



**AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT STRATEGY & OUTCOMES COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2025**

A. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Co-Chairman Gordon Hintz at 10:00 a.m. in the Susan T. Ertmer Conference room at 112 Otter Avenue, Oshkosh.

Mr. Hintz welcomed Supervisor Gustafson, a new member, to the commission.

Members Present: 9 — Tom Egan (left at 12:47 pm), Gordon Hintz, Chuck Farrey, Morris Cox, Andy Buck, Robert Gustafson, Brandon Hennes, Don Merkes and Paul Kaiser.

Absent: 1 — Sean Fitzgerald

Also Present at this Meeting:

Mary Anne Mueller, Corporation Counsel

Koby Schellenger, County Executive Assistant

Jamie Rouch, Director of Administration

Mike Elder, Facilities & Property Management Director

Lu Scheer, Housing Grants Specialist

Supervisor Conley Hanson, District 26

Supervisor Steven Binder, District 13

Supervisor Howard Miller, District 36

Supervisor Tim Paterson, District 11

Brian Noe, Town of Omro Chairperson

Dana Woods, Town of Omro Clerk

Bob Schmeichel, Town of Neenah

Jon Doemel, Oshkosh

Patrick Drury, Executive Director, NOVA Counseling Services

Via TEAMS:

Supervisor Stefanie A. Holt, District 5

Supervisor KristL Laux, District 2

Kristine Giornalista, Neenah

Ellen Skerke, Town of Neenah

Ashlee Rahmlow, Department of Public Health

Lynnsey Erickson, Department of Public Health

Adam BellCorelli, County Executive Office

Bethanie G.

B. Public Comments

Jon Doemel, Oshkosh, voiced his thoughts and concerns regarding all three business items; "Review Resolution 046-102024, Spirit Fund Categories and NOVA Request", "Approve \$3,500,000 of Spirit Funds to partially fund a revolving loan program to expedite housing development in Winnebago County" and "Approve remaining Spirit Fund Balance for County Building Master Plan".

Patrick Drury, Executive Director, NOVA Counseling Services, spoke in support and asked the Commission members to reconsider the NOVA request. The funds that they were awarded were returned by the previous executive director due to a misunderstanding of having to match those dollars to use them. Mr. Drury mentioned if this is reconsidered, there are several capital projects that they could utilize those funds for.

The following people voiced their thoughts and concerns regarding business item no. 2, Resolution 204-112025: "Approve \$3,500,000 of Spirit Funds to partially fund a revolving loan program to expedite housing development in Winnebago County":

- *Steven Binder, County Board Supervisor, District 13*
- *Brian Noe, Town of Omro Chairperson*
- *Tim Paterson, County Board Supervisor, District 11*
- *Morris Cox, County Board Supervisor, District 27*
- *KristL Laux, County Board Supervisor, District 2*
- *Kristine Giornalista, Neenah, Representative of the Fox Cities Housing Alliance*

Conley Hanson, County Board Supervisor, District 26, asked the commission for clarification and to be sure it is very clear regarding how the buckets were designed when they were set up with the 50/50 structure; when/if it should come back before the board. Mr. Hanson also voiced his thoughts and concerns regarding business item no. 2: "Approve \$3,500,000 of Spirit Funds to partially fund a revolving loan program to expedite housing development in Winnebago County" and business item no. 3: "Approve remaining Spirit Fund Balance for County Building Master Plan".

Stefanie Holt, County Board Supervisor, District 5, voiced her thoughts and concerns regarding business item no. 2: "Approve \$3,500,000 of Spirit Funds to partially fund a revolving loan program to expedite housing development in Winnebago County" and business item no. 3: "Approve remaining Spirit Fund Balance for County Building Master Plan".

Bob Schmeichel, Neenah, asked the commission to remember the towns in Winnebago County and what they offer, when considering the Spirit Funds and how they are going to be used is discussed.

C. Approval of Minutes

There was a typo in the August 22, 2025, minutes under section D. Business Items No. 1. In the fifth paragraph, on the fourth line, the word "missed" should have been "mixed". A friendly amendment was requested to correct this typo error.

