



Winnebago County

The Wave of the Future

**FACILITIES AND PROPERTY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, JUNE 17, 2025**

A. Call to Order

John Hinz called the meeting to order at 5:00PM. Committee members present: Andy Buck, Lucas Reinke, Jim Wise, and Thomas Swan. Also present: Tom Egan - District 33 Representative, Walt Ulbricht - District 3 Representative, Tori Kinderman - Corporation Counsel, Paul Kaiser - Finance Director, Koby Schellenger - County Executive's Office, and Mary Anne Mueller - Corporation Counsel.

B. Public Comments

Thomas Swan commented regarding item D2 that recommendations for the campus should come through the Facilities & Property Management Committee, and that he would recommend the County Board to approve a feasibility study.

C. Adopt Agenda

A motion to adopt the agenda was made by Jim Wise, seconded by Lucas Reinke; the motion passed 5-0.

D. Business Items

Action may be taken on any business items.

1. Discuss and Approve a Lease to Operate the Child Care Center at Fox Cities

Mike Elder updated the committee. The Menasha School Board will assume costs for employees and utilities at the Child Care Center over the next year. The University of Wisconsin agreed to fund the Child Care Center until the end of the month. Thomas Swan asked about renting, if this was unfair to competitors. Mike Elder explained that nationwide there was a childcare crisis, with childcare centers in Winnebago County being forced to close and Winnebago County having as many as 600 children on a waiting list to get into childcare centers. He explained that after the year was up the terms of rent would be decided between the County Executive and the Menasha School District superintendent. The documentation on operating expenses for the campus and Child Care Center provided to Winnebago County was minimal. When asked, Mike Elder gave his personal estimation that eventually the Center would be turned over to the Menasha School District. A motion to approve the lease was made by Andy Buck, seconded by Lucas Reinke; the motion passed 5-0. Lucas Reinke spoke in favor of the decision and mentioned his own experience with running a childcare business and the concern over lengthy waiting lists. John Hinz mentioned that the agreement does include a negotiation period of 90 days before the end of the lease wherein the Facilities Committee would receive updates per Thomas Swan's concerns.

2. Discuss and Authorize the Office of the County Executive's Ability to Sign and Negotiate Leases Related to the UWO Fox Cities Campus

Mike Elder explained that the County has been approached by multiple parties asking about options for renting the campus properties, such as the Communication Arts Center, and that this proposal was to expedite revenue being brought in. Koby Schellenger explained the proposal: County Executive Gordon Hintz would have until December 31st, 2025 to enter into lease agreements of a year or less regarding any existing Fox Cities campus properties, without bringing the agreement before the Facilities Committee or County Board. This is to expedite the process as short-term leases would necessitate special meetings of the Facilities Committee, a frequent occurrence over the last few months. Thomas Swan, seconded by

Andy Buck, proposed allowing the lease length to extend to two years without options. The County Executive's Office would report any leases to the Facilities Committee at their regularly scheduled meeting. A motion to approve was made by Jim Wise, seconded by Andy Buck; the motion passed 5-0.

E. Adjourn

Andy Buck made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Lucas Reinke; the motion passed 5-0.

[MIN_FOOT]