

WINNEBAGO COUNTY  
ARPA Strategy and Outcomes Commission  
Minutes

DATE: Friday, June 29, 2023

TIME: 1:00 p.m.

PLACE: Winnebago County Sheriff's Office  
Richard Meyer Community Resource Room  
4311 Jackson Street  
Oshkosh, WI 54901

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  
Beth Oswald, Public Member  
Tim Galloway, Public Member  
Paul Kaiser, Director of Finance (non-voting member)

ALSO PRESENT:	Ethan Hollenberger, County Executive Assistant	via <b>ZOOM</b>
	Cassie Smith-Gregor, Deputy County Clerk	Doug Gieryn
	Mary Anne Mueller, Corporation Counsel	Ellen Skerke
	Andrew Kaspar, Corporation Counsel	Supervisor Ralph Harrison
	Supervisor Conley Hanson	Supervisor Rachael Dowling
	Bruce Abraham	Dustin Heideman, Sheriff's Office
	Bob Schmeichel	Lara Vendola, Sheriff's Office
	Kathryn Pfaendtner	Bethany Ferguson
	Pete Dulcamara	Deb Martin
	Lynn Kromm	Karen Schneider
	Sid Opperman	Beth G.

Co-Chair Jon Doemel called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

### 1. Public Comments

Supervisor Conley Hanson voiced his concerns regarding the \$145,000 ARPA funds that were approved and passed by the County Board. The municipalities have not received any notification or follow up regarding these funds and when they would become available or when to expect them. Supervisor Hanson does not understand what the delay is and is looking for follow through to the municipalities.

Supervisor Conley Hanson is also concerned regarding Resolution 167-012023 which was presented and voted on at the March 21, 2023, board meeting. The board amended and passed the resolution removing 25% and replaced with 50% on line 46 (County Government Projects (25% 50% of funds); and struck line 48 (~~Non-Governmental Community Projects~~). It is Supervisor Hanson's understanding with the passing of this amended resolution by the board, non-profits were not part of the Spirit and ARPA funds, and it appears that that's coming back before this committee to be voted on again. It is his understanding that since the County Board voted and approved this resolution and according to the rules this could not be brought up again until next session which is 2024. He would like clarification on this.

Supervisor Conley Hanson also voiced his concerns regarding the Citizen Review Work Group. He is not seeing his district area being represented in Fox Crossing. He wants to make sure that they are adequately represented. He also asked for complete transparency. He requests those meetings that are held need to be public so people can attend, have an agenda, exhibits need to be displayed, and meetings should be recorded per County Board Rule 8 & 22. As a Board member he would like to see every single project that was submitted, what the score was, why it did or did not pass. He thinks every board member deserves to know that and I would like to see that presented.

Supervisor Conley Hanson voiced his concerns regarding item number 4; the Reconsideration of Resolution to Allow for Deviation of up to 10% of the total Spirit Fund into either Spirit Fund Category for

Innovation and to Create a Sunsetting Innovation Analyst Position within the Winnebago County Department of Administration. He believes 10% does not need to be allocated and would like that to be reconsidered.

Sidney Opperman, Oshkosh, voiced his concerns regarding a project that he believes was not completed properly and has been trying to address the issue for 2 ½ years. He has a lot of water in his ditch and would politely request the situation be addressed.

Bob Schmeichel, Town of Neenah Chairman & the Wisconsin Towns Association Winnebago County Units Chairman agrees with the direction that the ARPA commission is going. He voiced his concerns regarding the \$145,000 ARPA funds for the towns and municipalities; and the redefinition of the 10% for the position on agenda item 4. There will be questions that come up about that. Schmeichel had received an email from Hollenberger regarding information he had concerns and/or questions on. Schmeichel asked Hollenberger directly if he had sent this email to all the towns and chairs? Hollenberger responded, yes, everybody. Schmeichel responded okay because he believes that will help answer some questions in our Towns Association unit meetings coming up. Schmeichel thanked the commission for all the work they are doing.

