



**ADJOURNED SESSION
WINNEBAGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2026**

A. Call to Order

Chairman Thomas Egan called the meeting of the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors to order at 6:00 P.M. from the Winnebago County Courthouse, 415 Jackson Street, Oshkosh, Wisconsin and virtually by TEAMS.

B. Roll Call

The following Supervisors were present: 34 – Dowling, Laux, Ulbricht, Lutz, Holt, Reinke, Hancock-Cooke, Wise, Nussbaum, Stafford, Paterson, Gabert, Binder, Swan, Gilbertson, Mueller, Ponzer, Belville, Macho, Hinz, Zellmer, Pluchinsky, Buck, Powers, Hanson, Cox, Gustafson, Bureau, Farrey, Frassetto, Egan, O'Brien, Nelson and Miller; Excused: 2 – Halbur and Harrison.

C. Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

D. Invocation

The invocation was given by Supervisor Powers.

E. Adopt Agenda

Motion by Supervisor Farrey, seconded by Supervisor Cox, to adopt the agenda for tonight's meeting. CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.

F. Public Comments

Timothy Ernst, Oshkosh, voiced his thoughts and support regarding Resolution No. 225-012026: "Authorize Winnebago County Entering into PFAS Litigation", Resolution No. 226-012026: "Acceptance of a Wisconsin Partnership Program Grant for \$158,913 for the Winnebago County Public Health Department" and Resolution No. 227-012026: "Application and Acceptance of an EPA Brownfields Cleanup Grant for the American Fibers Site at 204 Railroad Street in Menasha". He also requested to have reports from both the County Executive and the Sheriff's Department detailing the Sheriff's Department's involvement in the Department of Homeland Security's 287(g) Program.

The following people spoke in support of Resolution No. 226-012026: "Acceptance of a Wisconsin Partnership Program Grant for \$158,913 for the Winnebago County Public Health Department":

- Jennifer Skolaski, Oshkosh*
- Ryan Rasmussen, Oshkosh*
- Christi DeChamps, Appleton*
- Heidi Thomas, Oshkosh*
- Sam Coleman, Oshkosh*
- Rev. Ellen Rasmussen, Oshkosh*
- Emily Eisenschink, Appleton*

Ty Johnston, owner of Johnston Pile Driving, a local marine contracting company working in the Winnebago Water System. He voiced his thoughts and concerns regarding the permitting issues regarding the maintenance of existing wet boathouses. The permitting issues need to be addressed as some of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) permits will expire in August 2026 and cannot be renewed. He came tonight to make the board aware of the situation and hopes to resolve this so that they can move forward with projects for their customers.

Supervisor Doug Nelson, Winneconne, clarified what Ty Johnston's concerns were and what they were asking for is exactly what Winnebago County did for the Sheriff's boathouse that was built a couple of years ago. They didn't enlarge the footprint. In reality, it may be a foot or two too narrow because they couldn't enlarge it. The gentlemen at the DNR that said a county permit is required is the same gentlemen that prevented several of the seawalls, the rock structures that Winnebago County wanted to do. Winnebago County put together a resolution, which was a unanimous vote, to tell Madison to let Winnebago County issue permits if they can't issue permits. This DNR gentleman is no longer in the Winnebago area, but somehow, he left some rules behind at the county level that say they can't do what the county did. Mr. Nelson wanted to clarify these points a little bit because he thinks they are very important moving forward.

G. Communications from the County Clerk

Julie Barthels, Winnebago County Clerk, presented the following communications:

The following Petitions for Zoning Amendments were referred to the Planning and Zoning Committee.

- *Petition for Zoning Amendment 001: Robert & Darlene Kairis; Town of Winneconne; Rezone from A-2 (General Agriculture District) to R-1 (Rural Residential District) for tax parcel no. 030-0139-02.*
- *Petition for Zoning Amendment 002: Gizmo Farm Properties LLC; Town of Nekimi; Rezone from A-2 (General Agriculture District) to R-1 (Rural Residential District) for tax parcel no. 012-0130.*

The following claim has been referred to the Personnel & Finance Committee.

- *Notice of Claim for Lyle and Sandra Forsgren, Tusler Law SC, and subroIQ for Damage to their Vehicle*

H. Reports from Committees, Commissions and Boards

Vice-Chairman Farrey informed the board that there is a Legislative Committee meeting scheduled for Monday, January 26, 2026, at 8:30 a.m. taking place at the James P. Coughlin Center.

