

**Chippewa County
Executive Committee
Regular Meeting
January 20, 2026
Chippewa County Courthouse, Room 302
4:00 PM**

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 04:00 PM

2. Roll Call

Members Present:
Chuck Hull, Jason Bergeron, Charles Bomar, Joel Seidlitz
Members Absent:
Peter Gehring
Others Present:
Others Present: Andy Albarado, Traci Bremness, Toni Hohlfelder, Leah Simington, Andy Bauer, Todd Pauls, Jackie Sadler, Brady Seidlitz, Darrin Senn, Wade Asher, Heather Flashinska, Pete Roth, Melanie McManus, Deputy Coroner, Ron Patten, Travis Hakes

3. Members of the Public Wishing to Be Heard

(Comments will be limited to 5 minutes per speaker.)

Darrin Senn, President of the Chippewa Valley Music Festival, spoke regarding the 2025 invoice for law enforcement services and the large assembly ordinance.

Wade Asher, General Manager for the Chippewa Valley Music Festival, spoke regarding the 2025 invoice for law enforcement services and the large assembly ordinance.

Heather Flashinski, One Fest Founder and Director, spoke regarding the 2025 invoice for law enforcement services and the large assembly ordinance.

4. Consent Agenda

(Unless separation of an item is requested, all items will be adopted under one motion.)

Motion:	Approved
Result:	Passed (4 - 0)
Mover:	Charles Bomar
Second:	Jason Bergeron
Ayes:	Chuck Hull, Jason Bergeron, Charles Bomar, Joel Seidlitz
Nays:	None
Absent:	Peter Gehring

1. Approve the Agenda
2. Approve the Minutes - 01/06/2026
3. Schedule Next Meeting Date - 02/03/2026

5. Reports

1. Register of Deeds Dashboard Review – Melanie McManus

McManus reviewed the latest data for the Register of Deeds office.

6. Updates, Announcements, and Correspondence

1. County Board Chair Report
2. County Administrator Operation Report
 - a. Xcel Energy / Rod & Gun Boat Landing on Lake Wissota – Andy Albarado

Albarado explained Xcel Energy has approached Chippewa County to see if we would be interested in taking over a lease to manage their boat landing that is currently managed by the Rod & Gun on Lake Wissota. This has been a revenue-generating boat landing in the past and the intent is for it to continue to be a revenue-generating landing, so at this time we anticipate it will not require additional funding in the budget or additional staff to operate it.

Albarado explained that we will not have staff there all of the time. The anticipated revenue was lowered based on the fact that some people don't pay the fee. The longer-term plan is to use automation to help monitor the landing, for example a license plate reader. The fee will be for boat launch only. If someone parks and fishes off the pier, then they won't need to pay. Xcel Energy is in the process of removing the building and the other pavilion. When they are done there will be one pavilion on the property.

A resolution will go to the Facilities & Parks Committee on February 11th and then to the County Board in March for consideration on whether to enter into a lease agreement with Xcel Energy. If the County Board is supportive of this, then Chippewa County would take over operating the property no later than May 1, 2026.

The committee is supportive of the County entering into a lease with Xcel Energy for this landing.

- b. Update on Chippewa Valley Health Cooperative Request for \$10 Million Loan from the Wisconsin Board of Commissioners of Public Lands (BCPL) to Help Finance the Interim Chippewa Valley Cooperative Hospital in Chippewa Falls – Andy Albarado

Albarado gave an update on the \$10 million loan request from the Chippewa Valley Health Cooperative as presented to the Executive Committee at the November 18, 2025, meeting.

7. Business Items

1. Establish 2027-2030 Salaries for Sheriff, Clerk of Courts and Coroner – Andy Albarado/Toni Hohlfelder

Albarado explained that the 2027-2030 salaries for the Sheriff, Clerk of Courts and Coroner need to be established by April 15th before candidates start taking out papers. The goal is to bring a resolution to the Executive Committee on February 17th and then to the County Board on March 10th for consideration. It's important to remember it's about the position and not the person when determining the salaries.

The committee was supportive of front loading the salary for the first year like we have done the last couple of years and for the County Administrator to make a recommendation and bring it back at the next meeting in the form of a resolution. The elected officials will also be invited to come and talk to the committee next month if they want to attend.

