

MEETING OF THE PRICE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

May 16, 2023

Meeting Minutes

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

Meeting called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Jeff Hallstrand, County Board Vice-chair.

Invocation: Pastor Larry Tenut.

Pledge of Allegiance recited by those in attendance.

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

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

Approval of Minutes April 18, 2023: Motion Strobl/Spacek to approve the minutes of the April 18, 2023 meeting as presented. Motion carried.

Communications and Announcements: Governor's Fishing Opener held in Price County. Good local participation and promotion for the area.

Public Comments: Supervisor Houdek received communication from Karen Smart appreciating the updates from David Kempen, Dam keeper, regarding flooding issues. Bridge dedication to Ronald Heikkinen was held.

Resolutions:

Resolution 18-23

Amend Chapter 530 Article VI (Redetzke Rezone)

WHEREAS, Chapter 59, Wisconsin State Statutes require that the Price County Land Use & UW-Extension Committee hold a public hearing and report to the Price County Board of Supervisors on all petitions to amend Zoning Ordinances or Zoning District Maps; and

WHEREAS, the Price County Board of Supervisors must then act upon the recommendation of the Price County Land Use and UW-Extension Committee, either approving or disapproving or returning the petition with changes recommended by the Price County Board of Supervisors, and

WHEREAS, the Price County Land Use and UW-Extension Committee has held a public hearing and hereby recommends that the Price County Board of Supervisors approve the rezoning of the following described parcel:

Petition for zoning amendment filed by Jeff Redetzke to rezone one (1) parcel of land located within part of the SE1/4 SE1/4, Section 30, Township 37N, Range 1E, Town of Worcester, (W6920 Paradise Lane), as indicated on the attached map. This petition is to rezone the parcel from A-1 (Agriculture District) to CI-C (Commercial District).

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Price County Board of Supervisors approves the rezoning petition for Jeff Redetzke.

Submitted by the Price County Land Use / UW-Extension Committee: s/Dennis Wartgow, Chair; Alan Barkstrom; Doug Erickson; Ginny Strobl; Lorelei Wakefield. Reviewed by County Administrator: s/Nicholas Trimner. Adopted by the Price County Board of Supervisors this 16th day of May 2023. s/Jeffrey Hallstrand, County Board Vice-chair; Jean Gottwald, County Clerk.

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

Resolution 19-23

Request the State of Wisconsin to Address Concerns of Act 216, Relating to Distributing the Proceeds from the Sale of Tax Delinquent Property to the Former Owner

WHEREAS, under the previous State law addressing sale of tax delinquent property, counties retained the net proceeds from the sale unless the property was the homestead of the former owner(s) and the former owner(s) requested such payment; and

WHEREAS, before a tax delinquent property is foreclosed upon, the property must be delinquent for a minimum of three years; and

WHEREAS, before a tax delinquent property is foreclosed upon, the owner receives notice of the pending action and is given the opportunity to pay the back taxes, including the potential for a payment plan; and WHEREAS, if the sale of the tax delinquent property does not cover the past due taxes, other associated costs and costs of processing the foreclosure, the county taxpayers are ultimately responsible to absorb the loss; and

WHEREAS, Act 216 purportedly requires a county to pay the net proceeds of the sale of tax delinquent property to any former owner, regardless of whether the former owner requests the payment and regardless of whether the former owner used the property as his or her homestead, and hold such proceeds for five years if the former owner does not request payment; and

WHEREAS, the Act further attempts to require a county to pay off any lien placed on the property at the time of the foreclosure sale, notwithstanding the fact that all liens are discharged at the time of the foreclosure judgment, causing confusion for counties and courts; and

WHEREAS, the Act is further imprudent for the following reasons:

1. most often in tax foreclosure cases, property owners are not responsive;
2. it shifts the risk of loss onto the county causing the county to have an incentive to NOT exercise its authority to foreclosure, leading to many blighted properties throughout the county;
3. the Act purported to cause counties to act as realtors for private parties;
4. the Act requires treasurers to make complex ownership decisions between parties, tenants-in-common; LLCs, corporations and decedents' estates.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Price County Board of Supervisors urges the Legislature to repeal the changes implemented by Act 216, or, in the alternative, to modify the law to take away the risk to counties and consider a provision to place any proceeds from the sale of tax delinquent properties in a segregated account established by the county to be used for clean-up of blighted properties; and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be sent to Governor Tony Evers, Legislators representing Price County, the Wisconsin Counties Association and all Wisconsin Counties.

Submitted 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 16th day of May 2023. s/Jeffrey Hallstrand, County Board Vice-chair; Jean Gottwald, County Clerk.

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

Committee of the Whole at 9:25 a.m.

1. Board Chair Report – Jeff Hallstrand: Raze order issued by the City of Phillips to the Lionite property owners. 5-R property issue continues.
 - a. WCA Fall Conference
 - i. Attendance: Board members should submit registrations by July 15th.
 - ii. Resolutions for Submission: Motion Houdek/Ernst to forward Resolution 19-23 (resolution #2 above) to the WCA for consideration at the WCA annual meeting. Motion carried.
2. County Administrator's Report – Nick Trimner: 2022 Audit finished. Ended with two adjusting journal entries. Conducting the single audit at Health & Human Services (individual programs).
 - a. 2023 Financial Summary: Nothing out of the ordinary. A few unexpected expenses.
 - b. 2024 Budget
 - i. Department Guidelines: Letter to departments.
 - ii. Exercise on Budget and Debt Service: Explained the allocation exercise pertaining to deciding what debt service will go toward. Postponing exercise to next meeting for better in-person attendance.
 - c. Updates: Nothing more.
3. Committee Chair Reports:
 - a. Administration – Wartgow: Hasn't met since last Board meeting.
 - b. Buildings & Grounds – Spacek: Updates on building projects. Airport terminal remodel.
 - c. Executive – Hallstrand: Received communication from a citizen against Steve Creek Dam ownership.
 - d. Forestry & Parks – Hallstrand: Stumpage is doing well. Parks getting cleaned-up and ready for summer. Extension requested for deadline on the decision of County ownership of the Steve Creek Dam ownership.
 - e. Health and Human Services – Houdek: Report on County Health rankings. Update on the new Community Outreach/Program Coordinator position. Report on Children & Youth programming and funding. Transportation Coordinating Committee amended their bylaws to expand membership to include a representative from each of the cities.
 - f. Highway & Transportation – Palecek: Busy winter season. Short three operators. Spring melting caused a lot of road damage and
 - g. Land Use & UW-Extension – Wartgow: Approved rezone. Reviewing department fees. Land Use grants were processed. Four snowmobile bridges. CleanSweep end of September in Phillips. Active 4-H program. Asked UW if they would support a full-time 4-H Educator. Discussion of UWEX programming.
 - h. Law Enforcement – Palecek: Have not met since last Board meeting. Several department staff vacancies.

Convene out of Committee of the Whole: 10:22 a.m.

Date of Next Meeting: June 20, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. in the County Board Room

Meeting adjourned at 10:22 a.m.

Respectfully submitted: Jean Gottwald, County Clerk