Supervisor Binder wanted to recognize an employee from the UW Extension Office who received an award from the Governor's Office. The Reentry Ready Focus on Finances; University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension, Human Development & Relationships Institute has been selected by the Governor's Council on Financial Literacy and Capability to receive the Governor's Financial Literacy Award for 2025. This is a prestigious award recognizing outstanding efforts to promote financial literature capability across Wisconsin. The Reentry Ready program equips individuals with essential financial skills as they transition back into the communities, making a meaningful impact on living for their future. Mr. Binder congratulated Todd Wenzel, Human Development Relation Educator, for this incredible achievement and commitment to empowering Wisconsin residents. It is amazing all the work they put in to make our community a better place for us to live.

Supervisor Nelson wanted to let everyone know that last year the Highway Department had an employee that was injured by a snowplow truck, and his outcome was in question. He lives in Winneconne. Mr. Nelson bumped into him a couple of times in the last week or so and had a chance to talk to him. After 3–4 months in the hospital and countless surgeries, he just wanted to let everybody know he was doing extremely well.

Supervisor Hinz informed everyone that there would be a Facilities & Property Management Committee meeting on Tuesday, January 27, 2026, at 3:30 pm at the Maintenance Facility, 1221 Knapp Street, Oshkosh. They will be addressing an item that came through the Aviation committee regarding rates for the hangers at the airport. Mr. Hinz encouraged the board to attend, and if you can't attend, at least watch or listen to the meeting because they're going to have a lot of public input on this topic. Mr. Hinz also advised the board to go back and watch the Aviation Committee meeting on January 7, 2026, because this will more than likely be coming to the board to vote on. He encouraged the board to have all their information and if there are questions, to address them with Jim Schell, Airport Director, before the meeting, so they can hopefully avoid having the lengthy discussion that they've had in the past when this has come forward.

Supervisor Frassetto echoed what Supervisor Hinz talked about. Mr. Frassetto also mentioned that board members may want to go back to the December 3, 2025, Aviation Committee meeting as well. The combination of December and January meetings will give them the full context of what Supervisor Hinz spoke about.

I. County Executive's Report and Appointments

Gordon Hintz, County Executive, commented and provided updates on the following topics:

1. Retirements

Gordon Hintz, County Executive, reflected on the retirements they'll be recognizing tonight and what it means for an organization to support employees through decades of service. The 9 retiring employees collectively dedicated 259 years of service to Winnebago County. They're losing a lot of experience, institutional knowledge and commitment to public service. They'll need to keep working on evaluating compensation, paid time off and other benefits to support employee retention to create conditions that will lead to employees hired today retiring with decades of service to Winnebago County in the future. Our county workforce is the backbone of everything we do, and these retirements are a reminder of the value of experience, teamwork and the pride that comes with serving the public. Mr. Hintz thanked the retiring employees for their years of dedication and congratulated them on a well-earned next chapter.

2. CONNECT

3. Wisconsin Partnership Program Grant

Executive Hintz then took questions from the board.

County Executive Appointment

Gordon Hintz, County Executive, asked for the board's approval of the following appointment:

Winnebago County Housing Authority — Appointment of KristL Laux to a term expiring April 19, 2027.

Motion by Supervisor Cox, seconded by Supervisor Frassetto, to accept. CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.

J. County Board Chair's Report and Appointments

Chairman Egan reported that Supervisors Halbur and Harrison were excused from tonight's meeting.

Chairman Egan and Gordon Hintz have spoken together and have agreed they need to get another ARPA Strategy & Outcomes Commission meeting scheduled soon. The board approved Resolution 204-112025 Authorizing \$3,500,000 of the Accrued Interest Earned on Spirit Funds to partially fund a revolving loan program to expedite housing development in Winnebago County so they need to get moving on that.

K. Honoring Retiring County Employees

1. Resolution 213-012026: Commendation for Michelle Peters

WHEREAS, Michelle Peters has been employed with the Winnebago County Sheriff Department, for the past thirty-one years, and during that time has been a most conscientious and devoted County employee; and

WHEREAS, Michelle Peters has now retired from those duties, and it is appropriate for the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors to acknowledge her years of service.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors, that sincere appreciation and commendation is extended to Michelle Peters for the fine services she has rendered to Winnebago County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Clerk send a copy of this Resolution to Michelle Peters.