2. Chippewa Valley Music Festival Invoice for 2025 Law Enforcement Services – Andy Albarado

Albarado explained there is an invoice that still remains unpaid regarding the law enforcement services that were performed for the 2025 events at the Chippewa Valley Music Festival (CVMF) grounds. The CVMF is disputing \$16,163.09 for the 280.75 hours of billing for Force Fields, and \$13,168.31 of double time that was charged for hours worked at Rock Fest.

He explained this is an operational issue and not something that he would normally bring to the committee. However, considering the conversations that have occurred and the fact this is an unbudgeted expense, he requested feedback and direction from the Executive Committee on how to resolve this issue. (See memo on file)

Albarado supports waiving the \$16,163.09 for Force Fields but does not support waiving the \$13,138.31 for Rock Fest.

Motion:	Motion to waive the \$13,168.31 and have the funding come from the General Fund and for this to go to the full County Board for a vote
Result:	Passed (4 - 0)
Mover:	Joel Seidlitz
Seconder:	Jason Bergeron
Ayes:	Chuck Hull, Jason Bergeron, Charles Bomar, Joel Seidlitz
Nays:	None
Absent:	Peter Gehring

3. Ordinance to Amend Chapter 14, Article III of the Chippewa County Code of Ordinances Regarding Large Assemblies – Andy Albarado

Albarado explained there has been a lot of frustration with administration of the large assembly ordinance. He has some ideas on how to streamline the process but wanted feedback from the committee on the direction they support before bringing an ordinance revision forward for consideration. (See memo on file)

Albarado reviewed three options that were outlined in the memo. Option 2 would maintain the requirements and ratios for security guards but give the Sheriff's Department discretion to determine peace officers and the ratio. Albarado would like to have a minimum and maximum included in the ordinance. This language is similar to the language in the contract we have with the CVMF.

The committee supported having language added to identify minimum/maximum number of officers and they would like language added regarding peak and non-peak times.

Other ideas that were discussed include:

- Incorporating a per ticket price.
- Conducting an annual evaluation of how everything went after the festivals are done.
- Include a timeline/deadline to inform the Sheriff's Department of the anticipated number of people attending so they can determine the appropriate number of officers needed. They usually have a pretty good idea 90 days prior to the event.
- Change it so the full County Board has to approve the licenses rather than just the County Clerk and County Board Chair.

Motion:	Motion to work on Option #2 for 2026 events and incorporate some additional parameters with minimum/maximum number of officers and add an annual review/analysis and then work on Option #3 for the long-term solution.
Result:	(4 - 0)

Mover:	Joel Seidlitz
Seconded:	Charles Bomar
Ayes:	Chuck Hull, Jason Bergeron, Charles Bomar, Joel Seidlitz
Nayes:	None
Absent:	Peter Gehring

4. The Executive Committee will convene in closed session pursuant to Wisconsin State Statute 19.85 (1)(c) – “Considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility” (County Administrator Performance Evaluation)

The committee recessed to closed session at 5:41 p.m. Closed session to include: Andy Albarado, Toni Hohlfelder, All Executive Committee Members, Any other County Board Supervisors

Motion:	Approved
Result:	Passed (4 - 0)
Mover:	Jason Bergeron
Seconded:	Charles Bomar
Ayes:	Chuck Hull, Jason Bergeron, Charles Bomar, Joel Seidlitz
Nayes:	None
Absent:	Peter Gehring

5. The Executive Committee will reconvene to open session

The committee reconvened to open session at 6:05 p.m.

Motion:	Approved
Result:	Passed (4 - 0)
Mover:	Jason Bergeron
Seconded:	Joel Seidlitz
Ayes:	Chuck Hull, Jason Bergeron, Charles Bomar, Joel Seidlitz
Nayes:	None
Absent:	Peter Gehring

8. Agenda Items for Future Consideration

9. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at: 06:06 PM

Result:	Passed (4 - 0)
Mover:	Joel Seidlitz
Seconded:	Charles Bomar
Ayes:	Chuck Hull, Jason Bergeron, Charles Bomar, Joel Seidlitz
Absent:	Peter Gehring