

## Executive and Finance

### Meeting Minutes

February 5, 2026

Virtual and in-person at County Board Room-Services Center-480 Underwood Ave., Montello, WI 53949

Members present: Ken Borzick-Chairperson, Judi Nigbor (virtual), Mary Walters, Kathleen McGwin, and Dennis Fenner

Others present: Administrator Ron Barger, Corp Counsel Sean Griffin, Treasurer Jody Myers, Stacy Kohn, HS Director Mandy Stanley (virtual), HR Manager Melanie Zuehls (virtual), EMS Director Rob Lulling (virtual), EMS Assistant Director Jordan Powell (virtual), Highway Commissioner Brian Trebiatowski (virtual), Tourism Director Brett Klawitter (virtual), Zoning Administrator Jean Potter (virtual), Chuck Bornhoeft, Scott Kempley, Peggy Krause, Gary Sorensen, John Bennett,

1. Chairperson Ken Borzick called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.
2. Moved by Dennis Fenner and seconded by Mary Walters to approve the agenda as printed. Motion carried.
3. Moved by Mary Walters and seconded by Judi Nigbor to approve the minutes of the January 12, 2026, meeting.
4. Citizen Concerns and Comments- None
5. Report of Committee Members/Officials- None
6. Upcoming Events/Issues-None
7. Vouchers were reviewed. No questions.
8. Corporation Counsel representative Sean Griffin presented the January 2026 report. Sean highlighted some research projects they've been working on for departments, as well as the Jungenberg violation case which will be filed as a complex forfeiture.
9. County Treasurer Jody Myers reported sales tax for December was \$122,214.56 Annual cash receipt for 2025 reporting was shared.
10. Tourism and Social Media Coordinator Brett Klawitter reported there was a slight decrease in social media hits and engagement due to winter. Brett has been meeting with businesses to discuss WEDC grant round two usage. Working with Ice Age Trail to have Montello designated as an Ice Age Trail Community.
11. Jacob Hansen reported Director Dan Buchholz is out sick with no new updates.
12. Administrator Barger reported that according to the Strategic Plan the E&F Committee would need to give guidance regarding the budget by June. Ron is starting the process early due to it being an election year with possible board turnover. Ron shared budget options with the committee. Option 1- County Board provide an increase for the 2027 budget above what is budgeted for 2026. Option 2- County Board give a flat dollar increase of whatever amount above the 2026 budget. Option 3- County Board keep the 2027 budget flat with no increase from the 2026 budget. This would lead to service cuts to non-mandated services. Administration would need to look at Winnefox contract, Humane Officer contract, Food Bank, outside organization requests, COLA and steps. Option 4- County Board direct administration to reduce the 2027 budget below the 2026 budget by a delegated amount. Drastic cuts and changes would follow along the same lines as Option 3. Supervisor Fenner noted we need to stay within the adopted 20% general fund balance requirement. Administrator Barger reported he would work closely with Department Heads on reducing services and budgets if necessary due to option choice. The committees would then be notified of the cuts. We won't know 2025 closeout until close to the end of March 2026. Ron reported an example being the Strategic Plan came under budget which will be turned back to general fund. Peggy

Krause reported she wanted to see a reduction in EMS for 2026 with the additional cuts and moving to the next budget cycle. Discussion regarding education on levy limits and borrowing for board members. Discussion regarding what affects levy limits. Discussion on COLA and step increases. Supervisor Walters suggested we go with option 2 and increase the 2026 adopted budget by \$750,000. Discussion followed. Atty. Sean Griffin encouraged the committee to reach a consensus on what they want Ron to pursue within the budget by the March meeting. Sean offered additional education on levy limits. Committee consensus is for Administrator Barger to focus on moving forward with Option #2.

13. Administrator Barger noted the Clerk of Court and Sheriff salary setting will be voted on at the March meeting.
14. Administrator Barger reported that the budget team will meet next week.
15. The agenda having been completed Chairperson Ken Borzick declared the meeting adjourned at 1:14 p.m.

Kiley Lloyd, County Clerk