Submitted by:

PERSONNEL & FINANCE COMMITTEE

Motion by Supervisor Cox, seconded by Supervisor Holt to adopt.

2. Resolution 214-012026: Commendation for Patrick Arent

*WHEREAS, Patrick Arent has been employed with the Winnebago County Sheriff Department, for the past twenty-five years, and during that time has been a most conscientious and devoted County employee; and
WHEREAS, Patrick Arent has now retired from those duties, and it is appropriate for the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors to acknowledge his years of service.*

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors, that sincere appreciation and commendation is extended to Patrick Arent for the fine services he has rendered to Winnebago County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Clerk send a copy of this Resolution to Patrick Arent.

Submitted by:

PERSONNEL & FINANCE COMMITTEE

Motion by Supervisor Cox, seconded by Supervisor Holt to adopt.

3. Resolution 215-012026: Commendation for Todd Christie

WHEREAS, Todd Christie has been employed with the Winnebago County Sheriff Department, for the past twenty-nine years, and during that time has been a most conscientious and devoted County employee; and

WHEREAS, Todd Christie has now retired from those duties, and it is appropriate for the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors to acknowledge his years of service.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors, that sincere appreciation and commendation is extended to Todd Christie for the fine services he has rendered to Winnebago County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Clerk send a copy of this Resolution to Todd Christie.

Submitted by:

PERSONNEL & FINANCE COMMITTEE

Motion by Supervisor Cox, seconded by Supervisor Holt to adopt.

4. Resolution 216-012026: Commendation for Todd Christopherson

WHEREAS, Todd Christopherson has been employed with the Winnebago County Sheriff Department, for the past thirty-three years, and during that time has been a most conscientious and devoted County employee; and

WHEREAS, Todd Christopherson has now retired from those duties, and it is appropriate for the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors to acknowledge his years of service.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors, that sincere appreciation and commendation is extended to Todd Christopherson for the fine services he has rendered to Winnebago County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Clerk send a copy of this Resolution to Todd Christopherson.

Submitted by:

PERSONNEL & FINANCE COMMITTEE

Motion by Supervisor Cox, seconded by Supervisor Holt to adopt.

5. Resolution 217-012026: Commendation for Patti Dedecker

WHEREAS, Patti Dedecker has been employed with the Winnebago County Sheriff Department, for the past twenty-seven years, and during that time has been a most conscientious and devoted County employee; and

WHEREAS, Patti Dedecker has now retired from those duties, and it is appropriate for the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors to acknowledge her years of service.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors, that sincere appreciation and commendation is extended to Patti Dedecker for the fine services she has rendered to Winnebago County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Clerk send a copy of this Resolution to Patti Dedecker.

Submitted by:

PERSONNEL & FINANCE COMMITTEE

Motion by Supervisor Cox, seconded by Supervisor Holt to adopt.

6. Resolution 218-012026: Commendation for David Mack

WHEREAS, David Mack has been employed with the Winnebago County Sheriff Department, for the past thirty years, and during that time has been a most conscientious and devoted County employee; and

WHEREAS, David Mack has now retired from those duties, and it is appropriate for the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors to acknowledge his years of service.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors, that sincere appreciation and commendation is extended to David Mack for the fine services he has rendered to Winnebago County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Clerk send a copy of this Resolution to David Mack.

Submitted by:

PERSONNEL & FINANCE COMMITTEE

Motion by Supervisor Cox, seconded by Supervisor Holt to adopt.

7. Resolution 219-012026: Commendation for Diane Culver

WHEREAS, Diane Culver has been employed with the Winnebago County GIS System Department, for the past thirty-four years, and during that time has been a most conscientious and devoted County employee; and

WHEREAS, Diane Culver has now retired from those duties, and it is appropriate for the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors to acknowledge her years of service.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors, that sincere appreciation and commendation is extended to Diane Culver for the fine services she has rendered to Winnebago County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Clerk send a copy of this Resolution to Diane Culver.

Submitted by:

PERSONNEL & FINANCE COMMITTEE

Motion by Supervisor Cox, seconded by Supervisor Holt to adopt.

