

REGULAR MEETING OF THE PRICE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

June 15, 2021

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: Pastor Jason Thomas.

Pledge of Allegiance recited by those in attendance.

Roll Call: Present (13): Alan Barkstrom, Doug Erickson, Brian Ernst, Jeff Hallstrand, James Hintz, Paula Houdek, Robert Kopisch, Mark Kyle, Waldemar Madsen, Larry Palecek, Jordan Spacek, Ginny Strobl, Dennis Wartgow. Also present: Nick Trimner.

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

Approval of Minutes – May 18, 2021: Motion Madsen/Houdek to approve the minutes of the May 18, 2021 meeting as presented. Motion carried.

Communications and Announcements: Communication from Price County Historical Society with information on a building project they are doing and fundraising request. Information on the Elk Lake Pavilion. Information on 2nd Amendment resolution in the State Legislature.

Public Comments: None.

Resolutions (implementation of electronic voting):

Resolution 22-21

Amend Chapter 530 Article VI (Schienebeck 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:

One (1) parcel of land located within part of the NW1/4 SE1/4, Section 36, Township 40N, Range 1W, Town of Eisenstein, (N14631 State Highway 13). Rezone request applies to a 200' x 350' parcel within the 20.5 acre property as indicated on the attached map. This petition is to rezone the parcel from RF-1 (Rural Residential-Forestry District) to CI-1 (Commercial-Industrial District).

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Price County Board of Supervisors approve the rezoning petition for Patrick Schienebeck.

Submitted by the Land Use / UW-Extension Committee: s/Alan Barkstrom, Chairperson; Doug Erickson;

Paula Houdek; Mark Kyle; Dennis Wartgow. Reviewed by County Administrator: s/Nicholas Trimner

Adopted by the Price County Board of Supervisors this 15th day of June 2021: s/Robert D. Kopisch, County Board Chair; Jean Gottwald, County Clerk. For: 12, Against: 1. Motion Palecek/Barkstrom to consider resolution for adoption. Motion carried. Roll call vote on resolution adoption: Yes (12):

Barkstrom, Erickson, Ernst, Hallstrand, Houdek, Kopisch, Kyle, Madsen, Palecek, Spacek, Strobl, Wartgow. No (1): Hintz.

Resolution 23-21

County Approval of an Amendment to the Town of Worcester Zoning Ordinance (Spacek Rezone)

WHEREAS, the Town of Worcester has undertaken the obligation and authority to control zoning and land use planning to the extent that such authority is granted to the Town pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes; and

WHEREAS, the County of Price and the Town of Worcester have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding whereby the County and Town have agreed upon the division of such zoning and land use planning authority; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Worcester has deferred the decision regarding the following request for a rezone of a parcel under the jurisdiction of Price County Shoreland Zoning to the County:

Zoning amendment filed by Randy Spacek to rezone one (1) parcel of land located within part of Government Lot 5, Section 6, Township 37N, Range 1E, Town of Worcester, (N9651 Deer Lake Lane) as indicated on the attached map. This petition is to rezone the parcel from A-1 (Agricultural District) to CI-C (Commercial District).

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the change to the Zoning District Map for the Town of Worcester attached hereto is hereby approved by the County Board of the County of Price.

BE IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that this approval shall not be effective until this Resolution is published.

Submitted by the Land Use / UW-Extension Committee: s/Alan Barkstrom, Chairperson; Doug Erickson; Paula Houdek; Mark Kyle; Dennis Wartgow. Reviewed by County Administrator: s/Nicholas Trimner
Adopted by the Price County Board of Supervisors this 15th day of June 2021. s/Robert D. Kopisch, County Board Chair; Jean Gottwald, County Clerk. For: 11, Against: 1, Abstain: 1. Motion Erickson/Wartgow to consider resolution for adoption. Motion carried. Roll call vote on resolution adoption: Yes (11): Barkstrom, Erickson, Ernst, Hallstrand, Houdek, Kopisch, Kyle, Madsen, Palecek, Strobl, Wartgow. No (1): Hintz. Abstain (1): Spacek.