Motion by Merkes, seconded by Hennes, to approve the August 22, 2025, meeting minutes as amended. CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.

D. Business Items

1. Review Resolution 046-102024, Spirit Fund Categories, and NOVA Request

Gordon Hintz, County Executive, briefly explained, reviewed and discussed the details surrounding Resolution 046-102024, Spirit Fund Categories, and the NOVA request.

- *Resolution No. 313-012024: Approving \$500,000 from the Spirit Fund's Government Identified Community Projects Category to Expand the Building of NOVA Counseling Services Facilities was presented to the County Board on January 16, 2024. This was CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.*
- *Resolution No. 125-052025: Authorize the Relinquishment of Unused Grant Funds #313-012024 in the Amount of \$500,000 from the Spirit Fund's Government Identified Community Projects Category to Expand the Building of NOVA Counseling Services. This was presented to the County board on May 20, 2025. This was CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.*

Discussion was held amongst the members of the commission relating to the reconsideration of the NOVA request.

It was decided by the commission that the decision made by the County Board is final. There will be no reconsideration of returning the funds to NOVA.

2. Approve \$3,500,000 of Spirit Funds to partially fund a revolving loan program to expedite housing development in Winnebago County.

Gordon Hintz, County Executive, briefly reviewed what has all been discussed on this topic at the county board level. Mr. Hintz noted the changes that were made to the resolution based on the discussion and comments made during the county board meeting.

Motion by Supervisor Buck, seconded by Merkes to approve.

Motion by Supervisor Farrey, seconded by Supervisor Merkes, to make an amendment.

- On line 53 of the resolution, after the word, "and" add "shall be applied to affordable housing only."
- On line 83, after the word, "RFP", add "with oversight from the Personnel & Finance Committee".

Motion by Co-Chair Hintz, to make an amendment. On line 61, strike "composed" and replace with "comprised" and add "Chairman of the Personnel & Finance Committee" before ", and county staff."

Discussion was held amongst all members to comprise amended verbiage for this resolution.

The amendment made is as follows: Line 61 should read, "partnership with an advisory board ~~composed~~ **comprised of an equal number** of members of the ARPA Strategy and Outcomes Commission, ~~members of the~~ IDB, Personnel & Finance Committee, and county staff **to be appointed by the County Board Chair and the County Executive within their designated responsibilities while such commissions exist.**"

Supervisor Farrey accepted this amendment as a friendly amendment.

Supervisor Farrey withdrew his amendment for line 83 but not the amendment for line 53.

Amendment Motion on the floor is:

- Line 53 would read, "for residents across the income spectrum; and **shall be applied to affordable housing only.**"
- Line 61 would read, "partnership with an advisory board **comprised of an equal number** of members of the ARPA Strategy and Outcomes Commission, IDB, **Personnel & Finance Committee**, and county staff **to be appointed by the County Board Chair and the County Executive within their designated responsibilities while such commissions exist.**"

Motion by Supervisor Farrey, seconded by Supervisor Buck to call the question.

Vote on call the question. CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.

Vote on amendment as discussed and defined. CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.

Motion by Hennes, seconded by Merkes to make an amendment. On line 45-46, strike the words "are not in a Tax Increment District."

Vote on amendment. CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.

Vote on resolution as amended. CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.

(Abstain: 1 — Cox; Absent: 1 — Fitzgerald)

3. Approve remaining Spirit Fund Balance for County Building Master Plan

Gordon Hintz briefly explained why this resolution has been brought forward and opened this up for discussion.

Motion by Supervisor Farrey, seconded by Supervisor Cox to postpone indefinitely. This would mean it couldn't be brought up until the next term or April 2026.

Vote to postpone indefinitely. FAILED BY VOICE VOTE.

E. Next Meeting Date

This was not addressed. The next meeting will be determined at a later date.

F. Adjourn

Motion made by Merkes, seconded by Supervisor Buck, to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 12:47 p.m. MOTION CARRIES.

Submitted by:

Cassie J. Smith-Gregor

Winnebago County Chief Deputy County Clerk

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

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