

MEETING OF THE PRICE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

September 12, 2023

Meeting Minutes

County Board Room 101, 126 Cherry St, Phillips, WI 54555

Meeting called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Alan Barkstrom, County Board Chair.

Invocation: Pastor Tenut, Anchor of Truth Church.

Pledge of Allegiance recited by those in attendance.

Roll Call: Present (11): Alan Barkstrom, Brian Ernst, Jason Hastings, Jeff Hallstrand, Paula Houdek, Robert Kopisch, Mark Kyle, Larry Palecek, Patricia Stephan, Ginny Strobl, Dennis Wartgow. Excused (2): Doug Erickson, Jordan Spacek. Also present: Nick Trimner.

Approval of Minutes August 15, 2023: Motion Houdek/Kopisch to approve the minutes from the August 15, 2023 meeting as presented. Motion carried.

Communications and Announcements: None.

Public Comments: None.

Presentations:

1. Daughters of the Revolution (DAR) – Meritorious Award Presentation (Deputy S. Peterson, Deputy Eder, Sargeant Zoubek): Presented by Susan Clark, Regional DAR President
2. Auditors’ Report – 2022 Audited Financial Statements – Baker Tilly LLP: Presented by Sheanne Hediger, Partner.

Resolutions:

Resolution 31-23

Approve Free Searches and Copies of Vital Records to All Price County Agencies

WHEREAS, Price County Agencies/Departments are periodically required to obtain copies of Wisconsin Vital Records or program use; which are defined as birth, death, divorce or annulment, marriage certificates, declarations of domestic partnerships and terminations of domestic partnerships; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin State Statute §69.22(6) permits the Register of Deeds to provide free searches and free copies of vital records to County Agencies/Departments at the discretion of the County Board.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Price County Board of Supervisors, that the Register of Deeds is hereby authorized to provide free searches and free copies of Wisconsin vital records for program use by all Price County Agencies and/or Departments.

Submitted by the Price County Executive Committee. s/Alan Barkstrom, Chair; Brian Ernst; Jeffrey Hallstrand; Paula Houdek; Larry Palecek. Reviewed by County Administrator: s/Nicholas Trimner.

Adopted by the Price County Board of Supervisors on this 12th day of September 2023. s/Alan Barkstrom, County Board Chair; Jean Gottwald, County Clerk.

Motion Houdek/Palecek to consider resolution for adoption. Roll call vote on resolution adoption: Yes (11): Barkstrom, Ernst, Hallstrand, Hastings, Houdek, Kyle, Kopisch, Palecek, Stephan, Strobl, Wartgow. No (0). Motion carried.

Resolution 32-33

Approve Transfer to Offset 2022 Budget Overages

WHEREAS, per County Board Policy, if a department exceeds its approved expenditure budget by 10% or greater, or for all General Fund Accounts (account code 100) any such spending that exceeds the approved expenditure budget by \$25,000 or 10% or greater, whichever is less, shall be referred to the Board for funding determination upon recommendation of the Executive Committee; and

WHEREAS, the unexpected and unbudgeted expenditures of the following departments have occurred resulting in an overage of the 2022 allowable expenditure budget, as stipulated above:

100-00	General	\$ 28,679
100-15	Elections	\$ 18,336
100-15	District Attorney	\$ 34,565
100-27	Zoning	\$ 24,357
100-31	Buildings & Grounds	\$ 45,944
100-35	Sheriff	\$ 214,810
100-36	Corrections & Communications	\$ 332,582
	Traffic Safety Comm	\$ 114
100-63	Child Support	\$ 47,669

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Price County Board of Supervisors that the transfer is made from the general fund to cover the 2022 budget expenditure overages.

Fiscal Impact: \$747,056 (not budgeted)

Submitted by the Price County Executive Committee. s/Alan Barkstrom, Chair; Brian Ernst; Jeffrey Hallstrand; Paula Houdek; Larry Palecek. Reviewed by County Administrator: s/Nicholas Trimner.

