

WINNEBAGO COUNTY
ARPA Strategy and Outcomes Commission

Minutes

DATE: Monday, February 6, 2023

TIME: 1:00 p.m.

PLACE: Winnebago County Administrative Building
112 Otter Ave, Oshkosh WI 54901
Conference Room 120

PRESENT: Co-Chair Tom Egan, County Board Chairman
Co-Chair Jon Doemel, County Executive
Morris Cox, Personnel and Finance Chair
Chuck Farrey, County Board Vice-chair
Tom Borchart, County Board Member
Andy Buck, County Board Member
Tom Belter, Public Member
Tim Galloway, Public Member
Beth Oswald, Public Member
Paul Kaiser, Director of Finance (non-voting member)

ALSO PRESENT: Sue Ertmer, County Clerk
Mary Anne Mueller, Corporation Counsel
Ethan Hollenberger
Jim Edmondson
Sheriff John Matz
Paul Eisen
Steve Binder (via Zoom)
Karen Schneider (via Zoom)
Beth G. (via Zoom)
John Rabe (via Zoom)
Ellen Skerke (via Zoom)
Carl (via Zoom)
Doug Gieryn (via Zoom)
Heidi Keating (via Zoom)
Nancy Jones (via Zoom)
Larry Lautenschlager (via Zoom)
Dustin (via Zoom)

Co-Chair Tom Egan called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Egan addressed item number 5, "Review of Resolution 277-022022 which created the ARPA Strategies and Outcomes Commission" and read line 33 of the resolution identifying the members of the commission. Co-chair Egan asked the voting members of the commission to introduce themselves, followed by other county staff.

1. Public Comments

Paul Eisen, Supervisor District 4, mentioned the recording of the October meeting did not record the first ten minutes of the meeting. He re-read his comments from the October meeting. Winnebago County would be better served by allocating ARPA funds to projects under the final rule.

John Matz spoke as a private citizen and his concerns regarding this \$33 plus million. This is generational debt and argued we need to be judicious in how we spend this money. He requested that serious consideration should be given to fund Capital Improvement Projects and begin to pay off our old debt without taking on new debt as we move forward and spend this money. This is a way to set our county up to weather a potential financial storm that he feels may be headed our way.

Jim Edmondson, Kaukauna, discussed a property in Menasha that housed several non-profit agencies on Midway Road. There is undeveloped land and the desire is to bring more non-profit agencies to the property to assist in the Human Services needs in both Outagamie and Winnebago County.

Beth Oswald, Town of Black Wolf, echoed comments from Mr. Matz. It is smart to be thoughtful and to spend the money a little slower and as it is needed.

Nancy Jones, Appleton, is tracking the process and requests that this commission share the meeting packets prior to the scheduled meetings. At a prior meeting, there was the talk of an application that was not shared.

Steve Binder, District 13 Supervisor, is not 100% sure how we handled this will not come back to us in the future that we did not follow ARPA guidelines. He will not support any CIP until we fill the projects that we currently have that have qualified for ARPA funds. He does not want to risk spending this ARPA money and then the auditors coming back and saying that we did not follow the guidelines and then the projects would not be funded or completed. He did not support spending ARPA funds on radios.

2. Reconsideration and approval of 11/30/2022 meeting minutes. Motion by Farrey to reconsider the minutes from the 11/30/2022 meeting, seconded by Belter. Motion by Farrey, seconded by Doemel, to approve those minutes. MOTION CARRIES 9-0.

3. Approval of 12/14/2022 meeting minutes. Motion by Egan to approve the 12/14/2022 meeting minutes with the removal of the last two sentences of item three and Cox voting no on item five, seconded by Cox. MOTION CARRIES 9-0.

12/14/2022 Meeting Minutes
3. Discussion and possible action regarding process to solicit and collect requests for community projects. Tom Belter distributed a copy of a draft application for community projects. Motion by Farrey, seconded by Galloway, to use this application for external community projects. Motion carried, with all voting in favor. Motion by Egan, seconded by Buck, to also use this application form for community projects through County functions. Motion carried, with all voting in favor.
5. Discussion and possible action regarding resolution authorizing a transfer of \$300,000 from the Spirit Fund to the general fund for the purpose of funding budgeted expense in the Facilities Department for a County-wide building condition assessment study. Motion by Buck, seconded by Egan, to approve. Motion carried by a vote of 8 7 to 1 2 , with Belter and Cox voting against.

4. Comments of the Co-Chairs. Co-Chair Doemel apologized for rushing and the confusion of the previous Spirit Fund discussion. He pledged to do a better job doing his homework. He asked the commission members to trust each other. When the commission makes a decision, we trust the decision and support the position. Doemel discussed the extra food share allocations from the pandemic will lapse in March to the tune of \$2 million for Winnebago County residents. He has tasked the Department of Human Services with reviewing this issue. He defended not spending the ARPA SLFRF allocation so we can help the citizens for what is still coming.

Co-Chair Egan clarified we are not adding staff to the commission, but rather bringing more staff to speak and help as resources for the members of the commission. Chuck Farrey asked how food pantries are currently funded. Oswald stated they are funded primarily through private funding. Oswald explained that the recipients are losing Food Share or SNAP.

There was discussion on posting of the materials for these meetings.

Co-Chair Egan stated we had to start over because the Spirit Fund did not pass so we have had to reset.

5. Review of Resolution 277-022022 which created the ARPA Strategies and Outcomes Commission. Egan addressed this item at the beginning of the meeting.

6. Presentation from county administration on the acceptable uses of the State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLRF) provided by the ARPA and practices to account for Winnebago County's allocation. County Finance Director Paul Kaiser presented a presentation on the uses of the State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. Cox asked for the reports filed by the county to the federal government. Doemel said that a memo will be created for the

county board and will post the report. Kaiser said we are not touching Park View. Farrey stated that he felt part of the concern was the transfer of funds into departments then transferring out to a newly identified account. He asked why we had to transfer monies to different departments. Kaiser said that Generally Accepted Account Principles and government rules required ins/outs such as this to happen. Kaiser said that Park View is the only department that would have its own account. Cox stated it looked like a shift of money into the General Fund and then into Park View Fund and a shift out into the Spirt Fund. What that looked like was a shell game more than anything else. He would like a report of the justification of taking the money. Kaiser said that we are working with the auditors and departments to make sure we are not double dipping. Kaiser reminded the commission that this is money that has been spent which is classified as spent on ARPA. It is an accounting mechanism to put it into a special revenue fund. The money needs to be put into a special revenue fund to be more transparent on the spending of the money. Cox said that it looked like a shell game but it is not. Mary Anne Mueller said that there is a misnomer on lost revenue. Oswald suggested that the same presentation be given to the county board. Buck echoed Oswald's suggestions/comments and asked if Kaiser could provide updated numbers. Doemel my priority is to make our transparency to the public easier to the public.

7. Preview and discussion of a proposed timeline of the ARPA Strategies and Outcomes Commission.

Co-Chair Jon Doemel previewed the next steps for the commission and the potential content of the next meetings.

8. Set next meeting date and time. The next meeting dates will be 02/22/2023 and 03/09/2023 at 1:00 p.m. at the County Administrative Building (CAB) in Room 120. MOTION CARRIES.

9. Adjournment. Motion made by Farrey, seconded by Buck to adjourn at 2:55 p.m. MOTION CARRIES.

Submitted by:
Cassie Smith-Gregor
Winnebago County Clerk's Office