



# POLK COUNTY, WISCONSIN

[WWW.CO.POLK.WI.US](http://WWW.CO.POLK.WI.US)

Lisa Ross, County Clerk  
100 Polk Plaza, Suite 110, Balsam Lake, WI 54810  
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## **\*AMENDED\* AGENDA AND NOTICE OF MEETING**

### **GENERAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE**

Thursday, May 14, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.

A quorum of the County Board may be present

Virtual, Open Meeting via Webex Video Conference or Phone

#### **Amendments:**

- <sup>1</sup> Subject Matters added, revised or struck by Amended Notice of Meeting

#### **Webex Virtual Meeting Info:**

Meeting Number (access code): **960 971 908**

Password: **514GenGov**

- Join Online: <https://polkwi.webex.com>
- Join by Phone: 1-408-418-9388

*Because of the nature of this virtual meeting, there will not be an option for public comment; however, members of the public who would like to make a written comment prior to the meeting may email their comments to: [countyclerk@co.polk.wi.us](mailto:countyclerk@co.polk.wi.us) You may also mail in comments to the topics, however they may not be received and provided to the Supervisors by the date of the meeting.*

The mailing address is: POLK COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER

100 POLK PLAZA, STE. 110

BALSAM LAKE, WI 54810

**Materials:** March 12, 2020 Minutes, 2020 Work Plan, Resolution 14-20

Call to order – Chairman Masters

1. Approval of Agenda
2. Approval of Minutes for March 12, 2020
3. <sup>1</sup> Election of Committee Officers
  - a. Chairman
  - b. Vice Chairman
4. Receipt of Information from Supervisors Not Seated as Committee Members
5. Organizational Matters: Recommendations Concerning Committee Duties, Responsibilities and Assigned Functions
6. Report on Recommendation Regarding Recycling Center Analysis from Highway Commissioner, Emil Norby
7. Budget Update Regarding COVID-19
8. Plan to support our parks and trails update
9. Building security/remodel update
10. <sup>1</sup> Discussion and Possible Action regarding Resolution No. 14-20: Resolution Authorizing Taxation Districts to Waive Interest and Penalties on Property Tax Payments Installments
11. <sup>1</sup> Update and Discussion Regarding Viresco (formerly Green Whey)
12. Update on Fair Society MOU negotiations.

The Committee may convene in closed session on matters noticed under #11 and #12, as follows:

**\*\*Closed Session\*\***

Pursuant to Wisconsin Statute 19.85(1)(e), the Committee may convene in closed session for the purposes of considering bargaining strategy between the County and the Fair Society regarding a Memorandum of Understanding. The Committee may come out of closed session to allow the Committee to seek information from any Fair Society representative that may attend the meeting. Subsequent, the Committee may return to closed session for further bargaining strategy discussions.

<sup>1</sup> The Committee may convene in closed session pursuant to Wis. Stat. 19.85(1)(e) for conducting specified public business that has competitive or bargaining reasons that require a closed session. Specifically, Viresco (formerly Green Whey).

Following the closed session the Committee will convene in open session to make an announcement on matters considered in closed session and to take up, consider and act upon in open session those subject matters noticed herein for consideration or action in open session.

**13. Identification of Subject Matters for Upcoming Meetings**

**14. Adjourn**

This meeting is open to the public according to Wisconsin State Statute 19.83. Persons with disabilities wishing to attend and/or participate are asked to notify the County Clerk's office (715-485-9226) at least 24 hours in advance of the scheduled meeting time so all reasonable accommodations can be made. Requests are confidential.



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#### **Materials:** March 12, 2020 Minutes, 2020 Work Plan

1. Call to order
2. Approval of Agenda
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4. Receipt of Information from Supervisors Not Seated as Committee Members
5. Organizational Matters: Recommendations Concerning Committee Duties, Responsibilities and Assigned Functions
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7. Budget Update Regarding COVID-19
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9. Building security/remodel update
10. Update on Fair Society MOU Negotiations.

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**MINUTES**  
**General Government Committee**  
County Board Room  
Balsam Lake, WI 54810

**10:00 a.m. Thursday, March 12, 2020**

Meeting called to order by Vice Chair Arcand @ 10:00 a.m.

Members present:

Attendee Name	Title	Status
Brian Masters	Chair	Absent
Russ Arcand	Vice Chair	Present
Dean Johansen	Supervisor	Present
Larry Jepsen	Supervisor	Present
Chris Nelson	Supervisor	Present

Also present: Betsy Gerde, Deputy Register of Deeds; Emil Norby, Highway Commissioner/Division Head; Malia Malone, Corporation Counsel; Vince Netherland, County Administrator; Brent Waak, Sheriff; Chad Roberts, Chief Deputy; Robert Kazmierski, Environmental Services Division Director; Member(s) of the public; Member(s) of the press.

