

**Chippewa County
Executive Committee
Regular Meeting
May 5, 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:
Jason Bergeron, Joel Seidlitz, Kari Ives, Joseph Roshell, Karen Lotts
Members Absent:
Others Present:
Others Present: Andy Albarado, Traci Bremness, Leah Simington, Andy Bauer, Wade Asher, Darrin Senn, Curt Dutton, Todd Pauls, Heather Flashinski, Travis Hakes

3. Members of the Public Wishing to Be Heard

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

Wade Asher spoke regarding the Chippewa Valley Music Festivals contract. He is generally comfortable with the proposed revisions except for the compensation. He commented it would cost him an additional \$50,000 for this year alone with the increase as a result of the new union contract. He does not support paying double time for law enforcement, only time and one half plus benefits.

4. Consent Agenda

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

Motion:	Approved
Result:	Passed (5 - 0)
Mover:	Karen Lotts
Seconder:	Joseph Roshell
Ayes:	Jason Bergeron, Joel Seidlitz, Kari Ives, Joseph Roshell, Karen Lotts
Nays:	None
Absent:	

1. Approve the Agenda
2. Approve the Minutes - 02/17/2026
3. Schedule Next Meeting Date - 05/19/2026

5. Reports

1. Financial Update - 2025 Pre-Audited and 1st Quarter 2026 - Leah Simington

Simington reviewed the 2025 pre-audited financials as well as 1st quarter 2026.

This item was reviewed by the committee and will be forwarded to the County Board for review at the 05/12/2026 meeting.

2. 2027 Budget Process Review - Leah Simington

Simington reviewed the 2027 budget process. The County Administrator will send out the budget instructions next week so Department Heads can start preparing their budgets.

This item was reviewed by the committee and will be forwarded to the County Board for review at the 05/12/2026 meeting.

6. Business Items

1. Establish Regular Meeting Date and Time - Andy Albarado

Albarado explained the committee has been meeting on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 4:00 p.m. He reviewed a 2026 calendar with the meeting dates as well as some of the budget related items that will be addressed at the meetings through the year.

The committee would like to move the meeting time back a half hour and start at 4:30 p.m. to better accommodate the member's schedules.

Motion:	Approved to meet on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 4:30 p.m.
Result:	Passed (5 - 0)
Mover:	Joel Seidlitz
Second:	Joseph Roshell
Ayes:	Jason Bergeron, Joel Seidlitz, Kari Ives, Joseph Roshell, Karen Lotts
Nays:	None
Absent:	

2. Purchasing Policy Revisions - Leah Simington

Simington explained the proposed revisions to the Purchasing Policy are required in order for us to be in compliance with the new 2025 Wisconsin Act 188, which increased the competitive bidding thresholds for public works projects.

This item was reviewed by the committee and will be forwarded to the County Board for review at the 05/12/2026 meeting.

Motion:	Forwarded to the County Board
Result:	Passed (5 - 0)
Mover:	Karen Lotts
Second:	Joel Seidlitz
Ayes:	Jason Bergeron, Joel Seidlitz, Kari Ives, Joseph Roshell, Karen Lotts
Nays:	None
Absent:	

3. Chippewa Valley Music Festivals 2024-2028 Agreement - Andy Albarado

Albarado explained at the March meeting, the County Board approved revisions to ordinance Sec. 14-68(25) which now requires large assembly contracts to be approved by the County Board. The current collective bargaining agreement requires double time for law enforcement. He does not support changing the contract with Chippewa Valley Music Festivals to only time and one half as that would create a budget issue for the County so he left the existing language. The priority was to get this contract updated and to the County Board before the first event in June. This contract covers all three festivals for CVMF. If the County Board approves this, then the intent would be to bring back a similar revision to the One Fest contract.

Seidlitz estimates the increased cost to CVMF is closer to \$52-53,000. He was told the Sheriff's Department charges double time from hour one. He referenced the increased sales tax the County receives for the summer months May-

August, which is most likely due to tourism events. Therefore, he feels the county should have some skin in the game and support this organization so we can continue to bring in the sales tax.

Hakes explained the officers have required work that needs to get done around here first which is why the hours for fest are at double time right away because staff have already worked their regular week before the fest starts. Sgt Clark sends out an email and asks for volunteers to work and puts them on the schedule first. Then he inserts the reserve officers, then management, staff and finally union employees. They need to use mutual aid to help cover the shifts and those officers do not get double time. They look at who is volunteering to work and prioritize that first before forcing people to work. They do their best to staff according to the need to ensure the safety of everyone.

Dutton commented they use common sense when determining the staffing levels and don't staff it high when there are slow times. There are times when they can let a few staff go home and they have done that based on the situation, weather, activities, etc. They can't operate on hard fast numbers all the time.

Hakes commented that Walworth County takes a different approach and they preload their budget based off X number of contracts and base it off a per ticket fee.

