



**COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2025**

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: 30 – Dowling (via TEAMS), Laux, Ulbricht, Lutz, Holt, Reinke, Wise, Nussbaum, Stafford (via TEAMS), Paterson, Binder, Swan, Mueller, Ponzer, Belville, Macho, Hinz, Zellmer, Schellenger, Buck, Hanson, Cox, Bureau, Farrey, Harrison, Frassetto, Egan, O'Brien, Nelson and Miller; Excused: 6 - Hancock-Cooke, Gabert, Gilbertson, Halbur, Powers and Gustafson

C. Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

D. Invocation

Invocation by Supervisor Tim Paterson.

E. Adopt Agenda

Chairman Egan announced that he was pulling Item I 1 - "Amend 3.03 of the Winnebago County General Code Regarding Administration and Management of Tax Deeded Lands" from this evening's agenda.

Motion by Supervisor Farrey, seconded by Supervisor Cox to adopt the agenda with the removal of item I 1. CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.

F. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

G. Reports from Committees, Commissions and Boards

Supervisor Swan noted that there will be a meeting for the UW Oshkosh Fox Cities Campus Board of Trustees on January 27, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. at 1478 Midway Road, Menasha.

Supervisor Cox addressed the board regarding the tardiness of packets getting to Supervisors for meetings. He considered cancelling the Personnel and Finance Committee meeting because of the tardiness of the packet.

H. Excused County Board Supervisors

Chairman Egan reported that the following Supervisors are excused from tonight's meeting: Supervisors Hancock-Cooke, Gabert, Gilbertson, Halbur, Powers and Gustafson.

I. Business Items, Resolutions, and Ordinances

**1. Amend 3.03 of the Winnebago County General Code Regarding
Administration and Management of Tax Deeded Lands**

This item was pulled from the agenda.

J. Neighborhood Investment Fund Grant Presentations

1. Solutions Recovery - Megan Edwards, Executive Director

Megan Edwards, Executive Director of Solutions Recovery, presented the happenings at Solutions Recovery.

Solutions Recovery is part of the neighborhood grant program. Solutions Recovery empowers recovery and wellness for our community. They focus on three programs: Sober Living, Recovery Center and Peer Support Services. Solutions Recovery received \$1.5 million in funding to expand housing and renovate the recovery center. Ms. Edwards provided pictures showing the expansion and remodeling of the Center.

Other additions that were not included with the pictures were:

- 1. Two office spaces*
- 2. Dedicated conference rooms*
- 3. Two bathrooms*
- 4. Storage*

Upon graduation, they have had excellent results. 100% of the graduates reported being confident in maintaining sobriety; 100% reported learning life-long recovery tools and 90.2% of graduates are sober today!

Director Edwards then took questions from the board.

2. Oshkosh Kids Foundation - Will Deppiesse, Board Chairman

Will Deppiesse, Board Chairman for Oshkosh Kids Foundation, thanked the board for allowing them to be able to be a part of this project to build the tiny house village.

The mission of the Oshkosh Kids Foundation is to provide crisis intervention to children and their families; assist with affordable housing; provide strategic aid; and connect to partner resources for education, employment, transportation and basic needs.

Mr. Deppiesse reported on why they do what they do:

- how many and where students are on free or reduced lunch;*
- the poverty rate for the Oshkosh Area School District is 43%;*
- Oshkosh had the highest number of recorded homeless people in February 2022;*
and
- Oshkosh was identified as the city with the fastest increase of extreme poverty for the last seven years.*

Mr. Deppiesse provided an aerial shot of the Tiny House Village and photos of the insides of the units. They started construction in September 2022. Currently there are 32 units on site. The units can serve families of 2-4 members per unit. Some of the families use rental assistance. After employed, the families repay the rent. Two case managers are employed at the Tiny House Village. They have a community center that provides space for family meals, and support.

Chairman Deppiesse then took questions from the board.