**Approval of Agenda**

Vice Chair Arcand called for a motion to approve the agenda as published. **Motion** (Jepsen/Johansen) to approve the amended agenda. Vice Chair Arcand called for a voice vote on the motion to approve the agenda as published. **Motion** to approve the amended agenda carried by unanimous voice vote.

**Approval of Minutes**

Vice Chair Arcand called for a motion to approve the minutes of the February 13, 2020 meeting as published. **Motion** (Nelson/Jepsen) to approve the minutes. Vice Chair Arcand called for a voice vote on said motion. **Motion** to approve the minutes of the February 13, 2020 meeting carried by unanimous voice vote.

**Public Comment** – Public comment was received by the committee.

**Receipt of Information from Supervisors Not Seated as Committee Members** – Information was received by the committee from Supervisor Luke not seated as a committee member regarding Resolution 04-20 Declaring Polk County as a Second Amendment Sanctuary.

Supervisor Nelson and Supervisor Johansen brought to the floor moving agenda item #10 (Resolution No. 04-20: Resolution Declaring Polk County a Second Amendment Sanctuary County) to between agenda item #6 & #7. Vice Chair Arcand **Motion to move agenda item. Motion** (Jepsen/Nelson) to move agenda item.

Vice Chair Arcand brought to the floor, for discussion and possible action, Resolution No. 04-20: Resolution Declaring Polk County a Second Amendment Sanctuary County. Discussion.

Vice Chair Arcand called for a motion regarding Resolution No. 04-20: Resolution Declaring Polk County a Second Amendment Sanctuary County. **Motion** (Jepsen/Nelson) to recommend Resolution No. 04-20 to the County Board for passage. **Motion** carried by unanimous voice vote.

The committee received an update regarding the hiring of Information Technology (I.T.) Director from Administrator Netherland. A candidate has accepted the position. An announcement will be made at a later date.

The committee received an update regarding the Fair Society MOU negotiations. Discussion. No closed session required at this time.

The committee received update and information regarding the sale of the Woodley Dam Property from Highway Commissioner Norby. Auction will be moving forward as soon as advertising resumes. Supervisor Nelson inquired about the funds that would be received and decision to sub-divide the property. Supervisor Nelson called for a motion to suspend sale indefinitely until written legal permission to sub-divide is received, Motion was withdrawn (Nelson/Jepsen). Corporation Counsel Malone and Highway Commissioner Norby will look into it. Discussion to be added to March County Board Meeting.

Vice Chair Arcand brought to the floor, for discussion and possible action, Resolution No. 07-20: Resolution Directing the County Administrator to Investigate Options for Saving the Clam Falls Dam. Discussion.

**Motion** (Nelson/Jepsen) to approve Resolution No. 07-20: Resolution Directing the County Administrator to Investigate Options for Saving the Clam Falls Dam and recommend to County Board for passage. **Motion** carried by voice vote of three in favor and one abstention.

Vice Chair Arcand called upon Chris Nelson, to provide information to the Committee/Board regarding Resolution No. 06-20: Resolution In Support of Mandatory Minimum Sentences and A Three Strikes Law in Wisconsin. Discussion.

Vice Chair Arcand called for a motion regarding Resolution No. 06-20: Resolution In Support of Mandatory Minimum Sentences and A Three Strikes Law in Wisconsin. **Motion** (Nelson/Johansen) to recommend Resolution No. 06-20 to the County Board with a neutral recommendation. **Motion** carried by unanimous voice vote.

The Committee received update and information from Highway Commissioner Norby regarding the Recycling Center Survey Analysis. Discussion. Highway Commissioner Norby handed out copies of the survey analysis and asked the committee to read through for discussion at the next committee meeting. The Committee asked that Highway Commissioner Norby present his recommendation at that time as well.

The Committee engaged in discussion regarding development of future budget plans to support Polk County parks and trails. Environmental Services Division Director, Robert Kazmierski spoke to the committee about opportunities to support the parks and trails and will develop a plan to present to the County Board.

The Committee reviewed and updated the 2020 Work Plan. Recycling Center update, plan to support our parks and trails update, building security/remodel update.

Next meeting: Thursday, April 9, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.

Items for next agenda: Update on Fair Society MOU negotiations, update on recycling survey analysis, update on plan to support our parks and trails, update on building security/remodel.

