

WINNEBAGO COUNTY
ARPA Strategy and Outcomes Commission
Minutes

DATE: Thursday, March 9, 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
Tom Belter, Public Member
Beth Oswald, Public Member
Paul Kaiser, Director of Finance (non-voting member)

EXCUSED: Tim Galloway, Public Member
Andy Buck, County Board Member

ALSO PRESENT:	Ethan Hollenberger, County Executive Assistant	Andy Buck (via Zoom)
	Cassie Gregor, Deputy County Clerk	Conley Hanson (via Zoom)
	Mary Anne Mueller, Corporation Counsel	Rachel Dowling (via Zoom)
	Andrew Kaspar, Corporation Counsel	Rebecca Nichols (via Zoom)
	Captain Lara Vendola	Paul Eisen (via Zoom)
	Steve Binder	Eric Rasmussen (via Zoom)
	Michael Norton	Doug Gieryn (via Zoom)
	Mike Elder	Heidi Keating (via Zoom)
	Chad Casper	Deb Martin (via Zoom)
	Joel Rasmussen	Ellen Skerke (via Zoom)
	Matt Olson	Matt Woods (via Zoom)
	Holly Stevens	Beth G. (via Zoom)
	Bob Schmeichel	Carl
	Art Ratjen, Greater Oshkosh Economic Development	Nancy
	Brian Harbison, Fox Crossing Fire Department	

Co-Chair Tom Egan called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

1. Public Comments

County Board Supervisor Steve Binder commented on the radios. He will not support the full amount being requested for the radios. He would support the 1.8 million for the Sheriff's office and the remainder of the radios, replace on as needed basis through the Capital Improvement Project (CIP). My other concern is with the Highway Department, the Enterprise one. The radios they need should be paid using their budgeted funds vs the CIP or ARPA funds.

The following people voiced their concerns and how they could utilize the funds in their respective municipalities and spoke in support of agenda item #6: Funding for Municipalities and Towns – Geographic Assortment of Fund Allocation.

- Joel Rasmussen, Town of Algoma Chairman
- Bob Schmeichel, Town of Neenah Chairman & the Wisconsin Towns Association Winnebago County Units Chairman
- James Fluette, Village of Winneconne Public Works Director

- Matt Olson, Town of Winchester Chairman
- Frank Frassetto, Town of Black Wolf Chairman
- Tom Egan, Town of Rushford Chairman
- Matt Woods, Town of Winneconne Chairman

Cassie Smith-Gregor read a letter on behalf of Supervisor Conley Hanson who attended via Zoom and could not speak due to Laryngitis. He voiced his concerns regarding the 25/50/25 split and projects that are being presented requesting ARPA funds. He firmly believes all funds should be administered and accountable through a Winnebago County Department for complete transparency and free of any perceived political position.

James Fluette, Village of Winneconne, Director of Public Works, asked for help to fund a project, the Lake Winneconne Park Renovation. Acquired the park in March 2003 from Winnebago County. We've been able to update the boat launch and sea wall. We have a problem with boat trailer parking in this community. Looking to expand parking to ease parking along the park. We applied for a grant through the DNR for a lake access grant and have been awarded a \$250,000 matching grant. Asking the ARPA Commission to help out fund this project.

Steve Nielsen from Nielsen Communications asked for the opportunity for the county to offer them an opportunity to bid on the radio project coming up. They have an office in Neenah and been in business since 1974. They are currently doing an installation for Brown County Highway Department which is on the same type of radio for the radio project coming up.

Deb Martin addressed the Commission and strongly supports getting some projects started and taking some action. She is hopeful that we are on the right track. Get the money out. Help the people. Reason for ARPA is for use in a time of stress. Encourage the commission to do the right thing and get the funds out in a fair way to the towns and townships in the county.

Supervisor Rachel Dowling voiced her concerns on the 25/50/25 split that the ARPA Commission is proposing. Biggest concern if we follow the split with non-profits, I see that problematic. The county needs to be prioritizing essential services to our residents; manage public funds in a responsible manner (fiscal responsibility); focus on policies and programs that encourage economic growth and development; and respecting individual choices.

2. Approval of 2/24/2023 meeting minutes.

Motion by Cox, seconded by Doemel to approve the 02/24/2023 meeting minutes. CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.

3. Discuss/Action on framework of outcomes to guide the spending of the county's ARPA State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds grant.

After discussion, motion by Doemel, seconded by Farrey to postpone this document until the next meeting, and take action on it then. AYES: 7; NAYS: 0; ABSTAIN: 0; ABSENT: 2 – Buck and Galloway MOTION PASSED 7-0.