Adopted by the Price County Board of Supervisors on this 12th day of September 2023. s/Alan Barkstrom, County Board Chair; Jean Gottwald, County Clerk.

Motion Strobl/Palecek to consider resolution for adoption. Roll call vote on resolution adoption: Yes (11): Barkstrom, Ernst, Hallstrand, Hastings, Houdek, Kyle, Kopisch, Palecek, Stephan, Strobl, Wartgow. No (0). Motion carried.

Resolution 33-23

2022 Transfer into Capital Improvement Fund

WHEREAS, the Price County Board of Supervisors approved resolution #33-07, Capital Improvement Fund, at a regular meeting held August 21, 2007; and

WHEREAS, resolution #33-07 calls for providing a funding mechanism in development of a Capital Improvement Fund as set forth:

- Sale of County-owned land (upon receipt of the sale proceeds less all sale expenses), and
- 20% of County sales tax revenues or ½ of the excess of General Fund (100) Revenues over General Fund (100) Expenditures for the fiscal year after adjustments for continued appropriations (carryovers), whichever is greater; and

WHEREAS, the sales tax revenue for 2022 was \$1,333,208 which would provide 266,642 transfer as per above provision; and

WHEREAS, the audited General Fund revenues for 2022 were \$10,347,214 and General Fund expenses for 2022 were \$9,826,563 resulting in a profit of \$520,651 of which an additional \$33,854 in continued appropriations and restricted fund balance has been added leaving a net profit of \$554,505 which would provide 50% or \$277,253 transfer as per above provision; and

WHEREAS, the net income from the 2022 land sales was \$27,135 which shall be transferred to the Capital Improvement Fund.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the greater amount of \$277,253 plus \$27,135 profit from land and property sale for a total of \$304,388 be transferred from the General Fund into the Capital Improvement Fund for the year 2022.

Submitted by the Price County Executive Committee. s/Alan Barkstrom, Chair; Brian Ernst; Jeffrey Hallstrand; Paula Houdek; Larry Palecek. Reviewed by County Administrator: s/Nicholas Trimner.

Adopted by the Price County Board of Supervisors on this 12th day of September 2023. s/Alan Barkstrom, County Board Chair; Jean Gottwald, County Clerk.

Motion Strobl/Hallstrand to consider resolution for adoption. Roll call vote on resolution adoption: Yes (11): Barkstrom, Ernst, Hallstrand, Hastings, Houdek, Kyle, Kopisch, Palecek, Stephan, Strobl, Wartgow. No (0). Motion carried.

Resolution 34-23

Price County Highway Department 2025-2029 Equipment Improvement Program and 2025-2027 and 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 2025-2029 Equipment Improvement Program and the 2025-2027 Facilities Improvement Program.

Submitted by the Price County Highway and Transportation Committee: s/Larry Palecek, Chair; Doug Erickson; Brian Ernst; Mark Kyle. Reviewed by County Administrator: s/Nicholas Trimner. Adopted by the Price County Board of Supervisors on this 12th day of September 2023. s/Alan Barkstrom, County Board Chair; Jean Gottwald, County Clerk.

Motion Kopisch/Strobl to consider resolution for adoption. Roll call vote on resolution adoption: Yes (11): Barkstrom, Ernst, Hallstrand, Hastings, Houdek, Kyle, Kopisch, Palecek, Stephan, Strobl, Wartgow. No (0). Motion carried.

Resolution 35-23

Price County 2023 Capital Projects and Highway Department Road Construction Projects

to be Financed with Short-term Debt

WHEREAS, the following capital projects have been identified by the Price County Executive Committee:

Forestry & Parks – Large Dump Truck

Sheriff's Office – Three Squad Cars and Drone

Highway Department – 2024 Road Maintenance Projects and Plow Truck

WHEREAS, the Executive Committee has reviewed the financial impact of these projects and recommends short-term borrowing to finance these projects; and

WHEREAS, the project components and estimated costs are approximately \$1,425,000 and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Price County Board of Supervisors authorizes the

Executive Committee to proceed with the implementation of 2024 Capital Projects and Highway

Department Road Construction in an amount not to exceed \$1,425,000, to be financed with short-term

debt and to include such debt payment to begin with the 2024 Price County budget.

