

**PRICE COUNTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

Date: January 9, 2024

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Place: Courthouse County Board Room 101; 126 Cherry St; Phillips, WI 54555

Call to Order and Roll Call. Meeting called to order by Alan Barkstrom, Committee Chairperson at 9:00 a.m. Present: Alan Barkstrom, Brian Ernst, Jeff Hallstrand, Paula Houdek, Larry Palecek. Also present: Nick Trimner, Carrie Kyle, Lynn Neeck, Ginny Strobl, Bob Kopisch, Doug Erickson.

Items for discussion and possible action:

1. Public Comment and Communications: None.
2. Meeting minutes November 9, 2023: Motion Palecek/Hallstrand to approve the minutes from the November, 2023 meeting as presented. Motion carried.
3. Bug Tussel Towers – Update: Have met with the rep. They are in the process of a second stage project and Price County could be included in that. Bug Tussel provides: 1. internet connection, 2. middle mile (supply fiber for other providers to connected to), 3. tower construction (supply locations on towers for other providers). Price County would have free access to the towers for emergency services. To move forward would need a resolution for February County Board meeting letting them know the County is interested in joining their project. The County would sponsor bonds that are issued through Fond du Lac County. Putting towers on County land would expedite the process and provide lease income. Bug Tussel will give a presentation at the January 17th Towns Association meeting.
4. Treasurer Report
 - a. Monthly reports: N/A.
 - b. Delinquent Taxes and In Rem: Moving forward with the process. Holding off the selling process until the State provides more guidance on recent Supreme Court ruling. 5R property cleanup has been completed. There is interest in the property. Abandoned storage containers have all been sold.
 - c. Resolution – Designating Public Depositories: Motion Ernst/Houdek to approve the resolution and forward to the County Board for their consideration. Motion carried.
5. County Administrator
 - a. 2023 Executive Financial Report: Review of December report. Health insurance expenses can vary depending on number of employees on the plan. Winter maintenance was low at the end of the year. HHSB costs increasing. Criminal cat owner case was settled in court. There is another step to be able to get judgement for restitution. Anticipate meeting budget for the year. 2023 high-cost placements did well, but there's been an increase in the end of 2023 going into 2024. Health insurance fund anticipating six employees reaching the stop loss. Continue to work with Taylored Family Care Clinic to provide services in the County.
6. Carbon Credit Update: There is a third party audit company in the process, which slows down the procedure. Bayfield County did get their first check. They were one of the first counties in the program.
7. Fleet Vehicles: Health & Human Services Department is seeing more interest in using fleet vehicles instead of personal vehicles. Working on analysis for use of fleet vehicles.
8. Logistical Reorganization – Courthouse Offices: Funding position of Deputy County Clerk. Looking to combine office space for Treasurer and County Clerk with two full-time deputies – relocating to the current Office of Administration suite. Possible move of that staff to Treasurer, Vet Service or Child Support office space, which would relocate those departments. Work in progress.
9. Amend Resolution 25-23 Town of Georgetown Bridge and Culvert Aid Request: Motion Palecek/Houdek to approve resolution and forward to the County Board for their consideration. Motion carried.
10. Monthly Vouchers: Motion Houdek/Palecek to approve the accounts payable and payroll for the month of November in the amount of \$1,876,003.81 and vouchers in the amount of \$680,570.02. Motion carried.
11. Date of Next Meeting: February 15.

12. Announcement and motion Ernst/Palecek to adjourn to closed session at 10:33 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. Virtual Interview – Corporation Counsel Candidate

b. Motion to Return to Open Session

Roll call vote: Yes (5): Barkstrom, Ernst, Hallstrand, Houdek, Palecek No: (0). Motion carried.

Motion Palecek/Houdek in closed session to return to open session at 11:25 a.m. Roll call vote: Yes (5):

Barkstrom, Ernst, Hallstrand, Houdek, Palecek No: (0). Motion carried.

13. Take Action, as needed, on closed session items: No action taken

14. Meeting adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted by Jean Gottwald, County