



Winnebago County

The Wave of the Future

**PERSONNEL & FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2026**

A. Call to Order

Chairman Cox called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

Members Present: 5 - Morris Cox, Steve Binder, Stephanie Holt, Don Nussbaum, George Bureau

Also Present at the Meeting:

Cassie Smith-Gregor, Chief Deputy Clerk

Tori Kinderman, Deputy Clerk

Jamie Rouch, Director of Administration

Paul Kaiser, Director of Finance

Mary Anne Mueller, Corporation Counsel

Stephanie Sauter, Paralegal for Corporation Counsel

B. Adopt Agenda

Motion by Supervisor Nussbaum, seconded by Supervisor Bureau, to adopt the agenda for today's meeting. CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.

C. Business Items

Action may be taken on any business items.

Supervisor Holt says she likes Option 1 of the recommended options for the Policy Recommendations for the Opportunity Fund and Excess Reserves. Supervisor Holt notes that she likes that this option aligns with national best practices, that it allows for immediate use of the funds, and that it can improve community impact.

Supervisor Nussbaum would have liked to have the County Executive's opinion on which option he prefers. Director Rouch informed the committee that the options were presented to the County Executive and notes that not tying up money is best governmental practice. Supervisor Cox disagrees with Supervisor Nussbaum and thinks setting policy should remain with the department head, the Personnel and Finance Committee, and the County Board.

Supervisor Bureau says that the aging infrastructure will use more and more of the operating budget in the coming years if it is not dealt with, but he likes the flexibility of Option 1.

Supervisor Cox says that he believes the Opportunity Fund conveys an impulsivity to spending and would like to see more stabilization in the funds. Director Rouch explains that the fund would be used to unforeseen opportunities that arise outside of budget, and reminds the committee that any spending would be presented to the Personnel and Finance Committee, along with the County Board.

Supervisor Binder hopes the Opportunity Fund is never rolled out because he believes the money should stay available to help county residents that need help now.

The committee has a consensus that Option 1 will be used as amended:

- Allow use of excess reserves immediately when General Fund exceeds 30%.*
- Focus on one-time uses (capital, technology upgrades, economic development).*
- Maintain Board approval and Finance Committee oversight.*
- Require an annual Opportunity Plan outlining ROI, projects, and community impact.*

Finance and Administration will draft the policy and Corporation Counsel will draft the resolution and both will be presented at the March meeting.

1. Discussion and Review of Fund Policy Endnotes

- Limitation of Fund Use**

- Timing of Utilization of Dollars in Fund
- Timing of Replenishment of Dollars in Fund

D. Next Meeting Date: Thursday, March 5, 2026, at 9:00 a.m.

The next meeting will take place on Thursday, March 5, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. in the Susan T. Ertmer Conference Room (Room 120) at the David W. Albrecht Administration Building.

1. Your items for the Personnel & Finance Committee meeting **AGENDA**, must be reviewed by Corporation Counsel at least two weeks before the meeting in March. Items are due by **February 19, 2026.**

E. Adjourn

Motion by Supervisor Holt, seconded by Supervisor Nussbaum, to adjourn. MOTION CARRIED 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 10:51 a.m.

Submitted by:

Tori Kinderman

Winnebago County Deputy Clerk

The video portion of this meeting is available on the County website: <https://winnebago.cowi.portal.civicclerk.com>

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