Bruce Abraham, the Oshkosh Pickleball Club Board President and a resident of the Town of Algoma sent in a proposal request/application to build new pickleball courts at the Winnebago County Community Park in Oshkosh. He would still like to speak at the Parks & Recreation Committee meeting as several municipalities come to Oshkosh to play. The Oshkosh Pickleball Club will be having their 2<sup>nd</sup> annual fundraiser on July 6, 2023, at the Fox River Brewing Company. Their goal is to advance pickleball opportunities within the Oshkosh community and Winnebago County. Pickleball has a low cost of entry, great benefits and is the fastest growing sport in the United States. The proposal that was laid out by the Oshkosh Pickleball Club concerning the field of the complex at the Winnebago County Community Park aligns with the intent of the American Rescue Plan Act because it addresses the affected classes of people and also states recipients can use funds for programs services or Capital expenditures that respond to the public health.

Lynn Kromm, Director of the Omro Area Community Center, asked the commission to keep in mind to utilize ARPA funds for non-profits and that non-profits are not all the same. She feels that the Omro Area Community Center is an exception because there is only one organization in Omro like it. They received notice in September and had until the end of December to vacate the building. Everything in that building had been packed up, sold and all the equipment had been auctioned off. The city refused to negotiate a new lease and refused any offers of buying the building. They have had donations and have been fundraising and have now bought their own building. They need every penny they can get from any source to complete this project. These ARPA funds mean a great deal to them. The Omro Care Community Center isn't just a place where the old people go. They provide a wide range of programs, classes and exercises that are important not only for the elderly but also children.

Kelly Olson, Support Services Director for the Damascus Roads Project, came today to speak to the commission and try to secure some funding for their non-profit organization. Kelly briefly discussed the population they serve and what their organization provides. She also pointed out how important non-profits are and how they are not all equal. They are in the process right now trying to acquire a larger office hoping to apply and utilize ARPA funds for. This office space will allow them to help members from all communities large and small. They also partner with a ton of community organizations, law enforcement, probation and parole, judges, prosecutors and other social service providers. They plan to enhance that with this one-time purchase of a new space that they can better serve the whole community. Non-profits are not all the same and without this money they probably will not survive at the level that they are continuing to try and sustain right now. They need more space, a one-time opportunity so that they can continue to offer the services that they offer to the community.

Supervisor Rachael Dowling addressed the fact that on Zoom she was not able to access the meeting until the host let her in. She requested a change to the settings in the future so it wouldn't take so long to get into a meeting and that she would be able to start a video if she wanted.

Supervisor Rachael Dowling expressed a sense of disappointment and a feeling of being deceived as a County Board Supervisor. During the March County Board meeting she took a decisive step by proposing the removal of a provision in the ARPA budget. The ARPA Commission had intended to allocate a substantial amount to non-profit organizations. She voiced her reasons why she took that step and the concerns she has on that issue. She also voiced her concerns of a potential conflict of interest regarding Beth Oswald being a part of the Citizen Review Work Group. This group determines what non-profits are eligible for a specific category and later review, categorize, and eventually score the non-profits applications and then make their recommendations back to the commission.

## **2. Approval of 5/03/2023 meeting minutes.**

Motion by Belter, seconded by Farrey to approve the May 3, 2023, meeting minutes.

Motion by Cox, seconded by Belter to make an amendment to the May 3, 2023, minutes. Add, **10 %** to agenda item no. 5. Should state, " 5. Discuss/Action on Resolution to Allow for 10% Deviation in Spirit Fund Category Requests for INNOVATION and to Create a Sunsetting Innovation Analyst Position within the County Department of Administration". **CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.**

Motion by Cox, seconded by Belter to approve the May 3, 2023, minutes as amended. **CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.**

### 3. Update on request for funding proposals in the Government Identified Community Projects

#### Category

Executive Doemel addressed and clarified the confusion surrounding the removal of 25% on the Non-Governmental Community Projects category and replaced that 25% which in turn increased the County Government Projects category to 50% which people thought excluded non-profits. He also clarified that the county partners with non-profits all the time and if the county board decided to make the decision that they are no longer going to fund non-profits they are going to have to cancel hundreds of contracts that they have which is also going to add a lot of work and a lot of money. He hoped he provided a little more clarity and if anyone has any further questions, feel free to reach out to him or his office and he would be happy to sit down and discuss it further with you.

- **Citizen Review Work Group – Beth Oswald**

The ARPA Strategy and Outcomes Commission unanimously nominated Beth Oswald to lead this work group. Beth explained how and why she chose the other citizen members for this work group. She looked for representatives that didn't have a vested interest and were from different geographical areas in the county, so all municipalities get some type of representation. Beth discussed the intent, what it will entail and the timeline of the work that will be completed in this Citizen Review Work Group.

