

REGULAR MEETING OF THE PRICE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

August 17, 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 Larry Tenut.

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 July 13, 2021: Motion Madsen/Strobl to approve the minutes of the July 13, 2021 meeting as presented. Motion carried.

Communications and Announcements: Jordan Spacek regarding concern about the proposed septic fee ordinance.

Public Comments: Peter Dahlie, Town of Elk, concern about the historical buildings at the fairgrounds if the property is sold.

Presentations:

1. Friends of Fred Smith: Not available.
2. Phillips Chamber of Commerce – Tourism Status Report: Laurie Hansen provided update on new visitor guide and initiatives being worked on to promote Price County.

Resolutions:

Resolution 32-21

Designating General Fund Money for Parcel Replanting (4-21)

WHEREAS, Price County has 92,267 acres of land entered into the Wisconsin County Forest Law (Wis. State Statute §28.10 and §28.11); and

WHEREAS, the timber management program for the Price County Forest is governed by the Wisconsin DNR's Silvicultural and Forest Aesthetics handbook which states:

Artificial regeneration is the most reliable and most commonly practiced method to regenerate red pine stands. Proper site selection, site preparation and competition control are important for artificial regeneration to be successful; and

WHEREAS, included in the 2021 Spring Timber Sale bid packet is Tract #4-21, which includes 60 acres of poorly stocked and low quality hardwood, and will need to be artificially regenerated to maintain productivity; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the 2021 Spring Timber Sale, at least \$32,405 will be paid to the County for stumpage cut on Tract #4-21; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that when the time comes to artificially regenerate the 60-acre Tract #4-21, money from the General Fund, not to exceed \$30,000, will be transferred to the Forestry Department to cover the related expenses.

Fiscal Impact: \$30,000

Submitted by: Price County Forestry and Parks Committee: s/Jeff Hallstrand, Chair; Brian Ernst; Waldemar Madsen; Jordan Spacek; Ginny Strobl. Reviewed and approved by the Price County Executive Committee: s/Robert D. Kopisch, Chair; James Hintz; Paula Houdek; Dennis Wartgow. Reviewed by County Administrator: s/Nicholas Trimner. Adopted by the Price County Board of Supervisors this 17th day of August 2021. s/Robert D. Kopisch, County Board Chair; Jean Gottwald, County Clerk. For: 13, Against: 0. Motion Palecek/Hallstrand to consider resolution for adoption. Roll call vote on resolution adoption: Yes (13): Barkstrom, Erickson, Ernst, Hallstrand, Hintz, Houdek, Kopisch, Kyle, Madsen, Palecek, Spacek, Strobl, Wartgow. No (0). Motion carried.

Resolution 33-21

Designating General Fund Money for Parcel Replanting (9-21)

WHEREAS, Price County has 92,267 acres of land entered into the Wisconsin County Forest Law (Wis. State Statute §28.10 and §28.11); and

WHEREAS, the timber management program for the Price County Forest is governed by the Wisconsin DNR's Silvicultural and Forest Aesthetics handbook which states:

Artificial regeneration is the most reliable and most commonly practiced method to regenerate red pine stands. Proper site selection, site preparation and competition control are important for artificial regeneration to be successful; and

WHEREAS, included in the 2021 Spring Timber Sale bid packet is Tract #9-21, which includes 191 acres of poorly stocked balsam fir, which will need to be artificially regenerated to maintain productivity; and

WHEREAS, based on the timber cruise estimates, at least \$38,209 is projected to be paid to the County for stumpage cut on the future sale of Tract #9-21; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that when the time comes to artificially regenerate the 191-acre Tract #9-21, money from the General Fund, not to exceed \$95,500, will be transferred to the Forestry Department to cover the related expenses.

Fiscal Impact: \$95,500

Submitted by: Price County Forestry and Parks Committee: s/Jeff Hallstrand, Chair; Brian Ernst; Waldemar Madsen; Jordan Spacek; Ginny Strobl. Reviewed and approved by the Price County Executive Committee: s/Robert D. Kopisch, Chair; James Hintz; Paula Houdek; Dennis Wartgow. Reviewed by County Administrator: s/Nicholas Trimner. Adopted by the Price County Board of Supervisors this 17th day of August 2021. s/Robert D. Kopisch, County Board Chair; Jean Gottwald, County Clerk. For: 13, Against: 0. Motion Strobl/Madsen to consider resolution for adoption. Roll call vote on resolution adoption: Yes (13): Barkstrom, Erickson, Ernst, Hallstrand, Hintz, Houdek, Kopisch, Kyle, Madsen, Palecek, Spacek, Strobl, Wartgow. No (0). Motion carried.

