Motion Houdek/Wartgow to consider resolution for adoption. Roll call vote on resolution adoption: Yes (11): Barkstrom, Erickson, Ernst, Houdek, Kyle, Palecek, Spacek, Stephan, Strobl, Wakefield, Wartgow. No (1): Hastings. Absent (1): Hallstrand. Motion carried.

Amend Resolution 19-21

Price County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan

WHEREAS, hazard mitigation planning is the process of developing a set of actions designed to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to people and property from hazards and their effects; and

WHEREAS, Price County has worked through its Local Emergency Planning Committee and in cooperation with the Northwest Regional Planning Commission to develop the Price County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan, to assess the magnitude of hazard risks, and to develop strategies for minimizing or reducing these risks; and

WHEREAS, Price County Emergency Management provides emergency management planning, coordination, response, and recovery support on behalf of all communities of Price County; and

WHEREAS, the planning included a properly noticed special Public Open House held on August 27, 2020; and WHEREAS, the Plan was reviewed and approved by Wisconsin Emergency Management and FEMA as meeting the required criteria for a multi-jurisdiction hazard mitigation plan outlined in the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 44, Chapter 1, Part 201; and

WHEREAS, adoption of the Plan by the Price County Board will make all unincorporated jurisdictions **and school districts** within Price County eligible to apply for federal grant dollars for hazard mitigation projects.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Price County Board of Supervisors adopts the Price County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan as the official Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan for the County with the intent of implementing the plan recommendations as funding and resources allow.

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

Palecek left meeting at 10:09 a.m.

Resolution 51-22

Requesting the State of Wisconsin Review and Revise the Entry-level Compensation Rate for Assistant District Attorneys

WHEREAS, Assistant District Attorneys (ADAs) serve as the backbone of the State of Wisconsin's ability to effectively prosecute cases in all of its seventy-two counties; and

WHEREAS, any shortage of these ADAs creates backlogs in the justice system, which can lengthen cases, create more pressure on existing staff and delay or deny justice to the victims in these cases; and

WHEREAS, the entry-level compensation rate for ADAs in Wisconsin in 2022 sits at \$26.70 per hour, which is annualized to approximately \$55,000 per year, and the pay structure for experienced prosecutors is, likewise, extraordinarily low; and

WHEREAS, the compensation rate for ADAs, both entry-level and experienced, has not kept up with the rate of inflation, sits well below other public sector attorney positions around the State of Wisconsin, is not competitive in today's workforce environment, accelerates staffing turnover in District Attorney offices around the state of Wisconsin and, ultimately, endangers public safety.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the State of Wisconsin is hereby requested to review and revise the entry-level compensation rate for Assistant District Attorneys and the pay schedule for experienced Assistant District Attorneys in order to make them competitive with other public sector attorney positions as well as to keep up with the rate of inflation. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a

copy of this resolution is sent to Governor Tony Evers, all members of the Wisconsin State Legislature representing Price County, the Wisconsin Counties Association and all other Wisconsin Counties. Motion Erickson/Kyle to consider resolution for adoption. Roll call vote on resolution adoption: Yes (11): Barkstrom, Erickson, Ernst, Hastings, Houdek, Kyle, Spacek, Stephan, Strobl, Wakefield, Wartgow. No (0). Absent (2): Hallstrand, Palecek. Motion carried.

Palecek returned to meeting at 10:12 a.m.

Appointments:

1. Veterans Service Commission – three-year terms to expire 12/31/2025: Motion Strobl/Spacek to approve the appointment of Benjamin Greiner. Motion carried.
2. Price County Humane Officer: Motion Houdek/Wakefield to approve the appointment of Mindy Dabler. Motion carried.
3. Local Emergency Planning Committee: Motion Strobl/Palecek to approve the appointment of Roger Petrick and Marvin Nevelier. Motion carried.

Miscellaneous:

1. Forestry and Parks – 2023 Annual Work Plan: Motion Strobl/Spacek to approve the 2023 Annual Work Plan. Motion carried.

Committee of the Whole:

1. Board Chair Report – Alan Barkstrom: Attended FoFS meeting. Internet for All information on programs available for citizens. Highway Legislative Seminar, voiced concern about Highway 13 project delay. 5-R property cleanup. Discussion with Norvado regarding their services in the County. Letter to DNR regarding DNR pulling out of Steve Creek maintenance.
2. County Administrator's Report – Nick Trimner: Held required employee training on harassment health insurance meetings.
 - a. 2022 Financial Summary: No updated report. Jail expenses continue to be high.
 - b. Updates
 - i. Fair Grounds Transfer: Hydrology study completed and on file. Cleared for building. Agreements are being completed with entities using the facilities. Transfer should take place by end of year. The Baratka family has ongoing plans.
 - ii. Carbon Credits: Paperwork has been completed. Defining plots. Expecting first payment in the 4th quarter 2023.
3. Committee Chair Reports:
 - a. Administration – Wartgow: Union negotiation meeting on November 16th.
 - b. Buildings & Grounds – Spacek: New chiller installation on the Courthouse building. Roof complete. New air handler in the Safety Buildings. FoFS repairs almost complete. Readying for winter. New windows in the Normal Building. New boiler for Normal Building is the next project needed.
 - c. Executive – Barkstrom: Six parcels taken In Rem. Profit from land sales need to be offered to the prior owner.
 - d. Forestry & Parks – Spacek: Approved timber bid sales. 2022 revenue on track. Reviewed park projects completed in 2022.
 - e. Health and Human Services – Houdek: Public hearing for the transportation aid. COVID update. One of three online public health trainings. Update on Aspirus Nursing Home closure. Approved 2023 suggested donations for senior meals. New Community Outreach position filled. High-cost placement expenses are down from prior year.
 - f. Highway & Transportation – Palecek: Shouldering, sign replacement, culvert replacement, readying for winter maintenance. Winter Road School scheduled for January. \$1 million funding received for the County Highway E project. Airport Improvement project completed. Dams winter drawdown.
 - g. Land Use & UW-Extension – Wartgow: Three conditional use permits. Approved two of three special exception requests. Land Conservation is closing out cost share projects and working on three snowmobile bridges. 4-H and FoodWise reports.
 - h. Law Enforcement – Ernst: Chief Deputy Brian Roush retiring. New Chief Deputy Robert Hawn. Two active K-9 units. Significant drug bust. Discussion on drugs that are on the streets. Discussed roles of Humane Officer. Staffing changes in District Attorney and Clerk of Courts offices.

Convene out of Committee of the Whole at 11:05 a.m.

Date of Next Meeting: February 21, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. in the County Board Room

Meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted: Jean Gottwald, County Clerk