Resolution 24-21

Create Full-time Position – Additional Family Skills Worker

WHEREAS, in recent years the state of Wisconsin added numerous mandates and practice expectations which increased county Child Protective Services (CPS) workload and costs; and
WHEREAS, Price County's out-of-home care caseloads for children and youth has been increasing over the past several years, causing caseloads for CPS workers to grow to unreasonable levels, contributing to high levels of staff turnover and creating highly stressful working conditions with a significant increase in overtime worked, as well as an alarming decrease in resources available to the families served; and
WHEREAS, some of the tasks required for implementing and following individual case plans include transporting children, supervising family visits and teaching parenting skills; and
WHEREAS, the social workers who oversee these children and youth have had to take on some of these duties, taking their time away from conducting investigations, emergency removal of children and completing mandated reports; and
WHEREAS, duties that do not require caseworker supervision can be performed by the family skills worker but, since there is only one person in that position, many of these tasks fall back on the caseworker; and
WHEREAS, not only would there be better use of the caseworker's time to transfer some of these tasks to a family skills worker, but it would also be a significant cost savings; and
WHEREAS, Price County Health and Human Services is in need of an additional family skills worker to help alleviate the workload and time constraints put on social workers.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Price County Board of Supervisors does hereby approve the creation of an additional full-time family skills worker position in the Health and Human Services Department. Fiscal impact: \$60,500 (budgeted)

Submitted by the Price County Administration Committee. s/Dennis Wartgow, Chair; Alan Barkstrom; Jeff Hallstrand; Robert Kopisch; Jordan Spacek. Reviewed by County Administrator: s/Nicholas Trimner
Adopted by the Price County Board of Supervisors this 15th day of June 2021. s/Robert D. Kopisch, County Board Chair; Jean Gottwald, County Clerk. For: 13, Against: 0. Motion Wartgow/Houdek to consider resolution for adoption. Motion carried. Roll call vote on resolution adoption: Yes (13): Barkstrom, Erickson, Ernst, Hallstrand, Hintz, Houdek, Kopisch, Kyle, Madsen, Palecek, Spacek, Strobl, Wartgow. No (0).

Resolution 25-21

Create Full-time Position – Dementia Care Specialist

WHEREAS, taking into consideration the ever-increasing senior population in recent years, the state of Wisconsin has added numerous mandates and practice expectations which included the requirement for dementia care specialists; and

WHEREAS, until now, the Aging and Disability Resource Center of the North (ADRC-N), of which Price County is a member, has contracted for the dementia care specialist to serve member counties; and
WHEREAS, review of the contracted service by the ADRC-N Directors has resulted in a decision to discontinue the current contract and instead convert this to an employee level position within the ADRC-N.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Price County Board of Supervisors does hereby approve the creation of a full-time Dementia Care Specialist position, per attached job description; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT funding for the position will continue to be provided by the ADRC-N, resulting in no direct cost to Price County.

Fiscal impact: 0

Submitted by the Price County Administration Committee: s/Dennis Wartgow, Chair; Alan Barkstrom; Jeff Hallstrand; Robert Kopisch; Jordan Spacek. Reviewed by County Administrator: s/Nicholas Trimner
Adopted by the Price County Board of Supervisors this 15th day of June 2021. s/Robert D. Kopisch, County Board Chair; Jean Gottwald, County Clerk. For: 13, Against: 0. Motion Houdek/Hallstrand to consider resolution for adoption. Motion carried. Roll call vote on resolution adoption: Yes (13): Barkstrom, Erickson, Ernst, Hallstrand, Hintz, Houdek, Kopisch, Kyle, Madsen, Palecek, Spacek, Strobl, Wartgow. No (0).