### **Adjourn**

Vice Chair Arcand called for a motion to adjourn. **Motion** (Johansen/Nelson) to adjourn. Vice Chair Arcand called for a voice vote on the motion to adjourn. **Motion** carried by unanimous voice vote. Meeting adjourned 11:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Betsy Gerde,  
Deputy Register of Deeds

**GENERAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE  
2020 WORK PLAN**

Date	Scheduled Agenda Items	Program Evaluation and Upcoming Issues
January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Finalize 2020 Work Plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Updates regarding hiring for Deputy Administrator positions.</li> <li>▪ Updates regarding hiring for I.T. Director/Consultant position.</li> </ul>
February		
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Recycling Center Update, Res. No. 37-19</li> <li>▪ Sale of Woodley Dam Property</li> <li>▪ Discussion on future budget to support County Parks &amp; Trails</li> </ul>	
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Fair Society MOU</li> </ul>	
May		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Consideration of County Board priorities in General Government</li> <li>▪ I.T. Developments, Laptop follow-up/paperless initiative</li> </ul>
June		
July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Annual reports</li> <li>▪ Annual Audit Results</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Governor’s Budget and impact on government programs</li> </ul>
August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Review and recommendations on fee schedule</li> </ul>	
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Annual budget review – County Board Budget development/recommendation</li> <li>▪ Capital Improvement Planning</li> </ul>	
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Annual budget and budget amendment recommendations</li> </ul>	
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Budget technical amendments</li> </ul>	
December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Develop 2021 work plan</li> </ul>	

**Possible 2020 Work Plan Topics**

- Review of Lime Quarry
- Government Center security
- Customer Service
- Procedures & Policy regarding reviews MOU’s and funding of outside agencies

Resolution No. 14-20

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING TAXATION DISTRICTS TO WAIVE INTEREST AND PENALTIES ON PROPERTY TAX PAYMENTS INSTALLMENTS

ROLL CALL Board Members table with columns: Board Members, Aye, Nay, Exc. Rows include Olson, Route, Warhdahl, Nelson (Chairperson), LaBlanc, Masters, Prichard, Edgell, O'Connell, Middleton, Luke (2nd Vice Chair), Duncanson, Arcand, Bonneprise (Vice Chair), Demulling.

BOARD ACTION section containing 'Vote Required: Majority Vote of a Quorum' and checkboxes for 'Adopted' and 'Defeated' with lines for names and counts.

Reviewed by: [Signature], Corp. Counsel; [Signature], Administrator; [Signature], Finance.

FISCAL & LEGAL IMPACT: Fiscal impact still being reviewed. Legal impact: This Resolution allows the taxing districts to waive penalties and interest on installment payments that came due and payable after April 1, 2020 pursuant to Act 185

Certification: I, Lisa Ross, Clerk of Polk County, hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of a resolution that was adopted on the \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_, 2020 by the Polk County Board of Supervisors. Lisa Ross, County Clerk, Polk County

Committee [ ] Recommended [ ] Not Recommended [ ] Neutral

1 TO THE POLK COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:
2
3 WHEREAS, in December, 2019, a novel strain of coronavirus known
4 as COVID-19 was detected, and COVID-19 has continued to spread
5 throughout the world, including to the United States and the State of
6 Wisconsin ("COVID-19 Pandemic"); and
7
8 WHEREAS, the federal government, state governments, and local
9 governments are working together to contain the further spread of the
10 disease and treat existing cases; and
11
12 WHEREAS, on January 31, 2020, the United States Department of
13 Health and Human Services declared a Public Health Emergency, on
14 March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a
15 pandemic, on March 12, 2020 the Governor of the State of Wisconsin
16 declared a Health Emergency in the State, and Polk County (the
17 "County") declared a state of emergency under authority granted by Wis.
18 Stats. Chap. 323; and
19
20 WHEREAS, the federal government has enacted various laws and
21 regulations in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic including, without
22 limitation, the Families First Coronavirus Response Act and the
23 Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act; and
24
25 WHEREAS, the federal, state, local and individual responses to the
26 COVID-19 Pandemic and the uncertainty as to the effectiveness of those
27 responses in mitigating the duration of the COVID-19 Pandemic have
28 created economic hardship and uncertainty in the County's business
29 community, households throughout the County and for every County
30 property taxpayer; and
31
32 WHEREAS, in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the various
33 federal laws and regulations implemented as a result of the COVID-19
34 Pandemic, and the various emergency orders and regulations
35 implemented by state and local governments, on April 15, 2020, the
36 Wisconsin Legislature enacted 2019 Wisconsin Act 185 ("Act 185"),
37 which Governor Evers signed on April 16, 2020; and
38
39 WHEREAS, Section 105(25) of Act 185 authorizes the County to adopt
40 a resolution enabling taxation districts in the County to waive interest
41 and penalties on 2020 property tax installment payments due and payable
42 after April 1, 2020, until October 1, 2020; and
43
44 WHEREAS, a resolution authorizing the above referenced waiver must
45 also establish criteria for determining hardship that would qualify a
46 property tax payer for the waiver; and
47
48 WHEREAS, the County's authorization for a taxation district to
49 implement the above referenced waiver is contingent upon a taxation
50 district adopting a resolution in similar form and content as to the
51 County's resolution; and
52
53 WHEREAS, this Resolution is intended to (1) serve as the County's
54 enabling resolution for purposes of Section 105(25) of Act 185; (2)
55 authorize any taxation district located in the County to waive interest and