Resolution 34-21

Price County Highway Department 2023-2027 Equipment Improvement Program and 2023-2025 Facilities Improvement Program

WHEREAS, per Resolutions 8-14 and 9-14 adopted by the Price County Board of Supervisors, a Non-lapsing Committed Fund for Highway Equipment was created and implemented; and

WHEREAS, per Resolutions 20-15 and 21-15 adopted by the Price County Board of Supervisors, a Non-lapsing Committed Fund for Highway Buildings and Grounds Facilities was created and implemented; and

WHEREAS, per said resolutions, on an annual basis, a five-year equipment plan and a three-year facilities improvement plan is to be developed by the Price County Highway Department, approved by the Highway and Transportation Committee and presented to the County Board for adoption; and

WHEREAS, the list of equipment and facility improvements defined on the plans presented can be changed by the Highway Department, based on need, but may not exceed the total amount budgeted or purchase equipment or make facility improvements not included in the plans without County Board approval; and

WHEREAS, the five-year equipment plan and the three-year facilities improvement plan have been presented to and reviewed by the Executive Committee.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Price County Board of Supervisors hereby approves the 2023-2027 Equipment Improvement Program and the 2023-2025 Facilities Improvement Program.

Submitted by the Price County Highway and Transportation Committee: s/Larry Palecek, Chair; Alan Barkstrom; Jeffrey Hallstrand; James Hintz; Jordan Spacek. Reviewed by County Administrator: s/Nicholas Trimner. Adopted by the Price County Board of Supervisors this 17th day of August 2021. s/Robert D. Kopisch, County Board Chair; Jean Gottwald, County Clerk. For: 13, Against: 0. Motion Barkstrom/Spacek to consider resolution for adoption. Roll call vote on resolution adoption: Yes (13): Barkstrom, Erickson, Ernst, Hallstrand, Hintz, Houdek, Kopisch, Kyle, Madsen, Palecek, Spacek, Strobl, Wartgow. No (0). Motion carried.

Reports on file

1. Health & Humans Services Department – 2020 Annual Report

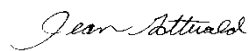
Convened to Committee of the Whole at 9:35 a.m.

1. County Administrator Report – Nick Trimner
 - a. 2020 Financial Summary Report as of 12/31/20: Final audit draft received. Completing responses to analytical questions.
 - b. 2021 Financial Summary Report as of 7/31/21: Several unexpected maintenance projects. COVID/ARPA spending to be determined. Tax collections have gone well. Increase in camping fees will be used to offset park projects.
 - c. 2022 Preliminary Budget: 2022 recommended levy of \$11,005,962 (4.4%) with a mill rate increase of \$.208 per \$100,000 (2.89%). Reviewed with discussion on proposed recommendations.
2. COVID-19 Pandemic Update: Administrator's COVID emergency authority ends August 31st. Employees are following CDC recommendations regarding masking in public places.

3. American Recovery Plan Act: Continue to develop list of authorized projects, that would otherwise have been done with levy money. Broadband projects moving forward in the 339 exchange. Grant application processed for a Southern Price County project. Several municipalities signed on.
4. County Fairgrounds Property – Future Ownership/Operation: Continue to have maintenance issues. Will be ready for the County Fair. Title company is searching for ownership history, which could affect how the property may be sold.
5. Board Chair Report – Bob Kopisch
 - a. Redistricting Plan: Census numbers are out. Notices will be published for a September 14th public hearing. Committee will be appointed to develop the County plan.
 - b. Opioid Settlement: \$400 million to State of Wisconsin. 70% local, 30% state.
 - c. WCA Board Meeting – 8/6/2021: Association Financial review went well. Legislative updates. 2022 dues will remain the same.
 - d. WCA Conference: September 26-28 in La Crosse. Supervisors attending: Kopisch, Houdek, Ernst, Madsen.
6. Committee Chair Reports:
 - a. Administration – Wartgow: Health insurance broker switch to Cottingham & Butler.
 - b. Buildings & Grounds – Spacek: New chiller project at Normal Building moving forward.
 - c. Executive – Kopisch: 2022 budget. County-wide economic development discussions. Did not forward carbon offset resolution. Any questions should be directed to Nick.
 - d. Forestry & Parks – Hallstrand: Five active timber sales. Campgrounds continue to be busy. Three grant projects. Continue to look into campground expansion at Solberg Lake and Smith Lake County parks. Cranberry Lake shooting range project moving forward. Most costs covered with grant and donations.
 - e. Health and Human Services – Houdek: Reviewed 2020 annual report. Keeping updated with COVID data. Programming public participation hearing held. Park Falls nutrition site transfer from hospital to Peace Lutheran Church. With retirement of Janine Dobson, Kris Mabie has transferred to the Senior Service Unit Director.
 - f. Highway & Transportation – Palecek: Summer projects. Mowing, rut paving, chip sealing, shouldering. 2021 road maintenance projects being completed. Prepping for next year's projects. Possible delay of 18 months for new truck. Facilities repairs. Dams at summer levels. Weimers Dam project continues. Hamburger fly-in at Airport.
 - g. Land Use & UW-Extension – Barkstrom: Several public hearings and land divisions. Public hearing scheduled for septic fee ordinance. Land sale auction completed bringing in \$65,000. Land Conservation treating wild parsnip. Design work for the shooting range improvement. 4-H working on fair exhibits. Vacancy of the full-time UW position. Committee determining position structure moving forward.
 - h. Law Enforcement – Hintz: No meeting held.

Date of Next Meeting: September 14, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. in the County Board Room
Meeting adjourned at 11:46 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 August 17, 2021 and the whole thereof.



Jean Gottwald, County Clerk