

MEETING OF THE PRICE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

May 17, 2022

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: None. Moment of silence.

Pledge of Allegiance recited by those in attendance.

Roll Call: Present (13): Alan Barkstrom, Doug Erickson, Brian Ernst, Jeff Hallstrand, Jason Hastings, Paula Houdek, Mark Kyle, Larry Palecek, Jordan Spacek, Patricia Stephan, Ginny Strobl, Lorelei Wakefield, Dennis Wartgow. Also present: Nick Trimner.

Instructions were given to any members of the public attending electronically.

Approval of Minutes April 19, 2022: Motion Houdek/Strobl to approve the minutes of the April 19, 2022 with correction as noted. Motion carried.

Communications and Announcements: Nick explained the issue with the Health and Human Services Board membership. The board members do not take seat until May 1st. Their April meeting was held with the members that will not be appointed until today. Joe Baratka submitted his resignation after 23 years.

Public Comments:

Presentation:

1. Price County Fair Association: No one available.

Appointments

1. Land Information Council: Doug Erickson
2. Local Emergency Planning Committee: Brian Ernst
3. NW Wisconsin Community Employment Program (CEP): Patricia Stephan
4. Traffic Safety Commission: Dennis Wartgow
5. Health & Human Services Board
(three-year term to expire 5/31/25): Peter Dahlie (physician), Paula Houdek, Lorelei Wakefield
(remainder of three-year term to expire 5/31/23): Patricia Stephan
6. ADRC-N Governing Board (three-year term to expire 5/31/25): Paula Houdek
7. Council on Aging Advisory Committee (three-year term to expire 4/30/25): Mary Anderson, June Ellefsen, David Schmidt
8. Nutrition Advisory Council (two-year term to expire 4/30/24): Still searching.
9. Transportation Coordinating Committee: Patricia Stephan
10. Woodland Enhanced Health Services Commission: Lorelei Wakefield
11. Park Falls Public Library Board (three-year term to expire 4/30/25): Karen Tesmer
12. Phillips Public Library Board (three-year term to expire 4/30/25): Bruce Marshall
13. Price County Library Committee (three-year term to expire 4/30/25): Jane Holm, Bruce Marshall
14. Price-Taylor Rail Trail Corridor Commission: Jeff Hallstrand, Board Rep.; Greg Foltz; Marjory Brzeskiewicz, alternate
15. Wisconsin Property Assessed Clean Energy Commission (PACE) Official Representative: Alan Barkstrom

Motion Wartgow/Palecek to approve the appointments as presented. Motion carried.

Committee of the Whole at 9:18 a.m.

1. WCA Survey – completed and returned.
2. Board Chair Report – Alan Barkstrom: Attended Rail Transport Commission meeting remotely. Price County was allocated one of three Opioid settlements for \$400,000 to be paid over 18 years, or an optional settlement. Future discussion and decision.
 - a. Emergency Management Training – Incident Command System – June 23, 2022: Please register to attend.
 - b. Future WCA Training/Presentation: WCA staff will come to a County Board meeting. Suggestions: Ethics and Responsibilities, Open Meetings and Open Records. Recommend attending the WCA Monday Morning Meetings at 11:00 a.m.
 - c. WCA Annual Conference – September 18-20, 2022
 - i. Attendance: Registration materials will be handed out. Please respond if interested in attending.
 - ii. Conference Resolutions: The Executive Committee did not recommend any resolutions.
3. County Administrator's Report – Nick Trimner
 - a. 2022 Financial Summary – April 30, 2022: Reviewed financial reports.
 - b. 2023 Budget Guidelines: First week in June an instructional letter goes out to departments. A preliminary budget will be presented to the Executive Committee in August. Waiting for cost estimates from our health insurance broker. Considering self-funding. Wage increase will continue to be a big issue.

- c. Board Goals and Expectations: Retention and recruitment is a primary factor. Encouraged members to be informed on what all committees are doing and bring ideas and questions forward.
- d. Updates:
 - i. ARPA Funding: All of the \$1,296,638 has been allocated. Funds may become available if one of the projects does not happen or is done for cheaper.
 - ii. Friends of Fred Smith House: Building was flooded when water pipe broke. Work in progress. Any necessary demolition has been done. Will need to review what construction is approved by the insurance company. Six to eight weeks out.
 - iii. Fairgrounds Property: Transition expected to happen in July. Meeting with entities that need leases drafted with the new owners. Fair Association has indicated the County Fair will continue. County monetary contribution will continue, currently at \$12,500.
 - iv. Building and Maintenance Projects: Normal Building chiller and air handling almost complete. Window project to start in June. Courthouse roof and chiller project moving forward. Difficulty obtaining some of the supplies.
 - v. 2022 Wage Schedule Resolution Feedback: Employee feedback has been very positive. Have been able to retain a couple of employees that had planned to leave. Have seen a doubling of applications received.
- 4. Committee Chair Reports:
 - a. Administration – Next meeting May 24. Highway mechanic positions filled. Five Highway operator openings. Children and Youth social workers still short four of eight positions.
 - b. Buildings & Grounds – Next meeting May 26.
 - c. Executive – Barkstrom: Carbon credit revenue allocation \$980,000 expected in the first year. \$1 million in reserve. Then each year: 2.5% added to reserve, 10% to municipalities similar to stumpage, \$250,000 to Capital Improvement Fund. Will finalize for resolution to come before the Board. Specsys request for letter of support. Next meeting
 - d. Forestry & Parks – Hallstrand: \$815,000 stumpage to date. Spring timber sale bids approved for \$518,000. Water on at parks. Cranberry Creek shooting range improvements being done.
 - e. Health and Human Services – Houdek: New member orientation being planned. Statutory change in make-up of board members. Slight uptick in Covid cases. Tobacco Coalition update. National Elder Abuse Day activities. May is Foster Care Month. Discussion on the UW-Extension Human Relationships and Education position transitioning to a County position under HHSD. Next meeting June 8.
 - f. Highway & Transportation – Palecek: Spring maintenance and readying for summer construction projects. Several DOT bridge projects. Transitioning equipment from winter to summer. Water levels returned to normal. Weimers Dam project completed. Airport Improvement Project in progress. Road tour June 3rd.
 - g. Land Use & UW-Extension – Barkstrom: Conditional use permits reviewed. 4-H Summer Intern planning on returning. Discussion on the Human Relationships and Education position. Next meeting May 19.
 - h. Law Enforcement: Second K9 Unit being developed. Rec Officer appointed. Dare Officer appointed. – Next meeting May 25.

Convene out of Committee of the Whole at 10:52 a.m.

Date of Next Meeting: June 21, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. in the County Board Room

Meeting adjourned at 10:52 a.m.

Respectfully submitted: Jean Gottwald, County Clerk