



**COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, MARCH 18, 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: 34 – Dowling, Laux, Ulbricht, Lutz, Holt, Reinke, Hancock- Cooke, Wise, Nussbaum, Stafford, Paterson, Binder, Swan, Gilbertson, Mueller, Halbur (arrived at 6:33 pm), Ponzer, Belville, Macho, Hinz, Zellmer, Schellenger, Buck, Powers, Hanson, Cox, Bureau, Farrey, Harrison, Frassetto, Egan, O'Brien, Nelson and Miller; Excused: 1 – Gabert; Absent: 1 – Gustafson.

C. Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

D. Invocation

Invocation by Supervisor Karen Powers

E. Adopt Agenda

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

F. Public Comments

Kate Hancock-Cooke, Neenah resident and County Board Supervisor, District 7, wished everyone a Happy Women's History Month. Ms. Hancock- Cooke expressed her wishes to use titles for County Board of Supervisors, Department Heads, and staff so that the formality of proceedings is consistent.

G. Communications from the County Clerk

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

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

- *Notice of Claim from Samuel Eggleston*

The following Resolution from an Other County was referred to the Legislative Committee.

- *LaCrosse County – Resolution No. 44-2/25: Advocating for Expanded Inpatient Behavioral Health Facilities in Western Wisconsin*

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

- *Petition for Zoning Amendment 001: DNB Construction Inc., Town of Algoma, Rezone from R-1 (Rural Residential District) to R-3 (Two-Family Residential District) for tax parcel no. 002-0041-02*
- *Petition for Zoning Amendment 002: Bruce Douglas, Town of Neenah, Rezone from R-2 (Suburban Residential District) to R-1 (Rural Residential District) for tax parcel no. 010-0501.*

H. Reports from Committees, Commissions and Boards

Vice-Chairman Farrey informed the board that there is a Legislative Committee meeting scheduled for Monday, March 24, 2025, at 8:30 a.m. at the James P. Coughlin Center.

Supervisor Hanson stated the Ad-Hoc Task Force on County Board Rules had their meeting on Thursday, March 13, 2025. Mr. Hanson thanked everyone for their feedback after the Judiciary &

Public Safety Committee meeting and the County Board Special Orders Session. He encouraged the board members to continue to reach out to him if they see something they would like changed, possibly submitted or amended. The next meeting will take place on Thursday, March 27, 2025, at 4:30 p.m. at the David W. Albrecht Administration Building in the Susan T. Ertmer Conference Room 120. There will be a brief discussion at the Judiciary & Public Safety Committee meeting in April.

Supervisor Binder attended the NACo Convention and reported that there was a lot of uncertainty, cutting programs like Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Medicaid, and Tax Free Municipal Bonds. Mr. Binder stated they talked to 5 different congressmen and 2 representatives for the senators who all said they don't want to cut programs. What they would like to do is look at the programs and see where cuts can be made and try to save as much money as they can.

Supervisor Swan announced that there has been no decision made on whether the UW Oshkosh Fox Cities Campus Board of Trustees meeting on Monday, March 24, 2025, will take place or not. They will have that decision tomorrow.

I. County Executive's Report and Appointments

1. Comments on Items on Agenda

*Executive Doemel commented and asked for support on the following resolution:
Resolution 109-032025: Adopt the 2025-2029 Winnebago County Strategic Plan*

Executive Doemel stated this will be Winnebago County's first Strategic Plan. He made a couple of points clear.

- 1. Strategic Plans are a living document. There is no final draft. It adjusts as they go, so as their needs move, it's something that they can adapt to.*
- 2. A Strategic Plan is a function of a County Board as a whole to pass and set the directions for Winnebago County.*

County Executive Doemel then took questions from the board.

2. National Association of Counties and Wisconsin Counties Association Legislative Conference Update

Executive Doemel gave a brief National Association of Counties (NACo) Conference Update and commented on his experience at his first NACo conference.

Ethan Hollenberger, Assistant to the County Executive, gave an update on his trip to NACo. He explained what they do as staff when they go out to Washington DC. Mr. Hollenberger provided updates on Intergovernmental Affairs, United States Department of Transportation (US DOT), United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), and the County Veterans Service (CVSO) Act.

