

MEETING OF THE PRICE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

October 17, 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 (13): Alan Barkstrom, Doug Erickson, Brian Ernst, Jeff Hallstrand, Jason Hastings (remotely), Paula Houdek, Robert Kopisch, Mark Kyle, Larry Palecek, Jordan Spacek, Patricia Stephan, Ginny Strobl, Dennis Wartgow. Also present: Nick Trimner.

Approval of Minutes September 12, 2023: Motion Palecek/Hallstrand to approve the minutes from the August 15, 2023 meeting as presented. Motion carried.

Communications and Announcements: None.

Public Comments: None.

Resolutions:

Resolution 40-23

Using Public Health American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds for Community ADA Compliant Playground Equipment

WHEREAS, Price County Public Health has received American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to meet and address emergent public health needs including programs or services that address disparities in public health that have been exacerbated by the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the 2021 Community Needs Assessment found mental health and chronic disease a concern in Price County; and

WHEREAS, according to the Wisconsin's 2020 Statewide Health Assessment, Wisconsinites across the state expressed that state and local parks, and the outdoors, have a positive impact on their health and quality of life; and

WHEREAS, the City of Park Falls, City of Phillips and Village of Prentice, each have individual community groups that are actively fundraising for a new ADA compliant playground in each community; and

WHEREAS, that in an effort to reduce chronic disease and improve mental health and provide for the inclusion of people of all abilities, Price County Public Health will utilize ARPA funds to assist in the cost of the purchasing and installation of new ADA compliant playground equipment; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Price County Board of Supervisors approves utilizing up to \$300,000 of the Public Health ARPA funds to assist the three community groups in the City of Park Falls, the City of Phillips and the Village of Prentice in the purchase and installation of ADA compliant playgrounds; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the distribution of up to \$300,000 of eligible costs for the three individual community projects will be determined by the Health and Human Services Board, with the stipulation that all eligible costs for each individual community project must be incurred by December 31, 2024; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, if any of the three community groups awarded these funds does not raise enough money to start their individual project, funds may be redistributed or returned to the State of Wisconsin ARPA Fund; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the State of Wisconsin Department of Health Services, Division of Public Health will have final plan review and approval of eligible costs for each individual community project and if such approval is not granted, funds may not be available for distribution.

Submitted by the Price County Health and Human Services Board: s/Paula Houdek, Chair; Peter Dahlie; Robert Kopisch, Mark Kyle; Sally Huml; Suzanne Ocker; Patricia Stephan; Dennis Wartgow. Reviewed by County Administrator: s/Nicholas Trimner. Adopted by the Price County Board of Supervisors on this 17th day of October 2023. s/Alan Barkstrom, County Board Chair; Jean Gottwald, County Clerk.

Motion Houdek/Kyle to consider resolution for adoption. Roll call vote on resolution adoption: Yes (13): Barkstrom, Erickson, Ernst, Hallstrand, Hastings, Houdek, Kyle, Kopisch, Palecek, Spacek, Stephan, Strobl, Wartgow. No (0). Motion carried.

Resolution 41-23

Employee Trust Fund Continuation of Income Benefit

RESOLVED, by the Board of Supervisors of Price County that pursuant to the provisions of §40.61 of the Wisconsin Statutes, Price County hereby determines to offer the Income Continuation Insurance Plan to eligible personnel through the program of the State of Wisconsin Group Insurance Board, and agrees to abide by the terms of the plan as set forth in the contract between the Group Insurance Board and the Administrator.

The resolution shall be effective on the later of the 1st of the month on or after 90 days following its receipt at the Department of Employee Trust Funds; and

The proper officers are herewith authorized and directed to take all actions and make salary deductions for premiums and submit payments required by the State of Wisconsin Group Insurance Board to provide such Income Continuation Insurance.

Submitted by the Price County Administration Committee. s/Dennis Wartgow, Chair; Jeffrey Hallstrand; Paula Houdek; Mark Kyle. Reviewed by County Administrator: s/Nicholas Trimner. Adopted by the Price County Board of Supervisors on this 17th day of October 2023. s/Alan Barkstrom, County Board Chair, Jean Gottwald, County Clerk.

Motion Wartgow/Kopisch to consider resolution for adoption. Roll call vote on resolution adoption: Yes (13): Barkstrom, Erickson, Ernst, Hallstrand, Hastings, Houdek, Kyle, Kopisch, Palecek, Spacek, Stephan, Strobl, Wartgow. No (0). Motion carried.