8. Resolution 220-012026: Commendation for Cheri Jones

WHEREAS, Cheri Jones has been employed with the Winnebago County Park View Health Center, for the past twenty-eight years, and during that time has been a most conscientious and devoted County employee; and WHEREAS, Cheri Jones has now retired from those duties, and it is appropriate for the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors to acknowledge her years of service.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors, that sincere appreciation and commendation is extended to Cheri Jones for the fine services she has rendered to Winnebago County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Clerk send a copy of this Resolution to Cheri Jones.

Submitted by:

PERSONNEL & FINANCE COMMITTEE

Motion by Supervisor Cox, seconded by Supervisor Holt to adopt.

9. Resolution 221-012026: Commendation for David Binner

WHEREAS, David Binner has been employed with the Winnebago County Parks Department, for the past twenty-two years, and during that time has been a most conscientious and devoted County employee; and

WHEREAS, David Binner has now retired from those duties, and it is appropriate for the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors to acknowledge his years of service.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors, that sincere appreciation and commendation is extended to David Binner for the fine services he has rendered to Winnebago County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Clerk send a copy of this Resolution to David Binner.

Submitted by:

PERSONNEL & FINANCE COMMITTEE

Motion by Supervisor Cox, seconded by Supervisor Holt to adopt.

Julie Barthels, Winnebago County Clerk, recognized Michelle Peters, Patrick Arent, Todd Christie, Todd Christopherson, Patti Dedecker, David Mack, Diane Culver, Cheri Jones and David Binner for their employment with Winnebago County.

Vote on Commendation Resolutions: CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.

L. Consent Calendar

Consent Calendar Items are those items which are voted on by the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors in a single roll call vote. Committees recommend approval of all items. Any Winnebago County Board of Supervisor may request an Item be removed from the Consent Calendar for discussion. Questions relating to items on the Consent Calendar do not require the item be removed from the Consent Calendar.

1. **Approval of Proceedings for December 16, 2025, Adjourned Session of the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors**
2. **Report 001 and Zoning Amendatory Ordinance 01/001/26: Benjamin E. Kossel; Town of Black Wolf; Rezone from A-2 (General Agriculture District) to R-1 (Rural Residential District) for tax parcel nos. 004-0538, 004-0545 & 004-0539**
3. **Zoning Amendatory Ordinance: 001/T001/26 - Kevin Skenandore, Town of Poygan, Rezone from R-1 (Rural Residential District) to A-2 (General Agriculture District) for tax parcel nos. 020-0468-01 & 020-0468-02.**
4. **Zoning Amendatory Ordinance: 001/T002/26 - Precision Property Group LLC, Town of Vinland, Rezone from B-1 (General Commercial District) to B-3 (General Business District) for tax parcel no. 026-0639-04.**
5. **Zoning Amendatory Ordinance: 001/T003/26 - Danny L. Buser Trust, Town of Winchester, Rezone from R-1 (Rural Residential District) to A-2 (General Agriculture) for tax parcel no. 028-0449-07 & 028-0449-05.**
6. **Resolution 222-012026: CY26 State County Child Support Contract for Winnebago County**
WHEREAS, the attached Inter-Governmental Agreement Contract ("Agreement") outlines funding available from the State of Wisconsin for Child Support attorney cost reimbursement; and
WHEREAS, Child Support Attorney fees are eligible for up to 66% reimbursement, as reported through quarterly billing statements; and
WHEREAS, the Agreement also addresses billing and payment terms, funding information for grants totaling \$1,584,048, Winnebago County's insurance responsibility, confidentiality requirements, records access and retention, IT security measures, accounting requirements, auditing requirements, dispute resolution, State and Federal nondiscrimination and civil rights requirements; and
WHEREAS, the Agreement also outlines Winnebago County's general requirements for the Child Support program and performance monitoring; and
WHEREAS, historically, the Agreement has been signed every year by Winnebago County.
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors that it hereby approves entering into the Inter-Governmental Agreement Contract with the State of Wisconsin for the purposes of funding for the Child Support Program.

