

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Date: August 12, 2021

Time: 9:00 a.m.

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

Meeting called to order by Robert Kopisch, Chairperson at 9:00 a.m. Roll Call: Present – James Hintz, Paula Houdek, Robert Kopisch, Dennis Wartgow. Excused: Larry Palecek. Absent: Also present – Nick Trimner, Alan Barkstrom, Jeff Hallstrand, Lynn Neeck, Joe Barotka, David Bockerstette, Joe Grapa
Nick reviewed process for those attending electronically.

Items for discussion and possible action:

1. Public Comment and Communications: None.
2. Meeting minutes July 1 and July 13, 2021: Motion Houdek/Wartgow to approve the minutes of the July 1 and July 13, 2021 meeting as presented. Motion carried.
3. Treasurer Monthly Report – Lynn Neeck: 2020 tax collections have gone well. \$885,358 remain unpaid. Price County will be in a pilot program for a Property Tax Revolving Loan Program. There are five property owners in Price County that would qualify. 2017 In Rem court filing processed with 26 parcels. The steps in the process will lead to taking properties in approximately 90 days. 180 parcels for 2018. Watching the receivership and potential sale of the Park Falls Paper Mill.
4. Resolution – Ratifying 2021 Price County Spring Land Sale: Not available due to one deed still pending. Anticipating a gain of approximately \$16,600.
5. Broadband Expansion Project Status
 - a. Norvado Grant Application: Currently working on Southern Price County area project, mostly south of Highway 8. Price County committed \$50,000 and matching municipal committed funds (currently \$18,000).
 - b. Bug Tussel Proposal Follow-up: Mitch Olson, company rep. Their project will be focusing on cellular. Proposing 14 towers with AT&T coverage. Anticipated cost of \$4.2 million. County would need to sponsor a bond for funding.
 - c. WIN Technology Proposal: Another provider option.
6. Jail Assessment Fund – Jail Maintenance: \$37,000 in the fund that is dedicated toward fixed objects for improvements to the jail. Current \$18,000 project replacing the air handling system in the jail can be funded with ARPA or jail assessment funds. There is also a potential future project of a body scanner.
7. Resolution – Develop a Forest Carbon Offset Project for Price County Owned Lands: Resolution forwarded from the Forestry & Parks Committee on a 3/2 vote. Motion Wartgow/Houdek to approve the resolution and forward to the County Board. Estimated \$3.6 million in revenue. Nick is working on a plan for the Executive Committee to determine where the money will go. Michael Best law firm's environmental lawyer has assisted in developing the contract. County controls, safety nets and outs are being put in place in the contract. Motion Wartgow/Houdek to postpone to a future date. Roll call vote: Yes (3): Houdek, Kopisch, Wartgow. No: (1): Hintz. Motion carried.
8. Resolution – Designating General Fund Money for Parcel Replanting (4-21): Motion Wartgow/Hintz to approve the resolution and forward to the County Board. Motion carried.
9. Resolution – Designating General Fund Money for Parcel Replanting (9-21): Motion Houdek/Wartgow to approve the resolution and forward to the County Board. Motion carried.
10. County Administrator – Nick Trimner
 - a. Financial Reports
 - i. 2020 Audit: Auditors working on completion.
 - ii. 2021 Actual vs Budget: Buildings & Grounds dealing with several costly issues.
 - iii. 2022 Preliminary Budget: Reviewed preliminary budget and potential borrowing needs.
 - b. Normal Building Chiller Replacement Update: Project is going well. Should be functional within the next few weeks. \$357,600 was approved. Some additional calibrations need to be done, which will be an additional cost. Working with Xcel Energy to see what rebates are available.
 - c. American Recovery Plan Act Update: Review of potential projects that would fall within the guidelines.
 - d. Administrator Report: Nick has several out of office conferences/meetings coming up.

11. Economic Development / Tourism
 - a. Chambers of Commerce / Tourism Status: Funding running through the Phillips Chamber. Chambers are still functioning separately.
 - b. Park Falls Area Community Development Corporation Restructuring Status: Attended July 1st meeting to promote a comprehensive county-wide program.
 - c. Future Economic Development Spending: Will be dependent on plan going forward.
 12. 2021 Redistricting Plan: Reviewed the timeline needed to meet the requirements. Will require a September 14th County Board meeting.
 13. Monthly Vouchers: Motion Houdek/Hintz to approve the accounts payable and payroll for the month of June in the amount of \$1,246,565.47 and July in the amount of \$2,257,728.26 and voucher in the amount of \$390,056.88. Motion carried.
 14. Date of Next Meeting: September 16, October 7, November 4
 15. Meeting adjourned at 11:32 a.m.
- Respectfully submitted: Jean Gottwald, County Clerk