Seidlitz suggested the county look at maybe doing something in the 2027 or 2028 budget and create a new fund for tourism related events to help reimbursement organizations for situations like this.

This item was reviewed by the committee and will be forwarded to the County Board as amended for review at the 05/12/2026 meeting.

Motion to Amend:	To amend paragraph 4.A. Compensation and remove "taking into account overtime rates of pay and collective bargaining agreements" and replace it with "with overtime rate of pay calculated at time and one-half".
Result:	Passed (5 - 0)
Mover:	Joel Seidlitz
Seconder:	Karen Lotts
Ayes:	Jason Bergeron, Joel Seidlitz, Kari Ives, Joseph Roshell, Karen Lotts
Nayes:	None
Absent:	

Motion:	Forward to the County Board as amended
Result:	Passed (5 - 0)
Mover:	Joel Seidlitz
Seconder:	Joseph Roshell
Ayes:	Jason Bergeron, Joel Seidlitz, Kari Ives, Joseph Roshell, Karen Lotts
Nayes:	None
Absent:	[ABSENT_2]

4. Discussion on Chapter 14 Article III of the Code of Ordinances Regarding Large Assemblies - Andy Albarado

Albarado stated he's been working with staff on additional revisions to the large assembly ordinance to streamline the process. He would like to get some direction from the committee on how to proceed before bringing back proposed revisions later this year for consideration.

Albarado explained we now have a festival and facility that's been here for many, many years. Part of the idea for the new amendments is to create a new grounds license that would allow us to approve a permit based on the year rather than each event. The other item is the cost of law enforcement. Part of the reason the double time is now in the union contract is because it's getting harder to find officers to work the event. We now need to use more mutual aid to help cover the events. There is a significant amount of staff time spent planning for the festivals and working the festivals. The question then comes up, why are we doing this.

Albarado is considering amending our ordinance to not require law enforcement. It would then only require licensed security, which could be contracted security, our law enforcement, etc. The county really has no obligation to provide law enforcement. We have historically done this for many years as the grounds and events have become more established. This change would allow the festival to work with law enforcement to determine how much they want at the event, rather than us requiring how much should be there. The event organizer would still need to have security personnel at a defined ratio – it could be professional security firms or t-shirt security or they could decide to contract with our law enforcement for coverage. Albarado asked the committee for feedback to see if they support this concept before we continue working on the ordinance.

The committee liked the idea of a grounds license to help streamline the process. There will need to be clear objective criteria to identify what/who qualifies for a grounds permit. Permanent fencing is an example of something that should be required to qualify for the grounds permit.

Roshell supports some kind of adjustment for the staffing, even if it means at certain times of the night the event organizers can use other security personnel.

Bergeron is not against private security being on the table for discussion, but he would like the County to take lead and still wants to see some presence from the Sheriff's staff to help ensure safety.

Hakes commented currently his office and the CVMF use a common sense approach when determining the staffing levels. They may disagree on a few things, but they do agree on public safety. They all agree it is the safest festival around due to the presence of law enforcement. He wants the County Board to also consider the geographical location of the event. If something happened at the event and his department had limited staffing, it may take longer for them to respond. Also, if something happened, it may be difficult for them to get into the event grounds in a timely manner at the time of an incident.

Asher stated that he always wants the Sheriff's officers present. They are a team working together on this. If the department is struggling with finding officers to work the event, then he is willing to use other outside sources. He has a large number of staff that work the events and they are in conjunction with the Sheriff's law enforcement officers.

Dutton commented that it comes down to safety for law enforcement as well. He won't be here for the 2027 fests so he's speaking on behalf of the management team and other deputies. They are up there to serve a law enforcement function and that's different than what other security will be able to provide. Others cannot write citations, etc. His concern is if law enforcement is not present, they will have more issues. The department has been working hard to tame down the juvenile issues. Also, if reduced law enforcement is expected to respond to a situation, it makes it more uncomfortable for them to respond and feel safe.

Ives would like for our law enforcement to continue to be present at the events.

7. Updates, Announcements, and Correspondence

1. County Board Chair Report
2. County Administrator Operation Report
 - a. Review County Administrator 2026 Performance Goals - Andy Albarado

Albarado reviewed the 2026 performance goals that were established for him by the prior Executive Committee as part of the evaluation process.

8. Agenda Items for Future Consideration

Seidlitz commented that several County Board Supervisors would like to have a scheduled day/month or timeslot for the members to meet to discuss a variety of issues happening in the county.

Seidlitz suggested it would be nice if each committee chair would give a brief update each month at the meeting.

9. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at: 05:44 PM

Result:	Passed (5 - 0)
Mover:	Karen Lotts
Second:	Joseph Roshell
Ayes:	Jason Bergeron, Joel Seidlitz, Kari Ives, Joseph Roshell, Karen Lotts
Absent:	