4. Discuss/Action on utilizing the county's ARPA State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds as an expenditure grant for general government services and Resolution 167-012023 Establishing a Spirit Fund, which was referred back to the commission.

Motion by Farrey, seconded by Doemel to approve the action as presented to bring this back forward as amended by Commission to the full County Board. AYES: 6; NAYS: 1 - Cox; ABSTAIN: 0; ABSENT: 2 – Buck and Galloway MOTION PASSED 6-1.

Motion made by Doemel, seconded by Egan to move agenda item # 6 as the next item up to discuss. CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.

6. Discuss/Action on projects previously recommended by the commission for Government Identified Community Projects.

- **Funds for Land and Water Conservation – Water Quality & Sustainability and Quality of Life**
Motion by Farrey, seconded by Doemel to adopt. Vote on Resolution: AYES: 7; NAYES: 0; ABSTAIN: 0; ABSENT: 2 – Buck and Galloway PASSED 7-0.
- **Funds for Municipalities and Towns – Geographic Assortment of Fund Allocation**
Motion by Farrey, seconded by Egan to adopt. Vote on Resolution: AYES: 7; NAYES: 0; ABSTAIN: 0; ABSENT: 2 – Buck and Galloway PASSED 7-0.

- **Sunnyview Expo Center Emergency Resiliency and Response Upgrades – Emergency Response (Resolution 170-012023)**

Motion by Doemel, seconded by Egan to adopt amended resolution. Vote on Resolution: AYES: 6; NAYES: 1 - Borchart; ABSTAIN: 0; ABSENT: 2 – Buck and Galloway PASSED 6-1.

5. Discuss/Action on projects previously recommended by the commission for County Internal Asks as presented by the County Executive

- **IT Administration Fiber Loop – Debt Avoidance (Resolution 173-012023)**

Motion by Doemel, seconded by Cox to have this resolution be pulled. This project is in our Capital Improvement Plan. CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.

- **Facilities Condition Assessment – Sustainability Planning (Resolution 172-012023)**

Motion by Doemel, seconded by Farrey to adopt amended resolution. Vote on Resolution: AYES: 7; NAYES: 0; ABSTAIN: 0; ABSENT: 2 – Buck and Galloway PASSED 7-0.

- **Strategic Plan – Sustainability Planning (Resolution 168-012023)**

Motion by Doemel, seconded by Cox to adopt amended resolution. Vote on Resolution: AYES: 7; NAYES: 0; ABSTAIN: 0; ABSENT: 2 – Buck and Galloway PASSED 7-0.

- **Radios – Debt Avoidance and Emergency Response (Resolution 169-012023)**

Motion by Doemel, seconded by Egan to adopt amended resolution. Vote on Resolution: AYES: 7; NAYES: 0; ABSTAIN: 0; ABSENT: 2 – Buck and Galloway PASSED 7-0.

7. Discuss ideas to solicit projects within the Non-Governmental Proposed Community Projects

Discussion among members. Farrey stated they have approved a request form that was specifically for this group. Doemel believes the commission should set some priorities and objectives and dedicate a certain amount in separate buckets for people to apply for (i.e. \$500,000 for community development or \$300,000 for tourism). This is where we would set up specific outcomes that we are looking for and divide that. Then we could look at each of those and have applications that are geared toward that and scored individually for that instead of doing one lump sum for 25% and winner takes all thing. Boelter wants to be sure everyone knows they can apply and making sure we have the guidelines that Ethan came up with from our discussion and narrow down our intentions where we would invest those monies. Oswald would like it to see that we are clear on how much we are allocating, spending requirements and does it have to be spent by a certain time period. That may weed out some of the applicants if they don't meet some of those requirements.

Ethan Hollenberger is suggesting:

- Figure out what funding opportunities you want
- What buckets of funding opportunities they are
- Have a minimum, a maximum, give an amount of money in that grant
- and then we can write the criteria to score it that you all would approve.

Farrey stated the format that Ethan is proposing is a good idea.

Ethan Hollenberger will sit down with the three citizen members to put together some ideas. They would understand how some of things would work, lean on their expertise and go from there.

8. Set next meeting date and time.

The next meeting date will be Friday, April 14, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. at the County Administrative Building (CAB) in Room 120.

9. Adjournment.

Motion made by Doemel, seconded by Borchart to adjourn at 3:54 p.m. MOTION CARRIES.

Submitted by:
Cassie Smith-Gregor
Winnebago County Deputy Clerk