

**PRICE COUNTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES**

Date: October 12, 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, Lynn Neeck, Ginny Strobl

Items for discussion and possible action:

1. Public Comment and Communications: Supervisor Palecek commented that more borrowed money is required to catch up on needed repairs for the County Road system. Supervisors Strobl and Barkstrom have asked for video links to the meetings. Supervisor Houdek received communication from resident opposed to item 7(d).
2. Meeting minutes September 7, 2023: Move Palecek/Houdek to approve the minutes from the September 7, 2023 meeting as presented. Motion carried.
3. Bug Tussel Tower Presentation: Mitchel Olson presented the possibility of communication tower expansion into Price County. Anticipating \$12 - \$15 million project. Consensus of the committee to move forward with a formal presentation and putting together a work group with representation from County departments that might be involved or want input.
4. 5-R Property
  - a. Update: DNR cleanup has been completed. Village of Catawba will help with burnable debris. Approximately 18 large empty semi-trailers on property that need to be salvaged. Talked with NWRPC regarding possibility of an incubator building.
  - b. Shredder Unit Request: Viola is interested in the shredder in the building.
5. Land Sale Properties: State legislators are working on a bill to address the current Supreme Court ruling. Government entity no longer has a priority of ownership of the property for public use. New bill is currently providing for only a live auction or sealed bid process. Still uncertain on process to sell the properties and the requirements to give profit on sale to prior owner. Will hold off on any tax deed property sales until the legislation comes through with direction.
6. Treasurer Report – Lynn Neeck
  - a. Monthly reports: Reviewed.
  - b. Delinquent Taxes and In Rem: 2020 title searches on 62 parcels.
7. County Administrator – Nick Trimner
  - a. 2023 Executive Financial: Reviewed. Need radio repeater replacements. Several high cost placements have come forward. Children & Youth continue to use state funds for beneficial proactive programming. Continue to house the cats at Catkins for a pending court case date later in November. Catkins intakes 175 to date in 2022. Up to over 300 in 2023. They are currently at capacity. Will meet with the Catkins Board regarding contracted services going forward. Several large projects have been completed. Stumpage revenue has gone well so far. But market is currently very low.
  - b. Uniquely Wisconsin Update: Laura Palzkill from the Phillips Chamber of Commerce worked on the Price County podcast that has come out. Have been included in the trailer for upcoming Discover Wisconsin shows. Targeted snowmobiling in Price County.
  - c. Employee Handbook – Mandatory Annual Vacation for Payroll and Accounts Payable Employees for Fraud Prevention: Objective is verifying segregation and cross training of financial duties.
  - d. County Revenue – Going Cashless (excluding property tax payments): Discussion.
8. 2024 Budget
  - a. Approve and Forward to County Board: Current resolution for 2024 Highway project borrowing is \$2 million. Motion Palecek/Houdek to bring back the 2024 Highway project borrowing resolution for reconsideration. Motion carried. Impact of \$1 million would be approximately \$47 on \$100,000 of property value. WDOR notified county of an additional \$6,520 that is available for utility aid. Mill rate – 2023 \$6.44; 2024 \$5.64. Motion Houdek/Ernst to approve the 2024 budget and forward to the County Board for their consideration. Motion carried.

- b. Loan Bids: Reviewed bids received. Motion Palecek/Houdek to accept low bid from Prevail Bank of 4.94% – 5.14% for the three loans presented. Motion carried.
- 9. Fred Mueller Ford Building: Seller is very motivated to sell. On-site clinic very interested in coming into Price County. Several businesses and school districts are very interested. Nick and Taylored Family Clinic will be viewing the building for feasibility. County may be interested in the north parking lot.
- 10. Friends of Fred Smith – Assistance with Utility Payments: Request from their Board to consider continuing payment of \$100 that they used to get while they provided the senior meal site. They contend that they still need assistance with utilities for the building. Consensus of committee to take no action.
- 11. Potential Resources for Economic Development: Price County is dealing with issues of lack of housing and childcare, which is impeding bringing employees into the county. There is a possibility of a community development agent that could assist in business plan development, grant writing and identifying needs and resources. Consensus of committee to work with UW-Extension to look at feasibility of position in the County.
- 12. Monthly Vouchers: Motion Hallstrand/Palecek to approve the accounts payable and payroll for the month of September in the amount of \$3,052,681.21 and voucher in the amount of \$528,593.25. Motion carried.
- 13. Date of Next Meeting: November 9
- 14. Meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted by Jean Gottwald, County