

**PRICE COUNTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES**

Date: August 1, 2023

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, Joe Grapa, Ginny Strobl, Bryce Schoenborn

Items for discussion and possible action:

1. Public Comment and Communications: Jerome Bieszka, Chairman of Town of Kennan; Tom Bader, Town of Kennan and Ginny Strobl, Town of Georgetown regarding support for the Steve Creek Flowage Dam.
2. Meeting minutes June 13, 2023: Motion Palecek/Houdek to approve the minutes of the June 13, 2023 meeting as presented. Motion carried.
3. Treasurer Report
  - a. Monthly reports: Not available.
  - b. Delinquent Taxes and In Rem: 10 parcels remaining after final date of redemption. Phillips Lionite Wood Products Co, LLC did pay the 2019 delinquent taxes.
4. Private Use of Public Property
  - a. Price County Dam Property (21647): Adjourning property owner did an illegal brush cutting on County property (Solberg Lake Dam). Met with owner. Citation was issued.
  - b. Price County Forest Special Use Land Property (11174): Question remains regarding dock on County land. This brought up several instances of other docks on County property on other lakes. Bryce provided information on the County's options. Motion Ernst/Palecek to inform citizens to remove any private docks or unauthorized personal property from County property. Motion carried.
5. County Administrator
  - a. 2023 Executive Financial: Register of Deeds has transferred to online record systems. Having difficulty filling jail/dispatch positions. Sales tax and stumpage revenues continue to do well. Self-funded health insurance is doing well and not anticipating any premium increases for 2024.
6. 2024 Budget: Do not have equalized value or net new construction rates from the State.
  - a. Act 12 – Shared Revenues: Provides an additional \$425,000 operation funds. Suggestions: new Sheriff's Office investigator, part-time position to full-time in Clerk of Courts office, part-time to full-time surveyor, full-time Deputy County Clerk, part-time to full-time Administrative Assistant in Sheriff's Office, Airport project funding. \$300,000 for retention and recruitment, with an updated wage study. Future calculations will be established on the State sales tax revenues.
  - b. Wisconsin Biennial Budget: Increase in Child Support and Land Conservation funding.
    - i. Lower Steve Creek Flowage Project: Approved at \$750,000 for DNR to work with the County for the project. Have until June 30, 2024 to decide on level of project.
  - c. Debt Service: Discussed result of the County Board meeting exercise: Forestry & Parks truck, Highway Department trucks (three needed – options available), highway construction, squad cars, Sheriff's Office drone, communications tower.
    - i. Short-term Borrowing Projects: \$200,000 - \$250,000, Normal Building boiler, parking lot, communication tower, drone.
    - ii. Long-term Borrowing Projects: Park projects, jail body scanner, IT server/storage/network equipment.
  - d. Employee Job Positions
    - i. Employee Wage Study: Previously discussed. Struggling with compression issues with staff and supervisor jobs. As well as recruitment and retention.
    - ii. Department/Office Restructures: Previously discussed. Combine Treasurer and County Clerk office space with one full-time deputy for each position. Relocate Office of Administration.
  - e. Health Insurance: Fund doing well. Deductible needs to be increased by \$100 single and \$200 family to meet HSA requirements. Looking into a near-site clinic that would be direct

- pay to save costs. Options for destination medical services that would be cheaper and provide for offering incentives to the employee.
- f. Bridge and Culvert Aid: Attorney General opinion on what projects qualify for the program if there is DOT or federal involvement.
  - g. Library Aid: 2023 \$257,700 down \$26,000 due to decreased circulation. County Library Plan will be redone in 2024 and set the payment percentage.
7. Resolution – 2022 Transfer to Highway Facilities Fund: Motion Palecek/Houdek to approve the resolution and forward to the County Board for their consideration. Motion carried.
  8. Resolution – 2022 Transfer to Highway Equipment Fund: Motion Ernst/Houdek to approve the resolution and forward to the County Board for their consideration. Motion carried.
  9. Resolution – Town of Georgetown Bridge and Culvert Aid: Motion Palecek/Hallstrand to approve the resolution and forward to the County Board for their consideration. Motion carried.
  10. Resolution – Town of Knox Bridge and Culvert Aid: Motion Houdek/Hallstrand to approve the resolution and forward to the County Board for their consideration. Motion carried.
  11. Resolution – Town of Prentice (1) Bridge and Culvert Aid: Motion Palecek/Houdek to approve the resolution and forward to the County Board for their consideration. Motion carried.
  12. Resolution – Town of Prentice (2) Bridge and Culvert Aid: Motion Palecek/Ernst to approve the resolution and forward to the County Board for their consideration. Motion carried.
  13. Amend Resolution 34-22 – Town of Fifield Bridge and Culvert Aid: Motion Ernst/Palecek to approve the resolution and forward to the County Board for their consideration. Motion carried.
  14. Resolution – Ratifying 2023 Price County Spring Land Sale: Motion Palecek/Ernst to approve the resolution and forward to the County Board for their consideration. Motion carried.
  15. Monthly Vouchers: Motion Houdek/Palecek to approve the accounts payable and payroll in the amount of \$2,449,525.74 for the month of June and vouchers in the amount of \$1,117,017.34.
  16. Date of Next Meeting: August 15, September 7
  17. Meeting adjourned at 11:22 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted by Jean Gottwald, County Clerk