

**Chippewa County
Executive Committee
Regular Meeting
June 2, 2026
Chippewa County Courthouse, Room 302
4:30 PM**

1. Call to Order

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, Brad Viegut, Leah Simington, Curt Dutton, Chris Elstran, Jackie Sadler, Deb Blevins, Duane Shoebridge, Heather Flashinger, Lynda Schweikert, Travis Hakes, Andy Bauer, Carol Bowe, Theresa Roper, Cary Roper, Sandra Dressel-Nordby, Richard Drehmel, Rocky Kempe, Rose Baier, Todd Pauls, Lee Hennick

3. Members of the Public Wishing to Be Heard

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

Duane Shoebridge and Carol Bowe spoke against the half percent sales tax resolution.

4. Consent Agenda

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

Motion:	Approved
Result:	Passed (3 - 0)
Mover:	Karen Lotts
Seconder:	Joseph Roshell
Ayes:	Jason Bergeron, Joel Seidlitz, Kari Ives
Nayes:	None
Absent:	

1. Approve the Agenda
2. Approve the Minutes - May 5, 2026
3. Schedule Next Meeting Date - June 16, 2026

5. Reports

1. 2027-2031 Capital Improvement Plan - Andy Albarado

Albarado reviewed the 2027-2031 Capital Improvement Plan. The request is to only approve the 2027 projects to be incorporated into the FY27 budget. The projects in years 2028-2031 are placeholders for future planning purposes.

This item was reviewed by the committee and will be forwarded to the County Board for review at the 06/09/2026 meeting.

2. Overview of Bonding Process - Leah Simington

Simington gave an overview of the bonding process. This will also be reviewed with the County Board at the

06/09/2026 meeting.

6. Business Items

1. OneFest Ltd. 2024-2026 Revised Contract - Andy Albarado

Albarado explained the contract revisions are consistent with the revisions approved for the Chippewa Valley Music Festivals and the contract now requires County Board approval per changes adopted via Ordinance 01-26. This item was reviewed by the committee and will be forwarded to the County Board for review at the 06/09/2026 meeting.

Motion:	Forwarded to the County Board
Result:	Passed (3 - 0)
Mover:	Joseph Roshell
Second:	Kari Ives
Ayes:	Jason Bergeron, Joel Seidlitz, Karen Lotts
Nayes:	None
Absent:	

2. Criminal Justice Services 2027 Opioid Fund Request - Rose Baier

Baier reviewed the request for the reentry program and explained it's similar to the request that was approved for 2026.

Motion:	Approved
Result:	Passed (3 - 0)
Mover:	Kari Ives
Second:	Karen Lotts
Ayes:	Jason Bergeron, Joel Seidlitz, Joseph Roshell
Nayes:	None
Absent:	

3. Resolution to Disallow Claim of Gwenith Kelly - Deb Blevins

Blevins reviewed the resolution and explained it is the recommendation of WMMIC, our liability insurance carrier, that we disallow the claim.

Motion:	Approved
Result:	Passed (3 - 0)
Mover:	Kari Ives
Second:	Joseph Roshell
Ayes:	Jason Bergeron, Joel Seidlitz, Karen Lotts
Nayes:	None
Absent:	

4. Initial Resolution Authorizing Not to Exceed \$7,500,000 General Obligation Promissory Notes for Highway Improvement Projects - Andy Albarado/Brad Viegut

Viegut explained that the proposed bonding request is for \$7.5 million for construction and improvements of highways. The first two resolutions start the process. In August another parameter resolution will come before the County Board. That will outline the parameters for approval outside of an official County Board meeting. Many counties have shifted to utilizing this parameter resolution instead of the award resolution. The challenge of using the traditional award resolution is that we only have one day in the market to issue debt. The parameter resolution allows us to issue debt any date after approval by the County Board. This allows us to avoid negative things going on and determine the best day to issue debt. The settlement date is set for 09/21/26 and the first payment would be

due 02/01/27. The estimated interest rate is 3.68%.

Seidlitz expressed concerns with highway and commented that we have \$1.5 million in machinery and when we buy it the cost depreciates right away. We need to ask ourselves when does the time come that we require the machinery to last longer or contract out for it. He asked if the County has ever considered bidding this out and wanted to know if the County makes money off the state highways or are we losing money. Albarado commented we have the 4th highest road miles and we bid out our material for the road projects. Elstran explained the County is not losing money with the state. We have a contract with the state and they reimburse us for time and material. We can't make a profit or make money. Our equipment fund was \$1.1-\$1.2 million when he started and it's the same now. They purchase three patrol trucks a year. They are not buying other construction equipment. The biggest cost is the winter maintenance. Trucks are used for about 15 years before replacement.

Seidlitz asked if the County has ever discussed bidding out plowing of the roads like the townships do. Elstran explained a couple years ago the state talked about contracting out the state roads and they couldn't find anyone to do it. They aren't set up to handle it. Albarado is not aware of any county that does that and there are probably good reasons for that.

This item was reviewed by the committee and will be forwarded to the County Board for review at the 06/09/2026 meeting.