There are three federal grants that are paused, two relate to Land & Water, Dept of Interior and USDA and the other is Energy Efficiency at Facilities. All spending in the Inflation Reduction Act right now is paused by an executive order. We know through the fiscal year, the government's going to stay open with increased spending primarily to just veterans and everything else is using fiscal year 2024 spending levels.

Mr. Hollenberger mentioned a full report will be given at the Legislative Committee on Monday, March 24, 2025. He will also provide updates on Governor Evers proposal for budget and how it will affect counties.

Mr. Hollenberger then took questions from the board.

Rhys Phillips, Paralegal, gave an update on his trip to NACo. He attended general sessions and provided updates on housing and building issues. Mr. Phillips will also be at the Legislative Committee to provide more information.

Mr. Phillips then took questions from the board.

3. Homelessness, Eviction, and Loss Prevention (HELP) Program

Executive Doemel commented and showed his disappointment with the issues brought up and the results of the vote on this topic at the last meeting. At the end of 2025, a decision

needs to be made to either keep going with this project and make it permanent positions or not have the program. Extension of project employees is a budget decision.

County Executive Doemel and Mr. Hollenberger then took questions from the board.

J. County Board Chair's Report and Appointments

Chairman Egan reported that Supervisor Gabert was excused from tonight's meeting.

Chairman Egan reminded the board to let the Chairman or County Clerk know if you are not able to attend county board meetings or committee meetings. There have been concerns for lack of quorum.

Chairman Egan reminded the board members to remember that your computer is your own. Do not vote on someone else's machine.

K. Presentation

1. Report on the Strategic Plan by EverStrive Solutions

Meredith Hauck, Co-Founder and Partner of EverStrive Solutions provided a background on the company, and the first step is to always start with a purpose. She explained the strategic planning process, which consists of three parts: Insight gathering, Board & Staff Workshops, and Plan Development & Approval. Ms. Hauck identified and discussed the following guiding principles: Leadership with Vision, Responsible Growth and Stewardship, Inclusive & Engaged Community, Opportunity for All, Excellence in Public Service, and Vibrant & Healthy Community.

Ms. Hauck discussed in detail the Strategic Pillars:

- Transportation: Support an integrated, accessible, and sustainable transportation network that connects communities, supports economic development, and ensures safety for all.*
- Housing: Support the development of diverse housing to meet the needs of its growing and changing population.*
- Economic Development: Committed to fostering a thriving business climate that drives economic growth, supports innovation, and attracts long-term investment.*
- Efficient Government: Operate a streamlined, transparent, and modernized government that effectively serves its residents and businesses.*
- Quality of Life: Foster a vibrant community by preserving natural resources, expanding recreational opportunities, and supporting cultural and social well-being.*

Ms. Hauck explained how to use this process moving forward with a Strategic Plan, Priority-Based Budgeting, Annual Workshop and Department Work Plans.

Ms. Hauck then took questions from the board.

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 February 25, 2025, Adjourned Session of the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors

Supervisor Swan requested that this item be pulled from the Consent Calendar.

2. Report 001 and Zoning Amendatory Ordinance 03/001/25 - Grundy Enterprises, Town of Oshkosh, Rezone from A-2 (General Agriculture District) to R-1 (Rural Residential District) for tax parcel 018-0453-09(p)

3. Zoning Amendatory Ordinance: 03/T001/25 - Brian Hahn, Town of Wolf River, Rezone from A-2 (General Agriculture District) to Business for tax parcel no. 032-0353-04.