Submitted by:

JUDICIARY & PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

7. Resolution 223-012026: Application and Acceptance of the State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program into the 2026 Adopted County Budget Operating Expense Category of the Information Technology Department

WHEREAS, Winnebago County must comply with Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) mandates and cybersecurity insurance policy requirements. Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) is a necessity to meet the requirements outlined by these laws and insurance companies. Those requirements are becoming more stringent, and it is important for our organization to stay current with the requirements; and
WHEREAS, on November 18, 2025, Wisconsin Emergency Management (WEM) and the Department of Administration's Division of Enterprise Technology (DET) announced the opening of the State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program (SLCGP) application period; and
WHEREAS, the SLCGP will give Winnebago County the opportunity to maintain our cybersecurity resilience through license renewal of our MFA strategy for all users; and
WHEREAS, in 2024, through Resolution 029-072024, Winnebago applied for the first cycle of funding and was awarded almost \$75,000. The second cycle is now open and has a cost share requirement of 0% and an application deadline of January 30, 2026. The three subsequent funding cycles will have increasing cost share requirements (20%, 30%, 40%). Cycle 1 recipients are allowed to apply for Cycle 2 to cover the same eligible expenses. For these reasons, it is imperative to apply during this funding cycle to lessen the expense to our taxpayers; and
WHEREAS, this is a project that IT intended to complete within the operating budget; therefore, it will be a cost savings if Winnebago County receives the grant.
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors that it hereby approves the application and acceptance of the State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program into the 2026 Adopted County Budget Operating Expense Category of the Information Technology Department.

Submitted by:

PERSONNEL & FINANCE COMMITTEE

8. Resolution 224-012026: Departmental Realignment of CONNECT Program from the Winnebago County Department of Human Services to the District Attorney's Office

WHEREAS, the mission statement of the CONNECT Program is to bridge gaps and foster connections, ensuring every resident of Winnebago County has access to essential resources for substance use, mental health, housing and any other area they may need assistance in and empowering individuals in and out of the justice system to thrive and give back to their community; and
WHEREAS, the positions to be transferred to the Winnebago County District Attorney's Office from the Department of Human Services include three (3) case managers, one (1) Drug Court Coordinator, and one (1) Administrative Associate; and
WHEREAS, these five positions will be responsible for programs including Drug Court, 24/7 Alcohol, 24/7 Drug Free, Mental Health Court, Teen Court, and the program formerly known as DHS Diversion; and
WHEREAS, the transfer of these positions to the District Attorney's Office will ensure the efficient oversight of the above listed programs to better serve Winnebago County; and
WHEREAS, all funding associated with the costs of the five employment positions will increase the District Attorney's budget and decrease the Human Services budget for a net-zero change; and
WHEREAS, the District Attorney's office currently has a Special Programs Coordinator position that will be eliminated to create a supervisory position. This results in a net-zero position change in the Table of Organization and a net-zero financial impact.
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors that it approves the transfer of five (5) positions from the Winnebago County Department of Human Services to the Winnebago County District Attorney's Office Table of Organization and the associated program expenses and revenues.

Submitted by:

HUMAN SERVICES BOARD

JUDICIARY & PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

PERSONNEL & FINANCE COMMITTEE

Motion by Supervisor Cox, seconded by Supervisor Reinke to adopt the consent calendar.

VOTE ON CONSENT CALENDAR: CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.

M. Business Items, Resolutions, and Ordinances

1. Resolution 225-012026: Authorize Winnebago County Entering into PFAS Litigation

WHEREAS, Winnebago County ("the County") may be presently contaminated with highly toxic compounds identified as per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances ("PFAS"), including perfluorooctanoic acid ("PFOA") and perfluorooctane sulfonate ("PFOS"); and WHEREAS, PFOA and PFOS have long been manufactured as components for aqueous film-forming foam ("AFFF"), which is a product used to control and extinguish aviation, marine, fuel, and other shallow spill fires by coating the ignited fuel source, preventing its contact with oxygen and thereby suppressing combustion; and WHEREAS, AFFF may have been stored, handled and used on County property, allowing PFAS compounds to migrate into the environment, contaminating soil, groundwater and surface water; and

WHEREAS, throughout the 1960s to the present time, certain companies designed, manufactured, formulated, marketed, promoted, distributed Fluorosurfactant Products (i.e. PFOA, PFOS, the chemical precursors of PFOA and/or PFOS, and/or AFFF containing PFOA, PFOS, and/or their chemical precursors) throughout the United States; and WHEREAS, the subject companies knew or reasonably should have known the risks and dangers associated with the use of Fluorosurfactant Products, including the fact that PFAS compounds contained in Fluorosurfactant Products are mobile in water, not easily biodegradable, highly persistent in the environment and present significant and unreasonable risks to human health and the environment; and

