

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE PRICE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

March 17, 2020

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 – moment of silence in remembrance of Sheryl Slaby. Pledge of Allegiance recited by those in attendance. Roll Call: Present (12): Larry Palecek, James Adolph, Jeffrey Hallstrand, James Hintz, Paula Houdek, Dennis Wartgow, Sue Bocock, Jordan Spacek, Robert Kopisch, John Vlach, Bruce Jilka, William Teeters. Also present: Nick Trimner.

Approve minutes of the February 18, 2020 meeting: Motion Hintz/Houdek to approve the minutes of the February 18, 2020 meeting as presented. Motion carried.

Communications and Announcements: Thank you to John Vlach and Sue Bocock who are not seeking re-election to the County Board.

Public Comments: Waldemar Madsen, City of Phillips addressed Second Amendment rights and sanctuary county.

Resolutions:

Resolution 9-20

Declaration of Public Health Emergency – COVID-19

WHEREAS, in December 2019, a novel strain of coronavirus known as COVID-19 was detected, and COVID-19 has continued to spread throughout the world, including to the United States and the State of Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, the federal government, state governments and local governments are working together to contain the further spread of the disease and treat existing cases; and

WHEREAS, on January 31, 2020, the United States Department of Health and Human Services declared a Public Health Emergency, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a pandemic, and on March 12, 2020 the Governor of the State of Wisconsin declared a Health Emergency in the State; and

WHEREAS, Price County (the "County") has been working to protect the health and well-being of its residents from the spread of COVID-19, and to prepare for the impacts the disease is likely to have on the County; and

WHEREAS, the County Board (the "Board") has determined that it is necessary to make all possible resources and means available to the County in order to protect the health, safety, and welfare of its residents from the threat posed by the continued spread of COVID-19.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 323.11 the Board finds and declares that an emergency exists within the County by reason of an imminent threat of disaster impairing medical care, health, and other critical systems of the County due to the spread of COVID-19; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that during the period of emergency prescribed by this Resolution, the Board may order, by ordinance or resolution, whatever is necessary and expedient for the health, safety, protection, and welfare of persons and property within the County; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Administrator is hereby authorized and directed by the Board to coordinate and administer the County's emergency management response and to carry out the orders of the Board related thereto; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Emergency Management Coordinator of the County is authorized and directed to carry out her duties under the County's Emergency Management Plan under the supervision and direction of the County Administrator and perform such other duties as may be directed by further resolution of the Board; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Supervisors are hereby authorized to attend meetings of the Board remotely, and the Board shall take all actions necessary to effectuate the same in compliance with all other applicable laws; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, based upon the information available to the Board and the ongoing threat posed by the spread of COVID-19, the period of emergency shall continue for one hundred (100) days from the effective date of this Resolution unless terminated sooner or extended by further resolution of the Board; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all actions heretofore taken by the Board and other appropriate public officers and agents of the County with respect to the matters contemplated under this Resolution are hereby ratified, confirmed and approved.

Done at the Price County Courthouse this 17th day of March 2020.

s/Robert D. Kopisch; Chairperson – Price County Board of Supervisors

Adopted by the Price County Board of Supervisors this 17th day of March 2020.

s/Robert D. Kopisch, County Board Chairperson; Jean Gottwald, County Clerk. For: 12, Against: 0. Motion Teeters/Jilka to consider resolution for adoption. Roll call vote on resolution adoption: Yes (12): Palecek, Adolph, Hallstrand, Hintz, Houdek, Wartgow, Bocock, Spacek, Kopisch, Vlach, Jilka, Teeters; No (0). Motion carried.

Resolution 10-20

Provide County Administration Emergency Administrative Flexibility for COVID-19

WHEREAS, the United States is experiencing an expanding COVID-19 pandemic; and
WHEREAS, Wisconsin has had confirmed cases of COVID-19; and
WHEREAS, Price County desires to be as strategic as possible to ensure the health and safety of Price County staff, residents and those traveling throughout Price County; and
WHEREAS, Price County desires to maintain the highest level of services related to the general public, such as Public Safety, Health and Human Services, Emergency Management and those departments directly related to the general welfare of all residents; and
WHEREAS, Price County desires flexibility to manage operations throughout this national pandemic; and
WHEREAS, Price County is providing administrative flexibility to allow the County Administrator, in consultation with Public Health and the County Board Chair, the ability to, but not limited to:

- Close Price County government buildings as necessary,
- Implement strategic staffing **and policy** changes to ensure enough healthy staff are in place to carry out necessary and critical services, and
- Maintain employee benefit status regardless of hours worked; and

WHEREAS, the County Administrator and County Board Chair shall, within reasonable time, but no later than 24 hours after implementing necessary decisions, inform the Price County Board of Supervisors of the situation at hand by email and/or phone.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Price County Board of Supervisors does hereby acknowledge, accept and support the County Administrator and County Board Chair to strategically implement necessary plans to ensure the safety and health of the Price County staff, residents and those traveling throughout the county; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution will remain in effect **for one hundred (100) days, until repealed unless extended** by the Price County Board of Supervisors.