Fiscal Impact: \$1,256,000 for 2024, \$108,000 for 2025, \$103,000 for 2026

Submitted by the Price County Executive Committee. s/Alan Barkstrom, Chair; Brian Ernst; Jeffrey

Hallstrand; Paula Houdek; Larry Palecek. Reviewed by County Administrator: s/Nicholas Trimner.

Adopted by the Price County Board of Supervisors on this 12th day of September 2023. s/Alan

Barkstrom, County Board Chair; Jean Gottwald, County Clerk.

Motion Houdek/Palecek to consider resolution for adoption. Roll call vote on resolution adoption: Yes

(11): Barkstrom, Ernst, Hallstrand, Hastings, Houdek, Kyle, Kopisch, Palecek, Stephan, Strobl, Wartgow.

No (0). Motion carried.

Resolution 36-23

Price County 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 2024 Highway

Department road construction projects to the potential extent of \$2,000,000; and

WHEREAS, the Executive Committee has reviewed the financial impact of the proposed construction

projects and recommends financing the projects through the use of short-term debt.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Price County Board of Supervisors authorizes the

Executive Committee to proceed with the implementation of financing 2024 Highway Department road

construction projects in an amount not to exceed \$2,000,000 to be financed through the issuance of

short-term debt and to include such debt payment in the 2025 Price County budget.

Fiscal Impact: \$2,010,000 (2025 budget)

Submitted by the Price County Executive Committee. s/Alan Barkstrom, Chair; Brian Ernst; Jeffrey

Hallstrand; Paula Houdek; Larry Palecek. Reviewed by County Administrator: s/Nicholas Trimner.

Adopted by the Price County Board of Supervisors on this 12th day of September 2023. s/Alan

Barkstrom, County Board Chair; Jean Gottwald, County Clerk.

Motion Wartgow/Hallstrand to consider resolution for adoption. Roll call vote on resolution adoption: Yes

(11): Barkstrom, Ernst, Hallstrand, Hastings, Houdek, Kyle, Kopisch, Palecek, Stephan, Strobl, Wartgow.

No (0). Motion carried.

Resolution 37-23

Reduced Access to Disappearing Creek Boat Landing

WHEREAS, there has been a Price County boat landing on Disappearing Creek providing access to both the creek and Solberg Lake; and

WHEREAS, this landing has been used by property owners on Disappearing Creek to launch their boats

and by small craft access to the creek and Solberg Lake; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Worcester bridge project on West Solberg Lake Road will make changes to this

boat landing, decreasing access to the landing and making it unsafe for vehicles to back trailers into

Disappearing Creek; and

WHEREAS, with the extensive improvements to the Solberg Lake County Park boat landing and the

increase in the passage size provided under the new Disappearing Creek Bridge, larger crafts have the

ability to be launched at the park or at the East Side Boat Landing and navigate under the new bridge

providing safer and more efficient access for property owners and voyagers on Disappearing Creek; and

WHEREAS, shoreline fisherman access and parking will still be available at the Disappearing Creek

Board Landing, along with ability to launch small crafts (row boats, canoes, kayaks); and

WHEREAS, boat landing and parking area will continue to be maintained by the Price County Forestry and Parks Department; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Price County requests approval of reduced access of the current Disappearing Creek Boat Landing by Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

Submitted by: Price County Forestry and Parks Committee: s/Jeffrey Hallstrand, Chair; Jason Hastings;

Patricia Stephan; Ginny Strobl. Reviewed by County Administrator: s/Nicholas Trimner. Adopted by the

Price County Board of Supervisors on this 12th day of September 2023. s/Alan Barkstrom, County Board

Chair; Jean Gottwald, County Clerk.