WHEREAS, the subject companies knowingly placed Fluorosurfactant Products like AFFF into the United States stream of commerce for decades, while concealing their knowledge of the toxic nature and harmful effects associated with these products; and

WHEREAS, the use of AFFF for fire protection, training and response activities, released PFAS compounds into the environment, even when used as directed by the manufacturer; and

WHEREAS, by the 1970s, the subject companies knew or reasonably should have known that PFOA and PFOS were highly toxic compounds that resisted natural degradation, and that would migrate through the subsurface when sprayed, easily mixing with the groundwater; and WHEREAS, the subject companies continued to manufacture, distribute and sell AFFF with the knowledge that AFFF could be made without PFOA or PFOS, and that such fluorine-free foams would not release harmful PFOA or PFOS into the environment; and

WHEREAS, PFOA and PFOS are known carcinogens that can be absorbed into the lungs and gastrointestinal tract, potentially causing severe damage to the liver, kidneys and central nervous system, as well as genetic damage; and

WHEREAS, by the early 1980s the industry noticed a correlation between PFOA exposure and human health, including birth defects in children; and WHEREAS, despite knowing the dangers and risks, the subject companies designed, manufactured, marketed and sold AFFF with instructions on how to dispose of AFFF by washing the foam into the soil and wastewater system; and

WHEREAS, the subject companies failed to warn users of AFFF of the dangers inherent in its use, and failed to issue warnings or recalls of AFFF despite knowing the identity of its purchasers; and

WHEREAS, the County is the owner, operator, and actual possessor of real property and improvements – including the Wittman Regional Airport [County Airport], adjacent property and other properties. A number of PFAS compounds, including PFOA and PFOS, may be detected in groundwater and/or soil samples. Testing will determine if PFOA and PFOS are detected in ground water and/or soil samples in and around the County airport and other County properties; and

WHEREAS, the invasion of the County with PFOA and PFOS is continuous and recurring as new contamination flows into the soil and water daily; and WHEREAS, should contamination be detected, the County seeks to recover damages arising from the continuous and ongoing contamination of its property by Fluorosurfactant Products, including the past and future costs associated with the investigation, monitoring, remediation and restoration of the County; and

*WHEREAS, the County provides a multitude of programs and services to its citizens, taxpayers, residents and visitors, and the resources that the County directs toward PFAS remediation cannot be used for other essential programs and services; and
WHEREAS, the County is aware that other counties and local governments have filed lawsuits against the responsible companies to force those companies to assume financial responsibility for the costs that otherwise must be borne by the governments and their citizens; and*

WHEREAS, it is prudent for the County to explore every option available to recover damages and avoid the necessary expenditure of potentially millions of dollars in unexpected and unbudgeted resources related to PFAS remediation; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors that:

1. The County engages outside counsel according to the terms and conditions set forth in the proposed engagement letter, a copy of which has been provided to the County Board at the time of the meeting adopting this Resolution, and authorizes the Winnebago County Executive and Winnebago County Clerk to execute the engagement letter on behalf of the County.

2. As set forth in the engagement letter, (a) outside counsel will not be compensated unless the County receives a financial benefit as a result of the proposed claims; and (b) outside counsel is authorized to file a lawsuit on behalf of the County against any company that designed, manufactured, marketed, distributed, and/or sold Fluorosurfactant Products that contributed to the PFAS contamination within the County whether now known or discovered after the date of this Resolution.

3. Outside counsel shall proceed with the litigation effort under direction of the Winnebago County Executive and shall keep the County reasonably apprised as to the status of the litigation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that County officials and employees are hereby directed to provide support to outside counsel in the litigation effort.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all actions taken by the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors and other appropriate public officers and agents of the County with respect to the matters contemplated under this Resolution are hereby ratified, confirmed and approved.

Submitted by:

JUDICIARY & PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Motion by Supervisor Wise, seconded by Supervisor Stafford to adopt.

CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.

