

MINUTES OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, September 2, 2025

TIME: 10:00 AM

PLACE: Courthouse – Rm 302

MEMBERS PRESENT: Laura Valenstein, Donna Rozar, Lance Pliml, Jake Hahn,
Joseph Zurfluh

OTHERS PRESENT: Trent Miner, County Clerk; See attached sign-in list

1. Chair Valenstein called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM.
2. There was no public comment.
3. Motion by Rozar/Hahn to approve the consent agenda. Motion carried unanimously.
4. Wellness Coordinator Peterson reviewed updates of the Wellness Program.
5. Kelly Borchart from Child Caring reviewed the status of the ARPA funding distributed to date, reviewed the projects and number of children additionally served with those funds, as well as the state budgeted funding for child care.
6. County Clerk Miner and Chief Deputy County Clerk DeKleyn presented the 2026 County Clerk budgets. Motion by Rozar/Pliml to approve the budgets as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
7. Miner & DeKleyn reviewed the current status of the county's election tabulation system and the fact that a number of the tabulators in the county are not able to be upgraded any further. In order to get all municipalities on one system, new tabulators will be purchased in 2027, along with the servers required, to upgrade to the most secure and up-to-date version. The committee consensus was to approach the municipalities to fund a small portion of the purchase price of the new tabulators and bring back the request in further CIP discussions.
8. Ben Jennings returned to the committee in regards to additional granite pieces he would like to acquire from the old Port Edwards mill, as well as the statue out front. After discussion and review, he was instructed to work with Facilities Manager Van Tassel in identifying additional, but limited, granite removal, at which time an addendum to the existing agreement would be acted on.
9. Treasurer Gehrt presented the 2026 Treasurer's budget to the committee. Motion by Rozar/Valenstein to approve the budget as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

10. Gehrt presented a resolution to quit claim deed a tax deeded parcel back to the former owner. Motion by Rozar/Pliml to approve the resolution and forward to the county board for their consideration. Motion carried unanimously.
11. Finance Director Yang informed the committee of the continued Aa2 bond rating after the bond rating call recently held.
12. Yang presented the 2026 Finance Budget to the committee. Motion by Pliml/Zurfluh to approve the budget as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
13. The committee set Wednesday, September 24th at 10:00 AM as the date the committee would review county budgets.
14. Yang presented a resolution from the Sheriff's Dept. to create 1.0 FTE for the Auburndale School Resource Officer, which is funded in part by the school district as well as hopeful grant funding. Motion by Zurfluh/Hahn to approve the resolution and forward onto the county board for their consideration. Motion carried unanimously.
15. HR Director McGrath presented the 2026 HR budgets to the committee. Motion by Rozar/Zurfluh to approve the budgets as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
16. McGrath presented a change to the Employee Service & Retirement Recognition Policy whereby each department would be allotted a certain amount for employee recognition going forward. Motion by Pliml/Hahn to approve the policy change as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
17. McGrath stated because of lack of usage, the Core Values program and procedures is being eliminated at the end of this year. Motion by Rozar/Pliml to approve the discontinuation of the program. Motion carried unanimously.
18. McGrath presented three different policies noted below:
 - a. Overtime/Compensatory Time Policy (eliminate Essential Duty Pay provision for Crisis Intervention and Bridgeway staff)
 - b. Wage Plan Policy (eliminate Merit Pay)
 - c. Travel Policy (update reimbursement rates per revised County Board rules)Motion by Rozar/Hahn to approve the updates as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
19. Motion by Pliml/Rozar to move into closed session pursuant to Wis. Stat. 19.85(1)(e) which reads "Deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session" for the purpose of

discussing Wood County Deputy Sheriff's Association WPPA/LEER Bargaining Agreement negotiations. Motion carried unanimously.

20. Motion by Rozar/Hahn to move back into open session. Motion carried unanimously.

21. The next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 7, 2025, at 10:00 AM.

22. Chair Valenstein adjourned the meeting at 11:55 AM.

Minutes taken by Trent Miner, County Clerk, and are in draft form until approved at the next meeting.

Operations Committee September 2, 2025

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