1 penalties on installment payments of property taxes due and payable after April 1, 2020, in a manner  
2 consistent with Act 185 provided the taxation district adopts a similar resolution and otherwise satisfies  
3 all conditions precedent to waiver contained in Act 185 and this Resolution; and (3) declare that all  
4 property taxpayers in the County are experiencing hardship as a result of the economic conditions  
5 associated with the COVID-19 Pandemic, the various federal laws and regulations implemented as a  
6 result of the COVID-19 Pandemic, the various emergency orders and regulations implemented by state  
7 and local governments, and Act 185; and  
8

9 WHEREAS, while the plain language of Section 105(25) of Act 185 allows for either a general or a  
10 “case-by-case” finding of hardship to qualify for the above referenced waiver of interest and penalties,  
11 the County intends by this Resolution to authorize a taxation district to waive interest and penalties for  
12 all property taxpayers in the County otherwise eligible for waiver under Section 105(25) of Act 185 on a  
13 finding of general hardship based upon the economic conditions described in this Resolution, which the  
14 Board determines has adversely affected all taxpayers in the County; and  
15

16 WHEREAS, this Resolution is not intended to be construed as authorizing any sort of “case-by-case”  
17 finding of hardship by a taxation district; and  
18

19 NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that pursuant to Section 105(25) of Act 185, the Board hereby  
20 finds and authorizes the following:  
21

- 22 1. Because of the COVID-19 Pandemic, the various federal laws and regulations implemented as a  
23 result of the COVID-19 Pandemic, the various emergency orders and regulations implemented by  
24 state and local governments, and Act 185, the Board finds that all property taxpayers are  
25 experiencing hardship as that term is used in Section 105(25) of Act 185.  
26
- 27 2. A taxation district is authorized to waive interest and penalties for property taxes payable in 2020  
28 for an installment payment that is due and payable after April 1, 2020. This Resolution authorizes  
29 a taxation district to waive interest and penalties as provided in Section 105(25) of Act 185 for all  
30 property taxpayers in the taxation district such that if a taxation district authorizes the waiver  
31 under Section 105(25) of Act 185, it must offer the waiver to all property taxpayers in the taxation  
32 district. Notwithstanding the foregoing, nothing in this Resolution authorizes a taxation district to  
33 waive interest and penalties for property taxes payable in 2020 for an installment payment that  
34 was due and payable prior to April 1, 2020, except as otherwise permitted under applicable law.  
35
- 36 3. As provided under Section 105(25) of Act 185, the County shall deviate from the settlement  
37 procedure set forth in Wis. Stat. § 74.29 and, instead the County shall settle property taxes,  
38 interest and penalties collected on or before July 31, 2020, on August 20, 2020, as provided under  
39 Wis. Stat. § 74.29(1), and settle the remaining unpaid taxes, interest, and penalties on September  
40 20, 2020. The August 20, 2020, settlement shall be distributed proportionally to the underlying  
41 taxing jurisdictions according to payments collected on or before July 31, 2020.  
42
- 43 4. Notwithstanding Wis. Stat. § 74.57, the County Treasurer is authorized, but not required, to omit  
44 from the tax certificate delivered to the County on September 1, 2020, all parcels of real property  
45 for which a taxation district has waived interest and penalties as provided in this Resolution.  
46
- 47 5. The County Treasurer should consult with the Wisconsin Department of Revenue, all taxation  
48 districts in the County, and Corporation Counsel regarding the implementation of this Resolution  
49 and the procedures associated with, or contemplated by, this Resolution.  
50
- 51 6. Other County officers are authorized to assist the Treasurer in the interpretation, application and  
52 implementation of this Resolution and Section 105(25) of Act 185.  
53