2. Resolution 226-012026: Acceptance of a Wisconsin Partnership Program Grant for \$158,913 for the Winnebago County Public Health Department

*WHEREAS, the Winnebago County Public Health Department was awarded a \$500,000 Community Impact Grant from the Wisconsin Partnership Program to fund a three-year pilot project which addresses and prevents childhood trauma in Winnebago County; and
WHEREAS, the initiative's primary goals are to improve economic stability for families, reduce childhood trauma, increase school attendance and strengthen academic and social outcomes for students most impacted by systemic inequities; and*

WHEREAS, lower income households have higher rates of adverse childhood experiences, lower social outcomes, and experience higher chronic stressors that harm health and the ability to learn; and

WHEREAS, our schools are burdened with addressing the non-educational components of students experiencing economic and social inequities; and

WHEREAS, the Winnebago County Health Department will partner with the Oshkosh Area School District and the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh Whitburn Center for Governance and Policy Research to implement the three-year pilot project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors that it hereby accepts a \$158,913 Wisconsin Partnership Program Grant and amends the 2026 Winnebago County Public Health department budget.

Submitted by:

BOARD OF HEALTH

PERSONNEL & FINANCE COMMITTEE

Motion by Supervisor Hancock-Cooke, seconded by Supervisor Reinke to adopt.

Motion by Supervisor Ponzer, seconded by Supervisor Gilbertson to call the question.

Vote on call the question. CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.

Vote on resolution. AYES: 24; NAYES: 9 – Lutz, Nussbaum, Paterson, Hanson, Gustafson, Bureau, Frassetto, O'Brien and Miller; ABSTAIN: 1 – Farrey; EXCUSED: 2 – Halbur and Harrison. MOTION PASSED.

3. Resolution 227-012026: Application and Acceptance of an EPA Brownfields Cleanup Grant for the American Fibers Site at 204 Railroad Street in Menasha

WHEREAS, Winnebago County is the owner of the former American Fibers industrial property located at 204 Railroad Street in the City of Menasha, Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, the property meets the federal definition of a brownfield site due to the presence of hazardous substances that complicate reuse and redevelopment; and

WHEREAS, Winnebago County acquired the property through involuntary means and holds it under a Local Government Unit (LGU) liability exemption, as confirmed by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR); and

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources is the lead regulatory authority overseeing environmental investigation and remediation activities at the site, and has indicated that progress on comprehensive on-site cleanup is constrained by limited state funding; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) administers the Brownfields Cleanup Grant Program, which was established to provide federal funding to eligible local governments to carry out remediation activities at brownfield sites they own; and

WHEREAS, the FY26 EPA Brownfields Cleanup Grant program allows eligible applicants to request up to \$4,000,000 per site for cleanup activities, with no local cost-share requirement under the current funding round; and

WHEREAS, applying for this grant would allow Winnebago County to leverage federal funds to accelerate cleanup of a County-owned property, reduce environmental risk, and improve the potential for future productive reuse, without increasing County liability; and

WHEREAS, in order to pursue this funding opportunity, it is necessary for the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors to authorize the application for (before the January 28, 2026 application deadline) and acceptance of the grant, if awarded;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors that it hereby authorizes the Winnebago County Finance Department, in coordination with other appropriate departments, to apply for the FY26 EPA Brownfields Cleanup Grant for the American Fibers site located at 204 Railroad Street, Menasha, Wisconsin, requesting up to \$4,000,000 in federal funding; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors authorizes the application and acceptance of an EPA Brownfields Cleanup Grant for the American Fibers Site at 204 Railroad Street in Menasha, and execution of all required grant agreements, certifications, and related documents necessary to carry out the grant-funded activities; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this authorization does not obligate the County to provide local matching funds and does not alter the County's existing liability protections under state or federal law.

Submitted by:

Personnel & Finance Committee

Motion by Supervisor Cox, seconded by Supervisor Dowling to adopt. CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.

N. Adjourn

Motion by Supervisor Farrey, seconded by Supervisor Holt, to adjourn until the February 24, 2026, Adjourned Session of the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors. CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE. The meeting was adjourned at 7:39 p.m.

Submitted by:

Cassie J. Smith-Gregor

Winnebago County Chief Deputy Clerk

State of Wisconsin) County of Winnebago) ss

I, Cassie J. Smith-Gregor do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the Journal of the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors for their Business Meeting held January 20, 2026.

*Cassie J. Smith-Gregor
Winnebago County Chief Deputy Clerk*

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