3. Habitat for Humanity - Tom Simon, Executive Director

Tom Simon, Habitat for Humanity Director, thanked the board of supervisors and extended a thank you to Lindsey Erickson for writing the grant for this project. More than 29 million people worldwide have been helped to get housing, and over 50 million people have volunteered to help with the building of homes for Habitat. Habitat for Humanity has added \$11 million of real estate value to this county.

Mr. Simon explained what Habitat for Humanity's mission is and noted what the grant money has been used for. For new construction, they have built eight new homes. He provided pictures of some of the families that have been helped, explained where they came from and how Habitat has helped them survive. Habitat for Humanity has acquired a subdivision in Omro and will be building four new homes in this subdivision soon. Future Plans for Habitat for Humanity is to try to obtain the Washington School building to be able to change it into 18 homes.

Director Simon then took questions from the board.

4. Homelessness, Eviction, and Loss Prevention (HELP) Program - Beth Roberts, Long Term Support Division Manager

Beth Roberts, Long Term Support Division Manager for Human Services, touched on the HELP Program. The HELP program is a program that is designed to increase stability in housing in our county. They have made collaborative efforts to get partners together that haven't worked together before. This program has allowed people in need of help to be able to go to one spot instead of being pushed through many doors with no help. Ms. Roberts touched on numbers of how many individuals that have been served. The past year they have been in contact with 1,911 people that have required help. Case management is the key to get people stable housing. They also provide post case management assistance. The highest request from those in need is for financial assistance.

Future plans for HELP: Currently using carryover funds from the grant, Medicaid Waiver Programs, Home ARP Support Services Grant, and Private donations that have helped to assist with housing expenses in the last six months that served 70 households.

Ms. Roberts said how grateful she is for all the support for this program. She then took questions from the board.

K. Presentations from Departments

1. Presentation on the Transfer of the Tri-County Ice Arena to Appleton Ice, Inc.

Ethan Hollenberger, County Executive Assistant, and Mike Elder, Director of Facilities and Property Management gave a presentation on the Tri-County Ice Arena to transfer ownership to Appleton Ice, Inc. In 1974, the ice arena was built. Four years later, Winnebago and Outagamie Counties purchased the property. In 2012, Winnebago County obtained full ownership for \$1.00. Appleton Ice needs ownership to obtain loans and funding to rehabilitate the building. The current offer to Appleton Ice from Winnebago County is to secure funding and complete planned capital campaign. Discussion was held regarding the maintenance of the building. Appleton Ice has until 2027 to raise the funds.

Mr. Hollenberger and Mr. Elder then took questions from the board.

2. Timeline for Completion of the Facilities Master Plan

Director Mike Elder touched on the completion of the Facilities Master Plan. A facilities master plan is a long-term strategic document that outlines the future development and how the buildings will be used and what the County's needs will be. This project was started in the summer of 2024. The county maintains 143 buildings.

Benefits of a Facilities Master Plan:

- 1. Improved resource management*
- 2. Enhanced functionality and strategic alignment*
- 3. Reduced costs both short and long term*
- 4. Improved constituent and staff experience*

Project Update:

- 1. Three firms responded with bids to complete the study.*
- 2. November 2024 - Facilities met with Venture Architects and went over findings. They met with Department Heads and Staff.*
- 3. January 2025 - A meeting was held with architects to discuss their findings.*
- 4. In two weeks, Facilities and Venture Architects will meet with Department heads.*
- 5. In February, Venture Architects will take all information back and work with Facilities to come up with options.*
- 6. In March, Venture Architects will get feedback from committee on how to proceed.*
- 7. In April, Venture Architects will take information and refine it and find definite solutions.*
- 8. In May, this will be presented to the County Board, and they will show these options on the County Board tour.*
- 9. In June, Facilities will start pursuing some of the options presented.*

Mr. Elder then took questions from the board.

