

REGULAR MEETING OF THE PRICE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

September 15, 2020

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: None.

Pledge of Allegiance recited by those in attendance. Roll Call: Present (12): Alan Barkstrom, Jeffrey Hallstrand, James Hintz, Paula Houdek, Bruce Jilka, Robert Kopisch, Mark Kyle, Waldemar Madsen, Larry Palecek, Jordan Spacek, Ginny Strobl, Dennis Wartgow. Also present: Nick Trimmer.

Due to COVID protocol, the public was given the opportunity to attend via teleconference.

Approve minutes of the August 18, 2020 meeting: Motion Palecek/Houdek to approve the minutes of the August 18, 2020 meeting as presented. Motion carried.

Communications and Announcements:

1. Resignation of County Board Supervisors, District 13; Bill Teeters: Resignation received and filed with the Sheriff. Notice of interest posted until September 15th. Board Chair and Vice-Chair will interview potential candidates. May have appointment for the October Board meeting.

Presentations:

1. 2019 Financial Audit – Baker Tilly: Kim Shult presented via web conference.
2. RollCall Systems: Company representatives went through how the program operates. Presented via web conference.

Resolutions:

Amend Resolution 33-19

Town of Fifield Bridge Aid Request

Whereas, the Town of Fifield is requesting Federal Aid for design and construction of a new bridge on Turner Road over Squaw Creek; and

Whereas, project costs are estimated at ~~\$1,050,000~~ \$ 894,622 such costs to be determined upon project completion; and

Whereas, the funding criteria for the above-mentioned project is as follows:

87.5% \$ 673,774 Federal Forest Aid

6.25% \$ 110,424 Price County

6.25% \$ 110,424 Town of Fifield; and

Whereas, the County portion will be recovered by a direct/special tax levy per § 82.08(2)(a), Wis. Stats. Now therefore be it resolved, that the Price County Board of Supervisors hereby approve the Town of Fifield Bridge Aid Request.

Fiscal Impact: ~~\$50,000~~ \$ 110,424 (estimated)

Committee signatures on file on original resolution.

Reviewed by County Administrator: s/Nicholas Trimmer

Amended by the Price County Board of Supervisors this 15th day of September 2020.

s/Robert D. Kopisch, County Board Chair; Jean Gottwald, County Clerk

For: 11, Against: 0, Abstain: 1. Motion Spacek/Palecek to consider resolution for amendment. Roll call vote on resolution amendment: Yes (11): Barkstrom, Hallstrand, Houdek, Jilka, Kopisch, Kyle, Madsen, Palecek, Spacek, Strobl, Wartgow. No (0). Abstain: (1): Hintz. Motion carried.

Resolution 29-20

Request to Apply for WDNR Cost Share Grant (Shooting Range Improvement Project)

WHEREAS, Price County is interested in obtaining a cost-share grant from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for the purpose of the Cranberry Creek Shooting Range Improvement and Expansion Project (as described in the proposal); and

WHEREAS, the respondent attests to the validity and veracity of the statements and representations contained in the proposal; and

WHEREAS, an Agreement is required to carry out the project; and

WHEREAS, anticipated estimated cost for the project will be \$100,000; and

WHEREAS, the State share for the project will be \$75,000 of eligible project costs with a County share of \$25,000; and

WHEREAS, Price County must designate an authorized representative to: sign and submit proposal, enter into an Agreement with the WDNR, submit annual and final reports to the WDNR to satisfy the Agreement, submit reimbursement request(s) to the WDNR per the Agreement, sign a Public Access Easement, sign and submit other documentation as necessary to complete the project per the Agreement.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Price County Board of Supervisors hereby authorizes and empowers the Price County Forest Administrator to be the aforementioned representative; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, Price County will meet the financial obligations necessary to fully and satisfactorily complete the project; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the respondent will comply with all local, state and federal rules, regulations and ordinances relating to this project and the cost-share agreement; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, Price County's share of funding shall be covered by donations from outside entities. If said donations are not received, the project will be returned to committee for reconsideration.

Financial Impact: Total estimated cost for this project is \$100,000. State share is estimated to be \$75,000 and County share is estimated to be \$0 (\$25,000 received in donations).