4. **RESOLUTION 100-032025: Notice of Claim from Dustin Cote**
WHEREAS, your Personnel and Finance Committee has had the claim of Dustin Cote referred to it for review; and
WHEREAS, your Committee has investigated the claim and recommends it be disallowed by Winnebago County for review by our insurance carrier.
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors that the claim of Dustin Cote, filed with the County Clerk on January 31, 2025, is hereby disallowed since there is no basis for liability on the part of Winnebago County.
Submitted by:
PERSONNEL & FINANCE COMMITTEE
5. **RESOLUTION 101-032025: Notice of Claim from Kaylia Hadley**
WHEREAS, your Personnel and Finance Committee has had the claim of Kaylia Hadley referred to it for review; and
WHEREAS, your Committee has investigated the claim and recommends it be disallowed by Winnebago County for review by our insurance carrier.
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors that the claim of Kaylia Hadley filed with the County Clerk on February 12, 2025, is hereby disallowed since there is no basis for liability on the part of Winnebago County.
Submitted by:
PERSONNEL & FINANCE COMMITTEE
6. **RESOLUTION 102-032025: Notice of Claim from Brightspeed**
WHEREAS, your Personnel and Finance Committee has had the claim of Brightspeed referred to it for review; and
WHEREAS, your Committee has investigated the claim and recommends it be disallowed by Winnebago County for review by our insurance carrier.
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors that the claim of Brightspeed, filed with the County Clerk on February 10, 2025, is hereby disallowed since there is no basis for liability on the part of Winnebago County.
Submitted by:
PERSONNEL & FINANCE COMMITTEE
7. **RESOLUTION 103-032025: Notice of Claim from David Nelson**
WHEREAS, your Personnel and Finance Committee has had the claim of David Nelson referred to it for review; and
WHEREAS, your Committee has investigated the claim and recommends it be disallowed by Winnebago County for review by our insurance carrier.
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors that the claim of David Nelson, filed with the County Clerk on January 31, 2025, is hereby disallowed since there is no basis for liability on the part of Winnebago County.
Submitted by:
PERSONNEL & FINANCE COMMITTEE
8. **RESOLUTION 104-032025: Authorize the Winnebago County to Apply for a Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Snowmobile Grant for the 2025-2026 Season.**
WHEREAS, Winnebago County is interested in maintaining County-owned and leased lands for public snowmobile trail use; and
WHEREAS, funds are available for snowmobile trail maintenance as well as snowmobile trail developments and improvements through the Department of Natural Resources pursuant to Sec. 23.09(26), Wisconsin Statutes; and
WHEREAS, in order to participate in this project, it is necessary that the County Board authorize applying for and accepting of the grant funds.
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors that the County Executive and the County Clerk are hereby authorized to apply for and accept funds from the Department of Natural Resources, for any financial aid that may be available for public snowmobile trail maintenance, snowmobile trail developments and improvements in Winnebago County.
Submitted by:
PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE

Motion by Supervisor Hinz, seconded by Supervisor Holt to adopt the consent calendar excluding:

1. *Approval of Proceedings for February 25, 2025, Adjourned Session of the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors*

VOTE ON CONSENT CALENDAR: CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.

ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT CALENDAR

1. *Approval of Proceedings for February 25, 2025, Adjourned Session of the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors*

Motion by Supervisor Holt, seconded by Supervisor Lutz, to adopt item removed from consent calendar.

Vote on Approval of Proceedings for February 25, 2025, Adjourned Session of the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors. CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE. (NAYES: Swan and Binder; Abstain: Dowling)

M. Business Items, Resolutions, and Ordinances

1. **RESOLUTION 108-032025: Adopting a Winnebago County Fund Balance Policy Based on Best Practices from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) and Government Accounting Standards Board (GASB)**

Supervisor Bureau wanted to make sure that a committee review this Fund Policy.

Motion by Supervisor Bureau to move with unanimous consent to pull this item and refer to the Personnel & Finance Committee for review at their next committee meeting and then bring it back to the county board, seconded by Supervisor Cox. CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.

2. **RESOLUTION 109-032025: Adopt the 2025-2029 Winnebago County Strategic Plan**
WHEREAS, as Winnebago County looks to the future, the county board of supervisors recognizes the need for a strategic, balanced approach to our work; and
WHEREAS, this strategic plan, covering 2025-2029, serves as a roadmap for progress, guiding our decisions and investments to build a stronger, more resilient county for generations to come; and
WHEREAS, after the plan's adoption, Winnebago County will utilize a structured planning and budgeting process based on clear annual milestones to align long-term objectives with practical implementation and resource management; and
WHEREAS, the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors, through a workshop, developed five strategic pillars, and annually will review the progress of the plan through a workshop between the County Board and County Executive.
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors that it hereby adopts the Winnebago County Strategic Plan, which is attached to this resolution.
Submitted by:
SUPERVISOR TOM EGAN

Motion by Chairman Egan, seconded by Supervisor Hinz, to adopt.