Submitted by the Price County Administration Committee. s/Dennis Wartgow, Chair; Jeff Hallstrand; Robert Kopisch; Jordan Spacek. Reviewed by County Administrator: s/Nicholas Trimner. Adopted by the Price County Board of Supervisors this 17th day of March 2020. s/Robert D. Kopisch, County Board Chair; Jean Gottwald, County Clerk. For: 12, Against: 0. Motion Wartgow/Spacek to consider resolution for adoption. Motion Houdek/Palecek to amend language to include “and policy” and replace “until repealed” with “for one hundred (100) days, unless extended”. Roll call vote on amendment: Yes (12): Palecek, Adolph, Hallstrand, Hintz, Houdek, Wartgow, Bocock, Spacek, Kopisch, Vlach, Jilka, Teeters; No (0). Motion carried. Motion Jilka/Vlach to change language from “County Board Chair” to “Emergency Management Committee”. Roll call vote on amendment: Yes (3): Bocock, Vlach, Jilka; No (9): Palecek, Adolph, Hallstrand, Hintz, Houdek, Wartgow, Spacek, Kopisch, Teeters; No (0). Motion failed. Roll call vote on resolution adoption: Yes (12): Palecek, Adolph, Hallstrand, Hintz, Houdek, Wartgow, Bocock, Spacek, Kopisch, Vlach, Jilka, Teeters; No (0). Motion carried.

Resolution 11-20 (a)

Approve Price County 2020 Highway Department Road Construction Projects to be Financed with Short-Term Debt

WHEREAS, the Executive Committee has identified the need for financing a portion of the 2020 Highway Department road constructions projects to the extent of \$1,000,000; and
WHEREAS, the Executive Committee has reviewed the financial impact of the proposed construction and recommends financing the projects through the use of short-term borrowing.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Price County Board of Supervisors authorizes the Executive Committee to proceed with the implementation of financing 2020 Highway Department road construction projects in an amount not to exceed \$1,000,000 to be financed through the issuance of short-term debt and to include such debt payment in the 2021 Price County budget.

Fiscal Impact: \$1,000,000 in 2021 (budgeted).

Submitted by the Price County Executive Committee. s/Robert D. Kopisch, Chair; James Adolph; James Hintz; Bruce Jilka; Larry Palecek. Reviewed by County Administrator: s/Nicholas Trimner. Adopted by the Price County Board of Supervisors this 17th day of March 2020. s/Robert D. Kopisch, County Board Chair; Jean Gottwald, County Clerk. For: 9, Against: 3. Motion Palecek/Hintz to consider resolution for adoption. Roll call vote on resolution adoption: Yes (9): Palecek, Adolph, Hallstrand, Hintz, Houdek, Wartgow,

Bocock, Spacek, Kopisch; No (3): Vlach, Jilka, Teeters. Motion originally announced as failed. With further clarification defining requirement of 3/4 vote of "members elect" after the meeting adjourned determined the motion carried.

Resolution 11-20 (b)

Regular Non-benefit Eligible and Casual Employee Wage Schedule

WHEREAS, the Administration Committee has been charged by the Price County Board of Supervisors with the responsibility for all matters pertaining to salary and wages for all County employees and has also been charged with the responsibility to review wage/salary data and make appropriate recommendations; and

WHEREAS, after review of these wages, the Administration Committee recommends the Regular Non-benefit Eligible and Casual Employee Wage Schedule as attached.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Price County Board of Supervisors adopt the attached Regular Non-benefit Eligible and Casual Employee Wage Schedule, effective April 5, 2020.

Submitted by the Price County Administration Committee. s/Dennis Wartgow, Chair; Jeff Hallstrand; Robert Kopisch; Jordan Spacek. Reviewed by County Administrator: s/Nicholas Trimner. Adopted by the Price County Board of Supervisors this 17th day of March 2020. s/Robert D. Kopisch, County Board Chair; s/Jean Gottwald, County Clerk. For: 11, Against: 0, Abstain: 1. Motion Spacek/Wartgow to consider resolution for adoption. Roll call vote on resolution adoption: Yes (11): Palecek, Adolph, Hintz, Houdek, Wartgow, Bocock, Spacek, Kopisch, Vlach, Jilka, Teeters; No (0); Abstain (1): Hallstrand. Motion carried.

Resolution to Ratify the Collective Bargaining Agreement between Price County and Price County Deputies Union LAW Local 116 – not available for this meeting.

Reports on File

1. Financial Policies and Procedures Manual

Convene to Committee of the Whole at 10:00 a.m.

1. Highway Road Construction Plan – Nick Trimner and Joe Baratka provided information during discussion of resolution adoption.
2. Board Chair Report – Kopisch: Attended the WCA Board Chairs meeting. Received information on per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), Milwaukee County Sales Tax lawsuit, definition of racism and labeling.
3. Committee Chair Reports
 - a. Administration – Wartgow: Work on employee handbook and supervisor policy and procedure manual. Deputy Union contract negotiations have stalled.
 - b. Executive – Kopisch: Financial policy and procedure manual.
 - c. Forestry & Parks – Hintz: Planning for summer park opening.
 - d. Health and Human Services – Jilka: Attended WCA webinar regarding fiscal impact of COVID-19. There has been a spike in calls to Economic Support.
 - e. Highway & Transportation – Palecek: Continuing with winter maintenance. Preparing for spring melt. Recruiting for several department positions. County Highway W bridge project starting. Maintaining dam water levels. Annual dam inspections scheduled. Becher Hoppe is the engineer for the Airport Improvement project.
 - f. Land Use & UW-Extension – no meeting held.
 - g. Law Enforcement – Hintz – no meeting held.
4. County Administrator's Report – Trimner: 4-H Youth Development Coordinator will be a shared position with Taylor County, recruitment in progress. Reviewing Mass Assembly ordinance in anticipation of upcoming events (Quadtobefest, Rodeo).
 - a. Price County Government: Office of Administration Strategies for a Pandemic: Plan for response. Updating employees on a regular basis. HR6201 addresses time off for employees affected by COVID-19. Need to get proper information out.

Convene out of Committee of the Whole at 10:47 a.m.

Date of Next Meeting: April 21, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. in the County Board Room.

Meeting adjourned at 10:47 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 March 17, 2020 and the whole thereof.



Jean Gottwald, County Clerk