

WINNEBAGO COUNTY
ARPA Strategy and Outcomes Commission
Minutes

DATE: Thursday, August 10, 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 ZOOM
	Cassie Smith-Gregor, Deputy County Clerk	Bob Schmeichel
	Mary Anne Mueller, Corporation Counsel	Ellen Skerke
	Andrew Kaspar, Corporation Counsel	Supervisor Rachael Dowling
	Supervisor Conley Hanson	Supervisor Paul Eisen
	Supervisor Kay Horan	Michael Collard
	Adam Breest	Lara Vendola, Sheriff's Office
	Joel Rasmussen	Doug Gieryn
	Vicky Rasmussen	Beth G.
	Jane Lang	Deb Martin
	Lynn Kromm	Heidi Keating
		Jennifer R.
		Lu Scheer

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

1. Public Comments

Joel Rasmussen, Town of Algoma Chairman, spoke in support of the \$145,000 appropriations for municipalities. He voiced his frustrations regarding the delay and distribution of funds, lack of communication and response from county offices related to the Spirit Funds. He asked the commission to do whatever they can do to get these funds distributed. He also commented on the earned interest. He would like to see a portion of that possibly split amongst municipalities in addition to the \$145,000.

Supervisor Kay Horan stated there is a resolution that will be presented to the County Board at the August 15, 2023, County Board meeting. It is an amendment to the resolution that was presented to the County Board in March. Supervisor Horan stated as she read and understood it, the \$145,000 would be distributed on September 1, 2023, if the County Board approves that resolution.

Supervisor Kay Horan also voiced her concerns on non-profits eligibility going back and forth and a possible conflict with Beth Oswald on the Citizen Review Work Group playing a role in categorizing and scoring project submissions for the Spirit Funds. She thanked the three County Board Supervisors, Chuck Farrey, Morris Cox and Paul Eisen, for bringing this resolution amendment forward.

Kevin Kloehn, Fire Chief with the Neenah Menasha Fire Rescue, thanked the commission for the opportunity to speak. Neenah Menasha did submit a couple of projects. He wanted to let the commission know that one was for radios, and one was for a training tower on their station 31. They would prefer the radios first.

Supervisor Conley Hanson expressed appreciation for the efforts of the individuals on the Citizen Review Work

Group. He hopes those individuals would be compensated for those meetings because they're discussing county business and funds. If they are not, he stated he would be interested in introducing a resolution to make sure that those individuals are compensated for those meetings including mileage. He would really like to see on their agenda what projects are being discussed, at least the topic not necessarily the bid but at least what is being discussed in that meeting.

Supervisor Conley Hanson is very interested to hear about the interest earned. He would really appreciate the committee giving Mr. Belter a lot more weight. Belter brought up some concerns earlier on that Supervisor Hanson would like to see readdressed and is interested in his opinion today. Supervisor Hanson does support the fire departments requests for ARPA funds for their radios. He believes that is a wise investment that would benefit all Winnebago County residents.

Supervisor Conley Hanson also spoke in support of the \$145,000 appropriations for municipalities and wants to get these funds distributed.

Supervisor Rachael Dowling thanked the commission for their time. She had listened to the last ARPA meeting and the word 'grant funding' or 'grant' was used over 20 times. She wanted to remind everyone on the commission that this is not a grant, it is a tax refund from the government, so the county is spending taxpayer money right now.

Supervisor Rachael Dowling stated on June 28th, she filed an open records request, for all the ARPA/Spirit applications. She was told that she had to wait until August 4th for her request to be fulfilled. It has still not been fulfilled. If she doesn't receive the paperwork by 5:00 pm tonight, she will be contacting the attorney general.

Deb Martin, Oshkosh, has attended quite a few of these ARPA meetings as well. She is very discouraged. She supports Joel Rasmussen and Supervisor Conley Hanson comments that they shared earlier in the meeting. She really wants to see this commission take some action and get these funds where they can do good.

2. Approval of June 29, 2023, meeting minutes.

Motion by Farrey, seconded by Belter to approve the June 29, 2023, meeting minutes. CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.