Motion by Supervisor Farrey, seconded by Supervisor Buck, to postpone to a date certain which will be the County Board of Supervisor's Business Meeting on Tuesday, May 20, 2025.

Motion by Supervisor O'Brien, seconded by Supervisor Nussbaum, to call the question.

Vote on call the question: AYES: 24; NAYES: 10 – Reinke, Stafford, Binder, Macho, Hinz, Schellenger, Buck, Powers, Cox and Bureau; ABSTAIN: 0; EXCUSED: 1 – Gabert; ABSENT: 1 – Gustafson. MOTION PASSED.

Vote to postpone until the County Board of Supervisor's Business Meeting on Tuesday, May 20, 2025: AYES: 9 – Reinke, Hancock-Cooke, Binder, Gilbertson, Schellenger, Buck, Powers, Cox and Farrey; NAYES: 25; ABSTAIN: 0; EXCUSED: 1 – Gabert; ABSENT: 1 – Gustafson. MOTION FAILED.

Back to the original resolution.

Motion by Supervisor Nelson, seconded by Supervisor Swan, to call the question.

Vote on call the question: CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.

Vote on original resolution. AYES: 32; NAYES: 0; ABSTAIN: 2 – Cox and Farrey; EXCUSED: 1 – Gabert; ABSENT: 1 – Gustafson. MOTION PASSED.

The Winnebago County Board of Supervisors took a short recess before going into Closed Session. Chairman Egan reconvened the meeting at 7:59 p.m.

At this point a motion was entertained by Supervisor Farrey, seconded by Supervisor Reinke, to convene into Closed Session for discussion on the closure of the UWO-Fox Cities Campus.

Vote to Convene into Closed Session: AYES: 34; NAYES: 0; ABSTAIN: 0. PASSED.

ROLL CALL: The following Supervisors were present: 34 – Dowling, Laux, Ulbricht, Lutz, Holt, Reinke, Hancock-Cooke, Wise, Nussbaum, Stafford, Paterson, Binder, Swan, Gilbertson, Mueller, Halbur, Ponzer, Belville, Macho, Hinz, Zellmer, Schellenger, Buck, Powers, Hanson, Cox, Bureau, Farrey, Harrison, Frassetto, Egan, O'Brien, Nelson and Miller; Excused: 1 – Gabert; Absent: 1 – Gustafson.

Also Present: Jon Doemel, County Executive; Mary Anne Mueller, Corporation Counsel; Mike Elder, Director of Facilities & Property Management; Rhys Phillips, Paralegal; Julie Barthels, Winnebago County Clerk and Cassie Smith-Gregor, Chief Deputy Clerk.

N. 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.

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

After discussion, a motion by Supervisor Lutz, seconded by Supervisor Dowling to reconvene to open session.

Vote to Reconvene: AYES: 34; NAYES: 0; ABSTAIN: 0. PASSED.

ROLL CALL: The following Supervisors were present: 34 – Dowling, Laux, Ulbricht, Lutz, Holt, Reinke, Hancock-Cooke, Wise, Nussbaum, Stafford, Paterson, Binder, Swan, Gilbertson, Mueller, Halbur, Ponzer, Belville, Macho, Hinz, Zellmer, Schellenger, Buck, Powers, Hanson, Cox, Bureau, Farrey, Harrison, Frassetto, Egan, O'Brien, Nelson and Miller; Excused: 1 – Gabert; and Absent: 1 - Gustafson.

O. Adjourn

Motion by Supervisor Holt, seconded by Supervisor Dowling, to adjourn until the April 15, 2025, Adjourned Session of the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:23 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 March 18, 2025.

Cassie J. Smith-Gregor

Winnebago County Chief Deputy Clerk

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

<https://winnebagoowwi.portal.civicclerk.com>