Motion Strobl/Kopisch to consider resolution for adoption. Roll call vote on resolution adoption: Yes (11): Barkstrom, Ernst, Hallstrand, Hastings, Houdek, Kyle, Kopisch, Palecek, Stephan, Strobl, Wartgow. No (0). Motion carried.

Resolution 38-23

Support of Increase in UW-Extension Educator Services

WHEREAS, Price County has a history of collaboration with University of Wisconsin (UW)-Extension Educator Services; and

WHEREAS, over the years, those services have differed in structure; and

WHEREAS, the current UW-Extension Educator Services is comprised of a one half-time 4-H Educator position; and

WHEREAS, the youth of Price County have been provided many varying opportunities and activities through the current 4-H program; and

WHEREAS, with such a positive on-going program, Price County wishes to explore expanding the UW-Extension Educator Services; and

WHEREAS, one option might be working with the UW-Extension to expand the 4-H/youth development programming to a full-time position; and

WHEREAS, Price County realizes that other programming options, with an emphasis on youth development and programming, may become available to provide the equivalent of a full-time UW-Extension Educator; and

WHEREAS, on average, the UW System pays 55% of the costs associated with any educator position and they also offer a \$10,000 first-educator discount if the current half-time positions were increased to full-time.

WHEREAS, Price County realizes the value provided with collaborating with the UW-Extension and sees a potential to expand the 4-H/youth development program in Price County.

NOW THEREFORE BE IS RESOLVED, that the Land Use and UW-Extension Committee explore options for increasing the current half-time educator position to a full-time position with the understanding that any request for expanded services needs to be approved by the UW System; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Price County needs to commit to providing any increase to their share of funding UW-Extension programming and will need to request any additional funding from the Executive Committee.

Submitted by the Price County Land Use / UW-Extension Committee: s/Dennis Wartgow, Chair; Alan Barkstrom; Doug Erickson; Rachel Hoffman; Robert Kopisch; Ginny Strobl. Reviewed by County Administrator: s/Nicholas Trimner. Adopted by the Price County Board of Supervisors on this 12th day of September 2023. s/Alan Barkstrom, County Board Chair; Jean Gottwald, County Clerk.

Motion Wartgow/Strobl to consider resolution for adoption. Roll call vote on resolution adoption: Yes (10): Barkstrom, Ernst, Hallstrand, Hastings, Houdek, Kopisch, Palecek, Stephan, Strobl, Wartgow. No (1): Kyle. Motion carried.

Resolution 39-23

Requiring the Repair of an At-Grade Railroad Crossing on County Road D (Highway & Transportation)

WHEREAS, County Road D, a public road in the Town of Knox in the County of Price in the State of Wisconsin crosses the tracks of the Watco Fox Valley and Lake Superior Rail System at-grade; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin State Statute §86.12 requires railroads to maintain public at-grade crossings in good condition and repair for public travel; and

WHEREAS, the County Road D crossing is not in good condition and repair for public safe travel over the crossing's disintegrated condition of the asphalt is imperative; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Price County hereby requires that the Watco Fox Valley and Lake Superior Rail System pave, plank, repair, change or otherwise improve the County Road D crossing, as needed to return this crossing to safe travel condition; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Price County Board of Supervisors hereby directs the Price County Clerk to serve a copy of this resolution upon the Watco Fox Valley and Lake Superior Rail System requiring the railroad to repair the rail-highway crossing on County Road D with the tracks of the Watco Fox Valley and Lake Superior Rail System in the Town of Knox in the County of Price in the State of Wisconsin; and

BE IT ALSO FURTHER RESOLVED, that in the event that the Watco Fox Valley and Lake Superior Rail System fails to repair the rail-highway crossing within 30 days after service of the resolution, Price County hereby directs the Price County Highway Department staff to take all necessary steps to petition the Office of the Commissioner of Railroads for an investigation and order for the repair of the rail-highway crossing of County Road D with the tracks of the Watco Fox Valley and Lake Superior Rail System in the Town of Knox in County of Price in the State of Wisconsin.