Submitted by: Price County Forestry and Parks Committee

s/Jeff Hallstrand, Chair; Paula Houdek; Waldemar Madsen; Jordan Spacek; Ginny Strobl

Reviewed and Approved by the Price County Executive Committee: s/Robert Kopisch, Chair; James Hintz; Paula Houdek; Larry Palecek; Dennis Wartgow

Reviewed by County Administrator: s/Nicholas Trimner

Adopted by the Price County Board of Supervisors this 15th day of September 2020.

s/Robert Kopisch, County Board Chair; Jean Gottwald, County Clerk. For: 12, Against: 0. Motion

Hallstrand/Strobl to consider resolution for adoption. Roll call vote on resolution adoption: Yes (12):

Barkstrom, Hallstrand, Hintz, Houdek, Jilka, Kopisch, Kyle, Madsen, Palecek, Spacek, Strobl, Wartgow.

No (0). Motion carried.

Resolution 30-20

Approve Transfer to Offset 2019 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 2019 allowable expenditure budget, as stipulated above:

100-23	Register of Deeds	\$ 23,700
100-31	Buildings & Grounds	\$ 34,521
100-35	Sheriff	\$ 60,774
100-36	Jail	\$ 43,236
100-79	Forestry & Parks	\$ 67,693
100-83	Dams	\$ 34,419

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Price County Board of Supervisors that the transfer is made from the general fund to cover the 2019 budget expenditure overage.

Fiscal Impact: \$264,343. (not budgeted)

Submitted by the Price County Executive Committee. s/Robert D. Kopisch, Chair; James Hintz; Paula Houdek, Larry Palecek, Dennis Wartgow. Reviewed by County Administrator: s/Nicholas Trimner.

Adopted by the Price County Board of Supervisors this 15th day of September 2020. s/Robert D. Kopisch, County Board Chair; Jean Gottwald, County Clerk. For: 12, Against: 0. Motion Wartgow/Hintz to consider resolution for adoption. Roll call vote on resolution adoption: Yes (12): Barkstrom, Hallstrand, Hintz, Houdek, Jilka, Kopisch, Kyle, Madsen, Palecek, Spacek, Strobl, Wartgow. No (0). Motion carried.

Resolution 31-20

Approve Price County 2021 Highway Department Road Construction Projects to be Financed with Short-term Debt - \$300,000

WHEREAS, the Executive Committee has identified the need for financing a portion of the 2021 Highway Department road constructions projects to the extent of \$300,000; and

WHEREAS, the Executive Committee has reviewed the financial impact of the proposed construction and recommends financing the projects through the use of short-term borrowing.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Price County Board of Supervisors authorizes the Executive Committee to proceed with the implementation of financing 2021 Highway Department road construction projects in an amount not to exceed \$300,000 to be financed through the issuance of short-term debt and to include such debt payments to begin with the 2021 Price County budget.

Fiscal Impact: \$104,000 in 2021, 2022, 2023 (budgeted)

Submitted by the Price County Executive Committee. s/Robert D. Kopisch, Chair; James Hintz; Paula Houdek, Larry Palecek, Dennis Wartgow. Reviewed by County Administrator: s/Nicholas Trimner.

Adopted by the Price County Board of Supervisors this 15th day of September 2020. s/Robert D. Kopisch, County Board Chair; Jean Gottwald, County Clerk. For: 12, Against: 0. Motion Palecek/Spacek to

consider resolution for adoption. Roll call vote on resolution adoption: Yes (12): Barkstrom, Hallstrand, Hintz, Houdek, Jilka, Kopisch, Kyle, Madsen, Palecek, Spacek, Strobl, Wartgow. No (0). Motion carried.

Resolution 32-20

Approve Price County 2021 Highway Department Road Construction Projects to be Financed with Short-term Debt - \$400,000

WHEREAS, the Executive Committee has identified the need for financing a portion of the 2021 Highway Department road constructions projects to the extent of \$400,000; and

WHEREAS, the Executive Committee has reviewed the financial impact of the proposed construction and recommends financing the projects through the use of short-term borrowing.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Price County Board of Supervisors authorizes the Executive Committee to proceed with the implementation of financing 2021 Highway Department road construction projects in an amount not to exceed \$400,000 to be financed through the issuance of short-term debt and to include such debt payments to begin with the 2021 Price County budget.

Fiscal Impact: \$402,250 in 2021 (budgeted)

Submitted by the Price County Executive Committee. s/Robert D. Kopisch, Chair; James Hintz; Paula Houdek, Larry Palecek, Dennis Wartgow. Reviewed by County Administrator: s/Nicholas Trimner.