Resolution 42-23

Creation of a New Position – ADRC-N Disability Benefit Specialist

WHEREAS, The Wisconsin Department of Health Services provides for long-term care and support through the Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC); and

WHEREAS, the ADRCs provide information and assistance on a broad range of programs and services for seniors and adults with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, the ADRC of the North serves Ashland, Bayfield, Iron, Price and Sawyer Counties and members of the Bad River, Lac Courte Oreilles and Red Cliff Tribes; and

WHEREAS, the ADRC-N Disability Benefit Specialist position is currently located in Sawyer County; and

WHEREAS, Sawyer County no longer has the capacity to house the position and Price County has expressed interest in assuming this position; and

WHEREAS, the Health and Human Services Board has reviewed and approved the request.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Price County Board of Supervisors does hereby approve the creation of a full-time ADRC-N Disability Benefit Specialist position, per the attached job description.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that funding for the position will continue to be provided by the ADRC-N, resulting in no direct cost to Price County.

Submitted by the Price County Administration Committee. s/Dennis Wartgow, Chair; Jeffrey Hallstrand; Paula Houdek; Mark Kyle. Reviewed by County Administrator: s/Nicholas Trimner. Adopted by the Price County Board of Supervisors on this 17th day of October 2023. s/Alan Barkstrom, County Board Chair, Jean Gottwald, County Clerk.

Motion Kopisch/Houdek to consider resolution for adoption. Roll call vote on resolution adoption: Yes (13): Barkstrom, Erickson, Ernst, Hallstrand, Hastings, Houdek, Kyle, Kopisch, Palecek, Spacek, Stephan, Strobl, Wartgow. No (0). Motion carried.

Appointments:

1. Transportation Coordinating Committee – Filling Two-year Term to End 4/30/2024 (Marshfield Clinic Rep.) (Joshua England): Motion Spacek/Hallstrand to approve the appointment as presented. Motion carried.

Committee of the Whole at 9:30 a.m.

1. Board Chair Report – Alan Barkstrom
 - a. WCA Conference Update: Discussed resolutions WCA adopted, speakers and sessions held.
2. County Administrator's Report – Nick Trimner
 - a. 2023 Financial Summary: Reviewed. Several high-cost placements have occurred. Continue to deal with the cost of housing cats for a court date coming up in late November. Sales tax doing well. Stumpage meeting budget, but markets are currently slow.
 - b. 2024 Budget – Approve and Forward to Public Hearing: Reviewed. Motion Spacek/Ernst to approve the 2024 budget as presented and forward to the November 14th Public Hearing. Motion carried. Discussion on increasing the Highway Department construction borrowing from \$2 million to \$3 million. Will come back to the County Board for consideration.
 - c. Updates: School District of Phillips is anticipating a \$3.9 million FEMA grant for community emergency shelter. \$5.2 million for the entire project. 10% local match plus cost of any non-project approved costs. Up to \$40,000 will be allocated from County ARPA funds. Meeting with legislators tomorrow. Delinquent tax property land sale issue continues to be unclear. Nick is on a WCA steering committee with legislators who are working on defining how the process will work. Bug Tussel presented on communication/cell tower expansion into Price County. Very difficult getting squad cars and highway vehicles. Moving forward with Steves Creek Flowage Dam acquisition.
3. Committee Chair Reports:
 - a. Administration – Wartgow: Update on employee statuses. Working with Cottingham & Butler to conduct a review of the County's wage schedule. Set 2024 health insurance premiums and deductibles.
 - b. Buildings & Grounds – Spacek: Will need to schedule a meeting.

- c. Executive – Barkstrom: Presentation from Bug Tussel. DNR cleanup of the 5-R property is complete. Initial discussion on going cashless with no interest from committee members. Fred Mueller property owners are very interested in getting their property sold.
- d. Forestry & Parks – Hallstrand: No October meeting. Three active timber sales. Finishing summer projects. Parks being winterized. Fall timber sales being set up.
- e. Health and Human Services – Houdek: Presentation on community ADA compliant playgrounds. Flu vaccines are available. Phillips Senior Meal Site moved to First Presbyterian Church. Quarterly reports. Continue to recruit three social workers.
- f. Highway & Transportation – Palecek: Prepping County W. Summer and fall maintenance. Rut wedge Highway 13 through Phillips. Prepping equipment for winter service. Dams winter drawdown scheduled.
- g. Land Use & UW-Extension – Wartgow: Approved several special exemptions and permits. Discussed possible increase in UW-Extension youth programming.
- h. Law Enforcement – Palecek: Working on ordinance updates. Recruitment advertising with separation of dispatch and correction officer duties. Change in WRS Jailer status. Matthew McElroy appointed as new Price County District Attorney.

Convene out of Committee of the Whole: 10:37

Date of Next Meeting: November 14, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. in the County Board Room

Meeting adjourned at 10:37 a.m.

Respectfully submitted: Jean Gottwald, County Clerk