Submitted by the Price County Highway and Transportation Committee: s/Larry Palecek, Chair; Doug

Erickson; Brian Ernst; Mark Kyle. Reviewed by County Administrator: s/Nicholas Trimner. Adopted by the Price County Board of Supervisors on this 12th day of September 2023. s/Alan Barkstrom, County Board Chair; Jean Gottwald, County Clerk.

Motion Ernst/Strobl to consider resolution for adoption. Roll call vote on resolution adoption: Yes (11): Barkstrom, Ernst, Hallstrand, Hastings, Houdek, Kyle, Kopisch, Palecek, Stephan, Strobl, Wartgow. No (0). Motion carried.

Appointments:

1. Health & Human Services Board (remainder of term to expire May 31, 2025): Robert Kopisch: Motion Wartgow/Kyle to approve the appointment as presented. Motion carried.

Reports:

1. 2022 Audited Financial Statements: On file, presented earlier in the meeting.

Committee of the Whole at 10:11 a.m.

1. Board Chair Report – Alan Barkstrom: City of Phillips issued raze order on Phillips Lionite property. Quote on clean-up \$250,000. Discussion with stakeholders in the county on lack of day care and affordable housing.
2. County Administrator's Report – Nick Trimner.
 - a. 2023 Financial Summary: Currently housing 14 cats for pending criminal court case. Health & Human Services costs are doing well. The highway budget was impacted by last winter's expenses. Sales tax and stumpage revenue doing well. Tracking self-funded health insurance activity.
 - b. 2024 Budget
 - i. Preliminary Budget Packet: Covered in detail at the Executive Committee meeting. Net New Construction of \$71,725 approved. Motion Ernst/Kopisch to approve the New Construction of \$71,725. Motion carried. Tax levy increase of 3.66% and mill rate decrease of 12.54%, due to changes in equalized value. Budget will need to be accepted at the October meeting and forwarded to the November Public Hearing. Adjustment in Shared Revenue for 2024. Reviewed list of budget assumptions that would provide \$300,000 in wage schedule adjustments and additional staffing for departments that are inadequately staffed.
 - ii. Highway Department – 2024 Road Construction, Equipment and Facilities Plans: Reviewed.
 - c. Updates: Update on Carbon Credit process.
3. Committee Chair Reports:
 - a. Administration – Wartgow: Has not met – nothing to report. New DA was appointed as of October 16th. Will start working with current Special Prosecutor. Judicial Assistant position filled.
 - b. Buildings & Grounds: Have not met.
 - c. Executive – Barkstrom: Nothing more to report.
 - d. Forestry & Parks – Hallstrand: Three active timber sales. Projects at Solberg Lake County Park, Timms Hill and ATV trail graveling coming to completion.
 - e. Health and Human Services – Houdek: No report – meeting is September 13th.
 - f. Highway & Transportation – Palecek: Road Tour was well attended. County Highways B and E coming to completion. Summer maintenance projects. Preparing for two new plow trucks. State Highway 13 through the City of Phillips rut wedging to be done. Several maintenance project at Airport. Monitoring and maintenance on dams.
 - g. Land Use & UW-Extension – Wartgow: Several special exemptions and conditional use permits. Working with DNR on two more snowmobile bridges. Resolution for UW-Extension service increases.
 - h. Law Enforcement – Palecek: Have not met. Chief Deputy Hawn gave update on department. Dealing with out of date communication towers and radios. Looking at potential extended tower services for the county as a whole.

Convene out of Committee of the Whole at 11:42 a.m.

Date of Next Meeting: October 17, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. in the County Board Room

Meeting adjourned at 11:42 a.m.

Respectfully submitted: Jean Gottwald, County Clerk