Motion:	Forwarded to the County Board
Result:	Passed (4 - 0)
Mover:	Karen Lotts
Seconder:	Joel Seidlitz
Ayes:	Jason Bergeron, Kari Ives, Joseph Roshell, Karen Lotts
Nayes:	None
Absent:	

5. Resolution Providing for the Sale of Not to Exceed \$7,500,000 General Obligation Promissory Notes - Andy Albarado/Brad Viegut

Viegut explained this resolution directs staff to start the process. This item was reviewed by the committee and will be forwarded to the County Board for review at the 06/09/2026 meeting.

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

6. Resolution to Authorize the Use of Sales Tax Funds to Pay Debt Service Liabilities as Part of the 2027 Chippewa County Budget - Andy Albarado

This item was reviewed by the committee and will be forwarded to the County Board for review at the 06/09/2026 meeting.

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

Absent:

7. Resolution to Approve the Use of Sales Tax Funds for the Annual Contribution to the Chippewa Valley Regional Airport to be Used for Airport Capital Projects and/or Airport Debt Service as Part of the 2027 Chippewa County Budget - Andy Albarado

Albarado explained the County has a contract with the airport to operate the facility. These funds will be used for capital projects.

This item was reviewed by the committee and will be forwarded to the County Board for review at the 06/09/2026 meeting.

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

8. Resolution to Authorize the Use of Sales Tax Funds for Facilities & Parks Division Capital Improvement Projects as Part of the 2027 Capital Improvement Plan - Andy Albarado/Scott Nabbefeld

This item was reviewed by the committee and will be forwarded to the County Board for review at the 06/09/2026 meeting.

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

9. Resolution to Authorize Funding of Highway Department Capital Improvement Projects as Part of the 2027 Chippewa County Budget - Andy Albarado/Chris Elstran

This item was reviewed by the committee and will be forwarded to the County Board for review at the 06/09/2026 meeting.

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

10. Resolution to Authorize Use of Sales Tax Funds for the IT Division for Computer Equipment Replacement as Part of the 2027 Capital Improvement Plan - Andy Albarado/Andy Bauer

This item was reviewed by the committee and will be forwarded to the County Board for review at the 06/09/2026 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:	

11. Resolution to Authorize the Use of Funding for Department of Land Conservation and Forest Management Capital Improvement Projects as Part of the 2027 Capital Improvement Plan - Andy Albarado/Lynda Schweikart

This item was reviewed by the committee and will be forwarded to the County Board for review at the 06/09/2026 meeting.

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

12. Resolution to Authorize the Use of Sales Tax Funds for Sheriff's Office Capital Improvement Projects as Part of the 2027 Capital Improvement Plan - Andy Albarado/Curt Dutton

This item was reviewed by the committee and will be forwarded to the County Board for review at the 06/09/2026 meeting.

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

13. Chippewa County Board of Supervisors Proposed Resolution for WCA Consideration

Resolution Seeking Authorization From the Wisconsin State Legislature for Wisconsin Counties to Adopt an Additional .5% Sales Tax For Road and Bridge Infrastructure — Chris Elstran / Andy Albarado

Albarado explained this resolution was reviewed by the Highway Committee last week and they support forwarding it to the County Board for consideration. This conversation has been happening in the Highway Committee for quite some time now. Chippewa County passed a similar resolution in 2020. Then with COVID and some other legislative things it fell on the wayside. There appears to be some interest again across the state to look at this. Passage of this resolution will not approve an increase, it will just support sending it to the WCA to start discussions with the legislature to review and consider the request. At this time there is no more legislative action in 2026 so it will be 2027 before this is even considered by the legislature. There are only a few options available to bring in extra funding; the wheel tax and the .5% sales tax. This additional funding will only be used for road and bridge maintenance. Some of the funding will go to the towns, villages and cities. The statute does not allow us to do this right now. The legislature would need to change the statute to allow counties the ability to consider this.

Bergeron commented the only way he could support this is if it required us to do a referendum which would allow the citizens to decide if this is a good idea or not. Albarado explained the County Board can decide to do a referendum if they want to. He didn't include that language in the resolution because he didn't want to take away our choice for local control. Roshell supports the requirement of this being a referendum.

This item was reviewed by the committee and will be forwarded to the County Board for review at the 06/09/2026 meeting.

Motion to Amend:	Add a new paragraph before line 47 which states "WHEREAS, Chippewa County views the most appropriate final approval of an additional 0.50% sales tax before implementation would be through a referendum vote taken by Chippewa County residents."
Result:	Passed (3 - 2)
Mover:	Joseph Roshell
Second:	Jason Bergeron
Ayes:	Jason Bergeron, Kari Ives, Joseph Roshell
Nayes:	Joel Seidlitz, Karen Lotts
Absent:	

Motion:	Forwarded to the County Board as Amended
Result:	Passed (3 - 2)
Mover:	Kari Ives
Second:	Joseph Roshell
Ayes:	Jason Bergeron, Kari Ives, Joseph Roshell
Nayes:	Joel Seidlitz, Karen Lotts
Absent:	

7. Updates, Announcements, and Correspondence

1. County Board Chair Report
2. County Administrator Operation Report

8. Agenda Items for Future Consideration

9. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at: 06:03 PM

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