3. Presentation of a Capital Improvement Project for the Construction of a New Airport T-Hangar Facility

Jim Schell, Airport Director, gave a presentation for the construction of a new airport T-Hangar project. In 2022, the board approved a \$3 million construction project for new hangar facilities. The Airport built 20 new hangar units with this project money. The Airport would like to construct another 9 T-hangar facility unit in 2025. Included with this project they would like to construct associated apron and taxi lane that would service the new T-hangars. They would also like to replace a 70 plus year water main that feeds the entire east side of the airport.

Project funding that would be needed is \$2,755,000. Of that amount, 84% would be grant funding, 16% would be requested from the county by utilizing ARPA funding. Mr. Schell justified constructing this project by noting that they have an 80 plus waiting list for people interested in renting these hangars. It would generate an additional long term revenue stream. If this project is not started soon, there is a possibility of losing \$620,000 in grant money. The total project has roughly been a 50-50 split between grant money and county money.

Director Schell then took questions from the board.

4. Update on the Closure of the UWO - Fox Cities Campus

Jon Doemel, Winnebago County Executive, and Tom Nelson, Outagamie County Executive, presented the update on the closure of the UWO-Fox Cities Campus.

UWO-Fox Cities Trustees is responsible for closing out the agreement with UWO and the current use of the facilities. UW Extension, Education & Agriculture Committee is the liaison and then the Facilities and Property Management Committee will decide what we do with the buildings after the agreement is closed out.

Major issues: how to close out education, how to close out intergovernmental agreements and what happens to the property.

Key Assets: Barlow Planetarium, Weis Earth Science Museum, the Community Arts Center and the Child Care Center.

Executive Doemel explained what has been done to this point. It will cost roughly \$800,000 a year per county if nothing is done.

At this point a motion was entertained by Supervisor Farrey, seconded by Supervisor Ulbricht to convene into closed session for discussion of the closure of the UWO-Fox Cities Campus.

Vote to convene into Closed Session: AYES: 28; NAYS: 0; ABSTAIN: 0. PASSED.

Roll Call: The following Supervisors were present: 28 – Laux, Ulbricht, Lutz, Holt, Reinke, Wise, Nussbaum, Paterson, Binder, Swan, Mueller, Ponzer, Belville, Macho, Hinz, Zellmer, Schellenger, Buck, Hanson, Cox, Bureau, Farrey, Harrison, Frassetto, Egan, O'Brien, Nelson and Miller; Excused: 8 - Dowling, Hancock-Cooke, Stafford, Gabert, Gilbertson, Halbur, Powers and Gustafson.

L. Closed Session

The County Board Chair will entertain a motion to convene the County Board of Supervisors into closed session for discussion on the Closure of the UWO - Fox Cities Campus under Wisconsin State Statute 19.85(1)(e) Deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session. No action will be taken on this item after closed session.

The County Board convened into closed session to discuss the closure of the UWO-Fox Cities Campus.

After discussion, motion by Supervisor Nussbaum, seconded by Supervisor Hinz to reconvene to open session.

Vote to Reconvene: AYES: 28; NAYS: 0; ABSTAIN: 0. PASSED.

The following Supervisors were present: 28 – Laux, Ulbricht, Lutz, Holt, Reinke, Wise, Nussbaum, Paterson, Binder, Swan, Mueller, Ponzer, Belville, Macho, Hinz, Zellmer, Schellenger, Buck, Hanson, Cox, Bureau, Farrey, Harrison, Frassetto, Egan, O'Brien, Nelson and Miller; Excused: 8 – Dowling, Hancock-Cooke, Stafford, Gabert, Gilbertson, Halbur, Powers and Gustafson.

M. Adjourn

Motion by Supervisor Farrey, seconded by Supervisor Lutz to adjourn until the January 21, 2025, adjourned session of the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

Submitted by:

Julie A. Barthels

Winnebago County Clerk

State of Wisconsin) County of Winnebago) ss

I, Julie A. Barthels do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the Journal of the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors for their Special Orders Session held January 7, 2025.

Julie A. Barthels

Winnebago County Clerk

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

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