Adopted by the Price County Board of Supervisors this 15th day of September 2020. s/Robert D. Kopisch, County Board Chair; Jean Gottwald, County Clerk. For: 12, Against: 0. Motion Madsen/Palecek to consider resolution for adoption. Roll call vote on resolution adoption: Yes (12): Barkstrom, Hallstrand, Hintz, Houdek, Jilka, Kopisch, Kyle, Madsen, Palecek, Spacek, Strobl, Wartgow. No (0). Motion carried.

Resolution 33-20

Implement Price County 2021 Capital Projects to be Financed with Short-term Debt - \$650,000

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

Courthouse roof repairs (Buildings & Grounds), pickup truck with plow and sander (Dams), phone system update (IT), two squad cars (Sheriff's Office), emergency response radio system (Sheriff's Office)

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 cost is approximately \$650,000; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Price County Board of Supervisors authorizes the Executive Committee to proceed with the implementation of the 2021 Capital Projects in an amount not to exceed \$650,000, to be financed with short-term debt and to include such debt payments to begin with the 2021 Price County budget.

Fiscal Impact: \$653,700 for 2021 (budgeted)

Submitted by the Price County Executive Committee. s/Robert D. Kopisch, Chair; James Hintz; Paula Houdek, Larry Palecek, Dennis Wartgow. Reviewed by County Administrator: s/Nicholas Trimner.

Adopted by the Price County Board of Supervisors this 15th day of September 2020. s/Robert D. Kopisch, County Board Chair; Jean Gottwald, County Clerk. For: 12, Against: 0. Motion Hintz/Kyle to consider resolution for adoption. Roll call vote on resolution adoption: Yes (12): Barkstrom, Hallstrand, Hintz, Houdek, Jilka, Kopisch, Kyle, Madsen, Palecek, Spacek, Strobl, Wartgow. No (0). Motion carried.

Resolution 34-20

Approve Revisions to the Price County Board of Supervisors Policy and Procedure Manual (Electronic Meeting Policy)

WHEREAS, there currently exists public health concerns regarding COVID-19 to the extent that federal, state and local public health emergencies have been declared and guidelines and mandates have been issued to properly deal with these public health concerns; and

WHEREAS, during public health emergencies, "the emergency power of the governing body conferred under Wis. Stat. 323.11 includes the general authority to order, by ordinance or resolution, whatever is necessary and expedient for the health, safety, protection and welfare of persons or property within the local unit of government in the emergency"; and

WHEREAS, the Price County Board adopted Resolution 9-20, Declaration of Emergency In Response to the COVID-19 Coronavirus, whereby "the County Supervisors are hereby authorized to attend meetings of the Board remotely, and the Board shall take all actions necessary to effectuate the same in compliance with all other applicable laws"; and

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Department of Justice's (DOJ) Office of Open Government (OOG) issued advisories dated March 16, 2020 and March 20, 2020 in response to inquiries as to the applicability of the

Wisconsin's open meeting law in light of current public health concerns regarding COVID-19 pursuant to Wis. Stat. 19.98; and

WHEREAS, governmental bodies typically can meet their open meetings obligations, while practicing social distancing to help protect public health, by conducting meetings via telephone conference calls if the public is provided with an effective way to monitor such calls; and

WHEREAS, per the above advisories, the open meetings law "does not require that all meetings be held in publicly owned places but rather in places 'reasonably accessible to members of the public'", 69 *Op. Att'y Gen.* 143, 144 (1980) (quoting 47 *Op. Gen.* 126 (1978)), and, further, the DOJ's longstanding advice is that a telephone conference call can be an acceptable method of convening a meeting of a governmental body, *Id.* at 146; and

WHEREAS, in the absence of any specific policy, the Price County Board of Supervisors has adopted to be governed by the "most current revised Robert's Rules of Order" on any parliamentary questions; and WHEREAS, per Robert's Rules of Order, an electronic meeting (i.e. conference calls or other electronic means) is allowed if the requirements of a deliberative assembly are met and an electronic meeting is authorized in the by-laws of the organization which in Price County is its County Board of Supervisors Policy and Procedure Manual; and

WHEREAS, Resolution 9-20, as amended, has expired as of August 23, 2020 and Executive Order #82 issued by Wisconsin Governor Evers is due to expire on September 28, 2020, leaving Price County without the ability to exercise the emergency powers allowed per Wis. Stat. 332.10, 323.11 and 323.14 (4).