Beth introduced two of the other three other citizen members on the work group.

- Kate Pfaendtner: previously served on the board of the Winneconne Community Foundation representing Winneconne area.
- Rachel Hansen: Sr. Community Engagement Specialist at Oshkosh Corporation who was unable to attend today's meeting.
- Peter Dulcamara: retired from his role as Chief Scientist at Kimberly Clark representing the Neenah Menasha area.

Tom Egan wanted clarification from Corporation Counsel regarding Supervisor Hanson's public comment in regard to the passing of the amended resolution by the board where non-profits was not part of the Spirit and ARPA funds. Supervisor Hanson's understanding according to the rules that this would not be able to be brought up again until the next session which will be in 2024.

Mary Anne Mueller shared her thoughts on this issue. The initial thought was the commission was going to have various buckets and the county board decided to eliminate one bucket. The fact that the county board voted to exclude this bucket does not prevent government identified community projects being addressed to non-profits. The key is to look at the category. The category title is Government Identified Community Projects and some non-profits could fall within that but again that's up to the conditions of the commission.

Jon Doemel stated that his envision is to have the Citizen Review Work Group do their work, make their recommendations and then present them to the ARPA commission. He stated everything is going to be equally proposed and equally shared. He wants to make sure that projects are looked at on their merits of what they do and not the ability of the organization and that the process is truly fair and truly equal for any projects.

Beth Oswald stated that this work group has not even met yet. When they do, they will be just trying to categorize all the applications/surveys and determine some type of very objective scoring model.

- **Flowchart of Government Identified Community Projects**

Executive Doemel explained that there are two different categories. One that is Government Identified Community Projects and the other is for County Government Projects. The definition that splits the two is that the County Government Projects are proposed by the County Executive and his department head team. The Government Identified Community Projects are identified by the commission and are intended to be a collaboration between county departments and community.

Beth Oswald briefly stated a posting of the process will hopefully be added to the county website in the next few days.

- **Eligibility of non-profits to receive Spirit Fund Dollars**

Doemel referred to Ethan Hollenberger and Corporation Counsel to address this.

Are non-profits eligible under the category or not? The answer is yes. Mary Anne Mueller stated, "If the board said no, there cannot be a bucket for this group, it did not prohibit this group from saying government identified community projects if it falls within the parameters, can include certain non-profits".

- **Amount Allocated to Government Identified Community Projects**

Doemel referred to Ethan Hollenberger. This is something we wanted on the agenda in the event the commission wanted to discuss how much money is allocated into that category.

**4. Reconsideration: Resolution to Allow for Deviation of up to 10 percent of the total Spirit Fund into either Spirit Fund Category Requests for Innovation and to Create a Sunsetting Innovation Analyst Position within the Winnebago County Department of Administration**

Motion by Farrey to reconsider his motion for the approval of the resolution from May 3, 2023, to allow the deviation of up to 10 % of the total Spirit Fund into either Spirit Fund Category Requests for Innovation and to Create a Sunsetting Innovation Analyst Position within the County Department of Administration, seconded by Buck. CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.

Motion by Farrey to withdraw his motion and support for this resolution from the May 3, 2023, meeting basically nullifying that resolution, seconded by Buck which takes the May 3, 2023, resolution off the table. Unanimous consent to withdraw.

Motion by Egan, seconded by Buck to bring the new resolution to Create a Sunsetting Innovation Analyst Position within the Winnebago County Department of Administration up for discussion on the floor.

Motion by Farrey, seconded by Buck to make an amendment to the resolution. Add: "(7) The position will assist on special projects, including grants for towns and small municipalities" on the second page of the resolution, line 51. CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.

Motion by Farrey, seconded by Buck to approve resolution as amended. AYES: 5; NAYS: 4—Egan, Cox, Farrey, and Borchart. MOTION PASSED 5-4.

Motion by Egan, seconded by Farrey to forward resolution to the Personnel & Finance Committee. CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE. (Nay 1 - Cox)

**5. Set next meeting date and time.**

The next meeting date will be Thursday, August 10, 2023, at 1:00 p.m. at the Winnebago County Sheriff's Office, Richard Meyer Community Resource Room.

**6. Adjournment.**

Motion made by Farrey, seconded by Buck to adjourn at 3:37 p.m. MOTION CARRIES.

Submitted by:  
Cassie Smith-Gregor