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

• Citizen Review Work Group – Beth Oswald

Beth Oswald mentioned to everyone that there is a handout that is titled "Process Used by the Four-Citizen Panel for Requests from Spirit Funds for Winnebago County". This is a visual and an explanation of how they went through this process.

- Proposals/Surveys completed by applicants.
- The four-citizen panel applies requirements prepared by the ARPA Strategy and Outcomes Commission and approved by the County Board.
- Proposals classified based on requirements:
 - Meets requirements
 - Does not meet requirements
 - Additional information needed

There were many applications/surveys submitted by the August 4, 2023, deadline. This process will help this commission to determine where to start spending some of the Spirit funds. Beth identified each project and classification.

Co-Chair Egan let Beth Oswald know that she will be able to present the findings from the Citizen Review Work Group at the September 5, 2023, Special Orders Session.

• Review of eligibility for funding under the category – Mary Anne Mueller

Mary Anne Mueller, Corporation Counsel, discussed, explained and reviewed the timeline of events and eligibility for funding under the category for the ARPA/Spirit funds that Winnebago County received. A document was distributed to the members in their packet and was also posted on the website that outlined her thoughts.

• Review of Interest earned on the ARPA/Spirit Funds

Paul Kaiser, Winnebago County Finance Director, discussed and explained where the Spirit funds are at with the interest earned from those funds. A document was provided that showed the interest earned from the Spirit Fund, Spirit Fund Projects that have been presented and passed by the County Board and what has been spent at this time.

Supervisor Farrey stated he wanted this topic added to the agenda. The initiative previously was to hire another person, a grant writer. During that process, Executive Doemel identified that the grant writer would be paid from the interest in the fund. Supervisor Farrey read line 49-50 on Resolution 167-012023 that was amended and passed by the County Board on March 21, 2023. "BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED that all interest accrued on the ARPA SLFRF funds before the enactment of this resolution shall also be transferred to the Spirit Fund and spent in the same manner as the principal amount." Supervisor Farrey interpreted that as the interest can only be spent on identified and approved projects and wanted to clarify that and cannot be spent on anything else such as employment compensation.

4. County Government Projects for Outdoor Recreation

- **Community Park Condition Assessment and Master Plan**
- **WIOWASH Trail Amenity Review**
- **Boat Launch Upgrades**
 - **Resolution 174-012023: Authorizing a Capital Improvements Project to Provide Automated Pay Stations for Boat Landings, to be Funded by a Transfer of \$120,000 from the Spirit Fund.**
- **Waukau Dam Project**

Adam Breest, Director of the Parks & Recreation Department presented the County Government Projects for Outdoor Recreation for the projects listed above.

Vote on Resolution 174-012023: Authorizing a Capital Improvements Project to Provide Automated Pay Stations for Boat Landings, to be Funded by a Transfer of \$120,000 from the Spirit Fund.

Motion by Farrey, seconded by Buck to approve resolution and forward to the County Board. AYES: 8; NAYS: 1 – Galloway. MOTION PASSED 8-1.

5. Update on \$145,000 appropriations for municipalities.

Co-Chair Egan stated that the Town of Rushford went through this whole process already and at this time is just waiting for the check.

The towns and municipalities thought the checks would just be issued but that is not the case.

Paul Kaiser stated that he is following the resolution that the County Board passed. There were requirements that needed to be met before checks could be cut to the towns and municipalities.

Ethan Hollenberger went through the process and requirements that the towns and municipalities need to complete before they can receive any funds. He also provided an update on where towns and municipalities were at in this process and what projects they would be utilizing the funds for.

6. Set next meeting date and time.

The next meeting date will be Thursday, August 31, 2023, at 1:00 p.m. at the Winnebago County Sheriff's Office, Richard Meyer Community Resource Room.

7. Adjournment.

Motion made by Belter, seconded by Egan to adjourn at 3:30 p.m. MOTION CARRIES.

Submitted by:
Cassie Smith-Gregor