Resolution 26-21

Adopt Revised Employee Handbook

WHEREAS, the Administration Committee has been charged by the Price County Board of Supervisors with the responsibility of developing, maintaining and enforcing policies and guidelines for personnel management and has also been charged with the responsibility of periodically reviewing said policies and procedures; and

WHEREAS, recruitment and retention of County employees has become increasingly difficult for certain positions and the Administration Committee has reviewed job classifications, pay rates and hiring practices to develop a 2021 Retention and Recruitment Plan; and

WHEREAS, to implement the 2021 Retention and Recruitment Plan, the Administration Committee has determined the need for various additions and/or edits to the language in the existing policies; and

WHEREAS, the Administration Committee has reviewed and approved the attached revisions to the Price County Employee Handbook and recommends them for adoption by the County Board.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Price County Board of Supervisors adopt the revised Price County Employee Handbook as presented, with an effective date of July 11, 2021.

Fiscal Impact: \$49,040 (budgeted)

Submitted by the Price County Administration Committee: s/Dennis Wartgow, Chair; Alan Barkstrom; Jeff Hallstrand; Robert Kopisch; Jordan Spacek. Reviewed by County Administrator: s/Nicholas Trimner

Adopted by the Price County Board of Supervisors this 15th day of June 2021. s/Robert D. Kopisch,

County Board Chair; Jean Gottwald, County Clerk. For: 13, Against: 0. Motion Spacek/Palecek to

consider resolution for adoption. Motion carried. Roll call vote on resolution adoption: Yes (13):

Barkstrom, Erickson, Ernst, Hallstrand, Hintz, Houdek, Kopisch, Kyle, Madsen, Palecek, Spacek, Strobl, Wartgow. No (0).

Resolution 27-21

Revisions to the Non-Represented Wage Matrix

WHEREAS, per resolution 57-09, the Price County Board adopted a Non-represented Wage Matrix for implementation on January 1, 2010, and

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of the Administration Committee to review salary and wage data and to administer the policy on wage adjustments for individual job positions and job classifications and make recommendations to the Price County Board of Supervisors for revisions as needed, and

WHEREAS, recruitment and retention of County employees has become increasingly difficult for certain positions and the Administration Committee has reviewed job classifications, pay rates and hiring practices to develop a 2021 Retention and Recruitment Plan; and

WHEREAS, to implement the 2021 Retention and Recruitment Plan, the Administration Committee proposes the following adjustments to the following positions on the Non-represented Wage Matrix:

Correction Officer/Civilian Dispatcher – Hire up to Step 6

Sheriff Office Lieutenant – Hire at Step 6

Children and Youth Social Worker – Hire at Step 6

Highway Department Foreman – Hire at Step 6

Individual employees who are currently in any of these positions will move to Step 6 if they are currently below Step 6 and if they are above or at Step 6 they will move one step or receive a 1.5% wage increase; and

WHEREAS, also included in the 2021 Retention and Recruitment Plan is elimination of the distinction between Highway Department Operator I and Operator II, transitioning to a general classification of Operator. Individual employees currently classified as Operator I or Operator II will move to the Operator position and placed on the closest step on the wage schedule that would not result in a decrease to their current wage; and

WHEREAS, another aspect of the 2021 Retention and Recruitment Plan is offering three additional steps for employees in Grades I – R who have reached Step 10, movement to be obtained after a positive job performance review from the Office of Administration.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Price County Board of Supervisors does hereby approve the changes to the Non-represented Wage Matrix as presented and reflected in the attached wage schedule, with an effective date of July 11, 2021. Fiscal Impact: \$53,223 (budgeted) Submitted by the

Price County Administration Committee. s/Dennis Wartgow, Chair; Alan Barkstrom; Jeff Hallstrand;

Robert Kopisch; Jordan Spacek. Reviewed by County Administrator: s/Nicholas Trimner. Adopted by the

Price County Board of Supervisors this 15th day of June 2021. s/Robert D. Kopisch, County Board Chair;

Jean Gottwald, County Clerk. For: 13, Against: 0. Motion Barkstrom/Wartgow to consider resolution for

adoption. Motion carried. Roll call vote on resolution adoption: Yes (13): Barkstrom, Erickson, Ernst,

Hallstrand, Hintz, Houdek, Kopisch, Kyle, Madsen, Palecek, Spacek, Strobl, Wartgow. No (0).

