

MINUTES OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, September 29, 2026
TIME: 10:00 AM
PLACE: Courthouse – Rm 300

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 10:04 AM.
2. There was no public comment.
3. Finance Director Yang provided the committee with the current overview of the 2027 budget as it stands as of today.
4. Department heads listed below presented further clarification of their budget requests to the committee:
 - a. Health Dept. – Sue Smith, Maci Mancl – Reviewed how the determination is conducted for expenses based on grant funding vs. levied dollars.
 - b. Human Services – Brandon Vruwink – Reviewed the risk reserve amount designated for child out-of-home placements and the current number of the out-of-home placements.
 - c. Highway Dept. – Roland Hawk, John Peckham – Reviewed equipment purchases, the amount the machinery account generates and the need to purchase some equipment on levy dollars.
 - d. Parks & Forestry – Chad Schooley – Reviewed vehicle fleet replacement timelines and how the department purchases and prioritizes needs.
 - e. Sheriff's Dept. – Shawn Becker, Quentin Ellis – Reviewed transportation line item with explanation of when this line is used. Reviewed the timeline of purchase of squad cars and other personnel vehicles. Reviewed the need of the Bear Cat special response vehicle.
 - f. Victim Witness – Cristin Jolee – Reviewed the additional 0.5 FTE and how the programming revenue was increased due to the addition. Revised numbers were shared.
 - g. Land & Water Conservation – Shane Wucherpfennig – Reviewed replacement of GIS equipment and the non-emergent need of purchase at this time. Committee consensus, along with Wucherpfennig agreeing, was to postpone the purchase of equipment with the understanding if the current unit goes down, the county would purchase one immediately.
 - h. Information Technology – Amy Kaup – Review of software costs and renewals, noting that Microsoft subscription is the state pricing.

5. Yang reviewed the following proposed budgets:
 - a. Library Tax
 - b. UWSP at Marshfield – noted that the City of Marshfield rejected their half of the request.
 - c. Ho-Chunk Nation funding
 - d. Contingency
 - e. Payment in lieu of taxes
6. Final decisions regarding the budget to be considered at the next Operations Committee meeting on October 6th.
7. 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 29, 2026

NAME	REPRESENTING
JEFF PERKINS	WCB#11
Katie Miloch	WCHSD
PANYIA YANG	FINANCE
DARRIN STEINBACH	Finance
DENNIS POLACH	WCB-14
BRAD HAMILTON	WCB 18
ROLAND HAWK	HIGHWAY
JOHN PECKHAM	HIGHWAY
SHAWN BECKER	SHERIFF
QUENTIN ELLIS	SHERIFF
AMY KAUF	IT
Shane Wachterpfennig	LWCA
Sarah Christensen (WebEx)	Emergency Mgmt
Linda Casper (WebEx)	County Board
Cristin Jolee	Victim Witness
Sue Smith (WebEx)	Health Dept
Kristie Egge	Health Dept
Mary Mangel	Health Dept
Jatie DeKlyen (WebEx)	County Clerk
Victoria Wilson (WebEx)	Pa 3
Mary Schlagenhaft (WebEx)	Human Services
Chad Schooley	Pa 4