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Price County Board of Supervisors hereby approve the proposed addition of the Electronic Meetings Policy to the Price County Board Policy and Procedure Manual.

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 September 2020. s/Robert D. Kopisch, County Board Chair; Jean Gottwald, County Clerk. For: 9, Against: 3. Motion Wartgow/Hallstrand to consider resolution for adoption. Motion Hintz/Jilka to add to the policy: "It is the responsibility of the committee member to notify the chairperson and the County Clerk if it is their intention to attend a meeting electronically. This notice needs at least a 24 hour notice." Motion carried. Roll call vote on resolution adoption: Yes (9): Hallstrand, Hintz, Houdek, Jilka, Kopisch, Kyle, Palecek, Spacek, Wartgow. No (3): Strobl, Barkstrom, Madsen. Motion carried.

Reports on File:

1. Price County Health & Human Services – 2019 Annual Report
Convene to Committee of the Whole at 10:59 a.m.

1. County Administrator's Report – Nick Trimner

- a. 2020 Financial Summary – August 31, 2020: Budget is tracking well.
- b. 2021 Budget: Deficit is currently at \$221,963. Books-by-mail and funding to Park Falls and Prentice airports are not included. 3.8% health insurance increase. Administration Committee will discuss plan and HSA/HRA options. Reduced funding to the Price County Fair Association, but the County will do more of the fairground maintenance.
- c. COVID-19 Pandemic Update: Grants: County \$231,000, Health Department \$250,000, election security \$38,000, Emergency Management \$10,000, Airport \$30,000. Continue to monitor positive cases. Working with schools during their re-openings. Received a supply of free masks for County and non-profit employees. Will reach out to County municipalities who can transfer any unused COVID funding to the County.

2. Board Chair – Robert Kopisch

- a. Reports: Northwest Regional Planning Commission: have received additional funding. Park Falls Area Community Development Corporation: moving toward county-wide organization. Requesting contributions from municipalities. Northwest Wisconsin Concentrated Employment Program (CEP): Offices have been closed due to COVID. Wisconsin Counties Association: There was a Board meeting on August 21st. Roles and Responsibilities presentation at the August 29th Board meeting – will include legislative updates.
- b. RollCall Systems – Automated Meetings: Discussion. Motion Wartgow/Houdek to proceed with purchase of RollCallPro with COVID funding. Motion carried. Administration will work with vendor to implement.

3. Committee Chair Reports

- a. Administration – Wartgow: Electronic meeting policy. Health insurance options. Employee handbook. Recruitments.
- b. Executive – Kopisch: 2021 budget. 2016 tax delinquent properties In Rem court petition has been filed. Expect to be final in November. 2017 tax delinquent process is starting.
- c. Forestry & Parks – Hallstrand: County campgrounds were busy but winding down. Fall timber sale set up. DNR grant for rifle range improvements.
- d. Health and Human Services – Houdek: COVID updates. Program updates. Recommendation for Board member and various sub-committee members will wait until vacant County Board Supervisor position is filled. Minocqua BART Bus route is starting.
- e. Highway & Transportation – Palecek: Patching, tree removal, culvert replacements, Counties C and YY project preparation, gearing up for winter maintenance. Adam Nelson hired as the new Dams Keeper. Winter drawdown in October. Preparing for 2021 Airport Improvement Project.
- f. Land Use & UW-Extension – Barkstrom: Special exemption, condition use permit and land division approvals. Two new snowmobile bridges installed. New 4-H Youth Educator hired.
- g. Law Enforcement – Hintz: Several large drug warrants with use of K-9 unit.
- h. Ad Hoc Committee on Damage to Fairground Buildings – Houdek
 - i. Update: Engineer report on soil borings indicated area is not suitable for building. Discussed issues, options, funding. Engineer will present options. Need to demo the Open Class Building and Barn wing that were damaged and relocate electric service. No project would be scheduled for 2021. Trying to get more of an insurance settlement.
 - ii. Request Additional Meetings: Motion Palecek/Madsen to approve an additional four committee meetings. Motion carried.

Date of Next Meeting: September 29 and October 13, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. in the County Board Room
Meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.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 September 15, 2020 and the whole thereof.



Jean Gottwald, County Clerk