Appointments

1. Council on Aging Advisory Committee – three-year terms to expire 4/30/24: Diane Gierman
2. Nutrition Advisory Council – two-year terms to expire 4/30/23: Tom Bader
3. Woodland Enhanced Health Services Commission: Jeff Hallstrand.
4. Board of Adjustment – three-year terms to expire 5/31/2024 (David Schmidt, Mark Marsden): Motion Spacek/Madsen to approve the appointment. Motion carried.
5. NW Regional Planning – Visions NW – three-year term to expire 5/31/2024 (Dale Heikkinen): Motion Houdek/Strobl to approve the appointment. Motion carried.

Convene to Committee of the Whole at 9:35 a.m.

1. County Administrator Report – Nick Trimmer
 - a. 2020 Financial Summary Report as of 12/31/20: Audits complete. Resulted in findings of filing deadlines being missed in the ADRC.
 - b. 2021 Financial Summary Report as of 5/31/21: Reviewed. Significant HVAC issues.
 - c. 2022 Preliminary Budget Goals: Budget instruction letters sent to departments with 0% increase. Starting with 2% wage increase and 5-8% health insurance increase. Will need to budget for the new Senior Nutrition site in Park Falls. Books-by-Mail will need to be reevaluated. Possible additional K-9 unit. Addition of a Recreation Officer would be funded 70-80% by DNR.
 - d. COVID-19 Pandemic Update: Emergency Leave will be ending.
 - e. American Recovery Plan Act Update and Spending: Working on options.

Presentation (10:00 a.m.): Bluesource LLC - Develop a Forest Carbon Offset Project for Price County Owned Lands

2. Board Chair Report
 - a. Park Falls Area Community Development Corporation restructuring status: Meeting July 1st.
 - b. WCA Conference Resolutions: None recommended.
 - c. Rules and Responsibilities – Follow-up: Review from last County Board meeting.
3. Committee Chair Reports:
 - a. Administration – Wartgow: Vetting health insurance vendors. Jacqueline Adams retired from DA's Office. Continued recruitment for Sheriff Deputies and Social Worker. \$90,000 left from money budgeted for retention and recruitment.
 - b. Buildings & Grounds – Spacek: Finishing work at the Fairgrounds including handrail repair on the grandstand bleachers. VA Office getting drop ceiling and furniture. Normal Building AC failed. Portable units provided.
 - c. Executive – Kopisch: Interest in rejoining Northwoods Rail Transit Commission.
 - d. Forestry & Parks – Hallstrand: Two active sales. Revenues of \$1,376,000. Campgrounds are off to a good summer season. Received donations for improvements to the Cranberry Lak Shooting Range.
 - e. Health and Human Services: Reestablished congregate senior meal sites. New site in Park Falls. June 15th is Elder Abuse Awareness Day. Change in the structure of the Dementia Care Specialist position. Janine Dobson resignation as of July 16th.
 - f. Highway & Transportation – Palecek: Summer maintenance and construction projects. County Road C bridge project being completed and the County Road A bridge project to start. Conducted the 2021 road tour. Dams and Airport are busy with summer activities.
 - g. Land Use & UW-Extension – Barkstrom: Several conditional use permits, gravel pit reclamations and land divisions. Animal crop damage program administration moving from local to state level. Working on summer cost share projects. UW-Extension transitioning to in-person programming.
 - h. Law Enforcement – Hintz: Introduction of the K-9 unit. Recognition of officer actions at building fire in Park Falls.

Date of Next Meeting: August 17, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. in the County Board Room

Meeting adjourned at 11:37 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 June 15, 2021 and the whole thereof.



Jean Gottwald, County Clerk