



Winnebago County

The Wave of the Future

**JUDICIARY AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2026**

A. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Chairman Jim Wise at the Winnebago County Courthouse, 415 Jackson Street, Oshkosh.

Members Present: Chairman Jim Wise, Supervisor Kate Hancock-Cooke, Supervisor Conley Hanson, and Supervisor Jim Ponzer

Excused: Supervisor Bryan Stafford

Also Present: Corporation Counsel Mary Anne Mueller, County Executive Assistant Koby Schellenger; Paralegal Andrew Kasper; and County Clerk Julie Barthels

Via TEAMS: Attorney Evan Claditis and Attorney Chris Edwards

B. Public Comments

There were no public comments for this meeting.

C. Adopt Agenda

Motion by Supervisor Hanson, seconded by Supervisor Ponzer to adopt the agenda for the January 20, 2026, Judiciary and Public Safety Committee meeting.

Vote: CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.

D. Business Items

1. Authorize Winnebago County Entering into PFAS Litigation

Motion by Supervisor Hancock-Cooke, seconded by Supervisor Hanson to bring this resolution to authorize Winnebago County to enter into PFAS Litigation.

Vote: CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.

Corporation Counsel Mueller explained what this resolution entails. PFAS has long been manufactured as components for a Triple FFF (aqueous film forming foam) used to extinguish fires and is also found in Solid Waste sites. It was certified by the Federal Aviation Agency for use at airports. Companies that created this product should have known that there were dangerous chemicals in these products.

This is a risk-benefit analysis that the board is asked to take up. It is creating an opportunity to raise money to alleviate a problem. If PFAS is found, there could be money to aid in the cleanup of that area. Corporation Counsel Mueller spoke with Airport Director Schell. He noted that Brown County and the City of Eau Claire are already investigating this litigation option. A lawsuit has been filed by the State of Wisconsin regarding this. Winnebago County is not included in the lawsuit by the State. The State is using outside counsel for litigation. The committee had discussion regarding the settlement monies.

Motion by Supervisor Hancock-Cooke and seconded to Call the Question:

CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.

Motion by Supervisor Hancock-Cooke, seconded by Supervisor Hanson to authorize Winnebago County Entering into PFAS Litigation.

Vote: CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE. (4-0)

E. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting date will be held on February 2, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. in the Richard Meyer Community Resource Room of the Sheriff's Department, 4311 Jackson Street, Oshkosh.

F. Adjourn

Motion by Supervisor Hanson, seconded by Supervisor Ponzer to adjourn the January 20, 2026, Judiciary and Public Safety Committee meeting.

Vote: CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE. (4-0)

The meeting was adjourned at 5:23 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Julie A. Barthels

Winnebago County Clerk

The video portion of this meeting is available on the County website:

<https://winnebago.cowi.portal.civicclerk.com>