



Winnebago County

The Wave of the Future

AMENDED

**AD-HOC TASK FORCE ON THE WRITTEN RULES OF THE 2024-2026 WINNEBAGO COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, JANUARY 9, 2025**

A. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Hanson at 4:30 p.m. in the Susan T. Ertmer Conference room at 112 Otter Avenue, Oshkosh.

Roll Call: Chairman Conley Hanson, Supervisor Tom Swan, Supervisor Ralph Harrison, Supervisor Morris Cox, and Supervisor Rachael Dowling.

Also Present: County Board Vice-Chairman Chuck Farrey, Supervisor Jim Wise, Corporation Counsel Mary Anne Mueller, Public Policy Paralegal Rhys Phillips and County Clerk Julie Barthels.

B. Public Comments

Supervisor Chuck Farrey requested to introduce two items to the committee.

- 1. He feels that it is prudent and necessary to amend Rule 7.1 regarding the handling of resolutions and ordinances. He would like to see this rule offer more clarity.*
- 2. Rule 9.12 regarding the Veto authority of the County Executive. This item was not on the agenda for this meeting. He will bring it back to another meeting.*

Supervisor Ralph Harrison, District 31 - Apologized for not making it to the last meeting. He feels some of the meetings have got out of control, that members were using people's names, and calling people names. Everyone will not agree all the time, but there shouldn't be fighting amongst members of the committee, and everyone should listen to the Chairman.

C. Adopt Agenda

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

D. Approval of Minutes

Thank you to Rhys Phillips for working diligently on the minutes for the past five meetings.

Supervisor Swan questioned what was noted on Rule 3.8 as far as the required vote.

Motion by Supervisor Hanson, seconded by Supervisor Dowling to approve all minutes for August thru November. CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE. (5-0)

- 1. August 26, 2024 Meeting Minutes*
- 2. September 10, 2024 Meeting Minutes*
- 3. September 26, 2024 Meeting Minutes*
- 4. October 24, 2024 Meeting Minutes*
- 5. November 14, 2024 Meeting Minutes*

E. Comments from the Chair

- 1. Excused Members*

Chairman Hanson thanked Supervisor Harrison for the comments regarding committee meetings.

Excused Members - Supervisor Powers and Supervisor Halbur.

Supervisor Cox noted he didn't appreciate the conflict of having multiple county related meetings on one day

F. Business Items

Action may be taken on any business items.

1. Discussion on Other County Board Rules and those presented in the Wisconsin Counties Association (WCA) presentation webinars in October and November.

Chairman Hanson noted that there is different wording amongst many counties. He feels that Winnebago County is more defined than other counties.

Corporation Counsel Mary Anne Mueller noted that Attorney Andy Phillips, from Attolles Law, would be willing to come and help us compare rules that he has proposed for the Wisconsin Counties Association to our rules.

Supervisor Swan noted that he would support any advice Attorney Phillips can provide.

Supervisor Dowling requested that Attorney Phillips record a presentation and then the supervisors could forward questions to him.

2. Discussion/Action: County Board Rules Section 7 - Handling of Resolutions and Ordinances
Chairman Hanson recognized Supervisor Farrey to speak on Rule 7.1 - the Handling of Resolutions and Ordinances. Supervisor Farrey feels that some language was omitted from a resolution that was submitted by a Supervisor, between the time it was approved by the Supervisor to the time of presentation to the County Board. To correct this for the future, in his opinion, when a Supervisor submits a resolution, that Supervisor is the owner of that document, then it is submitted to Corporation Counsel to create a legally formatted document/resolution.

Proposed changes to Rule 7.1 will read as follows: "Every resolution shall be prepared in block form and shall be as concise as possible and shall have attached to it the name of the Committee, Commission or Board and/or the name(s) of the Supervisor(s) introducing it. A supervisor introducing a resolution on their own is the author/sponsor. The wording shall not be changed without the author/sponsor's written approval. All resolutions or ordinances to be considered by the County Board shall be prepared and presented with a brief background statement, rationale of why the board should consider actions, finance and/or resources impact. The committee agreed with this change.

Chairman Hanson presented a change for Rule 7.4 - He suggested to strike "if requested by a Supervisor". Supervisor Dowling requested it to be "Any motion or amendment must be written down if a Supervisor asks." Supervisor Swan and Supervisor Cox disagreed. After discussion, Chairman Hanson agreed to leave Rules 7.4 as it is currently written.

3. Discussion/Action: County Board Rules Section 8 - Written Agenda
Chairman Hanson asked for any proposed changes for Section 8. Supervisor Dowling requested to have the title of Rule 8.0 read as follows: "Written Agenda of the County Board".
Supervisor Dowling presented Rule 8.1. She would like to add - "The County Board Chair is responsible for the overall direction and approval of the agenda, the County Clerk for compiling and organizing the agenda items, and the Corporation Counsel for legal review."
The committee agreed with this change.
Discussion was held regarding Rule 8.11. The current amount listed is \$50,000, Chairman Hanson would like to lower the amount to \$30,000.
Motion by Supervisor Hanson, seconded by Supervisor Swan to lower the amount to \$30,000.00. After further discussion the motion was withdrawn.

4. Discussion/Action: County Board Rules Section 10 - Privilege of Speaking
Chairman Hanson asked for any proposed changes for Section 10 regarding the privilege of speaking.
Supervisor Dowling proposed the following change to Rule 10.2: Each member is allowed to speak for up to 2 minutes per turn, and no more than twice on the same item, for a total of 4 minutes. The author or sponsor of a resolution may speak for up to 3 minutes during their first turn to introduce, present, or explain evidence for their position. Members may exceed these limits only to answer questions posed by the Chair or from the floor. The Chair must enforce these limits if a violation is brought to their attention. The committee agreed with this change.

Supervisor Swan proposed the following change to Rule 10.3 - Presentations by Directors and Department Heads. Motion by Supervisor Swan to delete "Questions and Answers shall adhere to the time limits set forth in Rule 10.2."

Discussion was held regarding if the speaker is allowed a full 2 minutes to speak, or if the clock should be stopped while the presenter is answering questions, etc. The committee agreed with this change.

Supervisor Swan requested to create Rule 10.4: A supervisor may yield their allotted time to another supervisor under Rule 10.2 and under Rule 10.3. The committee agreed with this change.

G. Next Meeting Date

Section 9 will be included on the next agenda.

The next meeting will be held on January 23, 2025 in the Susan T. Ertmer room at 4:30 p.m.

The meeting after that will be held on Thursday, February 13, 2025 in the Susan T. Ertmer room at 4:30 p.m.

H. Adjourn

Motion by Supervisor Dowling, seconded by Supervisor Cox to adjourn this meeting. CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:33 p.m.

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

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