

## Executive and Finance

### Meeting Minutes

March 9, 2026

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

Members present: Ken Borzick-Chairperson, Lance Achterberg, Judi Nigbor (virtual), Mary Walters, Mike Raddatz, and Dennis Fenner

Absent: Kathleen McGwin

Others present: Administrator Ron Barger, Corp Counsel Sean Griffin, Treasurer Jody Myers, Stacy Kohn, Sheriff Joe Konrath, Clerk of Court Shari Rudolph, HS Director Mandy Stanley (virtual), HR Manager Melanie Zuehls, EMS Assistant Director Jordan Powell (virtual), Health Director Jayme Sopha (virtual), Highway Commissioner Brian Trebiatowski (virtual), Chuck Bornhoeft, Peggy Krause

1. Chairperson Ken Borzick called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m.
2. Moved by Judi Nigbor and seconded by Lance Achterberg to amend the agenda by not taking any action on agenda item #8 (elected official salaries) until after agenda item #14 (Administrator report and budget discussion). Motion carried 5:1 Noes-Mary Walters
3. Moved by Lance Achterberg and seconded by Mike Raddatz to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried.
4. Moved by Dennis Fenner and seconded by Mary Walters to approve the minutes of the February 5, 2026, meeting. Mike Raddatz abstained due to being absent.
5. Citizen Concerns and Comments- None
6. Report of Committee Members/Officials- None
7. Upcoming Events/Issues-None
8. Vouchers were reviewed. No questions.
9. Shari Rudolph presented information requesting a 3% increase annually for the next 4 years. Shari also requested a \$2,000 annual stipend to cover the Register in Probate when that person is on vacation/sick. Discussion followed.
10. Sheriff Konrath presented information requesting 10% for 2027, and 2% for 2028-2030. Discussion followed.
11. Corporation Counsel representative Sean Griffin presented the February 2026 report. He noted a litigation matter that has been closed out. Sean reported the cash payment topic would be discussed later on in the agenda.
12. County Treasurer Jody Myers reported sales tax for January was \$123,308.45.
13. Tourism and Social Media Coordinator Brett Klawitter was not in attendance, however Administrator Barger reported that Brett's report showed the last 28 days for social media stayed steady at 100,000 views. Brett will be attending the Governor's Tourism conference in March.
14. Sean detailed the proposed ordinance and process of recording the variance accounting. Sean noted there is no guidance from the state at this time. Discussion followed. Stacy Kohn reported she will create a miscellaneous account for the revenue, which can be assigned to the Treasurer's Office or the Executive & Finance account. Discussion regarding changing the policy to only rounding up to the nearest five cent increment. Moved by Mary Walters and seconded by Dennis Fenner to approve the ordinance governing cash-only payment rounding and cash rounding variance accounting with rounding up to the nearest nickel. Motion carried.
15. MIS Director reported he is almost done cutting over the security software. Backup server contains an internal systems and cloud-based systems, which have now spread out over two servers to stabilize backups. Wireless controller close to being outdated on iOS, so Danny will be setting up a new controller. He reported the recent phone system interruption was due to something beyond Marquette Adams.

16. Administrator Barger reported that there are two different endpoints for next year's budget, depending on whether the committee wants the levy to change. He noted 2% COLA, step increase, and 10% health insurance would be over a million dollars. A \$180,000 loan payment will fall off in 2026. Administrator's goal is to preserve the levy. Ron would like to follow a zero-based budget, adopting the same numbers from the 2026 budget, with less needed from the general fund. Ron would need to find the money within the budget for the difference of adding in COLA and steps. It was noted some positions have been redlined and some positions would be frozen for 2026. We are on a three-year borrowing cycle, with no borrowing in the works for 2027. Committee gave extensive input. Administrator Barger will work with Dept. Heads and budget team on how to absorb projected increases. Moved by Lance Achterberg and seconded by Mike Raddatz to work with a general recommendation for the 2027 budget to maintain the levy limit at the allowable state rate and to keep the general fund withdrawal at zero. Corporation Counsel Sean Griffin noted this would be a general guideline for the future committee to evaluate. A roll call vote was requested by Mary Walters. Motion carried 4:1 (Noes: Mary Walters) Dennis Fenner was not present for the voting and exited the meeting at 2:31 p.m.
17. The committee readdressed item number 8. Chairperson Borzick read Dennis Fenner's opinion regarding the constitutional salary setting. Discussion followed
18. Motion by Lance Achterberg and seconded by Mike Raddatz to freeze the Clerk of Court and Sheriff wages for 2027 and 2028-2030 to be the same COLA increase as adopted for county staff. Motion carried.
19. The agenda having been completed Chairperson Ken Borzick declared the meeting adjourned at 2:58 p.m.

Kiley Lloyd, County Clerk