

Corrected

WINNEBAGO COUNTY  
ARPA Strategy and Outcomes Commission  
Minutes

DATE: Friday, October 6, 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  
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)

ABSENT: Tom Borchart, County Board Member

ALSO PRESENT: Cassie Smith-Gregor, Deputy County Clerk  
Mary Anne Mueller, Corporation Counsel  
Victoria Kinderman, Corporation Counsel  
Andrew Kaspar, Corporation Counsel  
Supervisor Conley Hanson  
Supervisor Kay Horan  
Supervisor Doug Nelson  
Doug Gieryn  
Kelly Olson, Damascus Road Project, Inc.  
Lynn Kromm  
Kyle Coenen  
Logan Fuller, Village of Winneconne  
Steve Foster, Village of Winneconne  
James Fluette, Village of Winneconne  
Todd Sweeney, Fox Crossing Fire Department  
Shawn Bordeaux, Fox Crossing Fire Department  
Tony Daley – Journalist – The Omro Herald

via **ZOOM**  
Supervisor Steven Binder  
Supervisor Rachael Dowling  
Nathan Struensee, Sheriff's Dept  
Sandy Drexler  
Halle Braun  
John Smith  
Beth G.  
Chloe Bunker  
Karen Schneider  
Wendy Krueger  
Susan Garcia-Franz  
Katie Olson  
Barb Tengesdal  
Deb Martin  
Steve Nielson

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

### 1. Public Comments

Supervisor Conley Hanson reiterated his gratitude to this commission for the work that has been done. He understands that there are many organizations that submitted projects requesting spirit funds. Unfortunately, the reality is not all of them can be funded. Supervisor Hanson stated when the projects come before the board, he will be looking for what is going to be the best benefit to the county.

Todd Sweeney, Fire Chief of the Fox Crossing Fire Department and who is also on the Winnebago County Fire Chiefs Association provided the additional documentation the commission requested regarding the radio project. This project request would benefit all residents in the county. The Motorola quote is the same vendor, salesperson, and radio that the Sheriff has. The reason they went with that radio was for a few reasons. The county has a Motorola Computer-aided dispatch (CAD) system. The Motorola radio blends with that CAD system, so it avoids any challenges there. The Motorola has a longer life expectancy and a longer reach, as far as distance, with the transmission so that data is supported. Mr. Sweeney appreciates and understands the challenges you all have. He thanked the commission for their

time, effort, and consideration for this requested radio project for the County Fire Departments.

Supervisor Doug Nelson, Village of Winneconne voiced his support regarding the Winneconne County Park project request. The Village of Winneconne has some great plans for that park. It is still used by the entire county. Supervisor Nelson thinks it has the best boat launch in the area and is in a very unique spot. He hopes that the commission would consider giving them a one-time opportunity so that they can get back on top of their parks.

Kelly Olson, Support Services Director for the Damascus Roads Project, shared a couple of incidents that took place at the last meeting that she thought was valuable for the commission to know. It involved an individual who needed medical attention and one that they identified who had been trafficked. Ms. Olson explained the situation and that these individuals are now receiving services through Damascus Roads. They have seen an exponential increase in the population that they provide services for since Covid. The individuals they provide services to are going to need consistent ongoing resources to recover from the trauma of trafficking so Damascus Roads cannot do that without this funding. They are grateful that the commission is considering them. Damascus Roads has their monthly free trafficking 101 class next Wednesday, October 18, 2023. They will be hosting the meeting from 6-8 pm in their office. If you'd like to learn more about what's happening in our county, they invite you to come. Thank you for your support and consideration.

Jeremy Pingel, Director of Operations with St Vincent De Paul in Neenah. They took over a food pantry from a local church in February 2021. They started with 50 families, and they just passed 1900 families in the northern Winnebago county area. The need continues to grow each month. They are expanding into a new location and submitted a spirit fund request with hope to have some help with that. The cost of food is what's really hurting them and keeping the pantry full. Mr. Pingel stated if they could divert funds paying off the renovation and the purchase and put that to food that would be so amazingly helpful. He thanked the commission for their consideration.

Kyle Coenen is a resident of Menasha and asked the commission to help the City of Menasha and its Redevelopment Authority to acquire the Whiting site. It is a site on the Lake Winnebago Butte Des Morts system. That would be great for development of high-end housing or industrial use. If the commission helped the city and the Redevelopment Authority to acquire the property, the development would help bring in jobs or additional residences in the county which would be beneficial. He thanked the commission for the opportunity to speak.

Barb Tengesdal is with First 5 Fox Valley (F5FV). F5FV is an organization that is leveraging collective impact work and strategic partnership to cultivate communities that empower every family to build a solid foundation for children in their first five years. Their organization was asked some additional questions related to the project they submitted for spirit funds. They answered them and felt like what they're doing is a really worthwhile proposal bringing a Help Me Grow navigator to our community. There is a lot of young children under the age of five and their families that really could use this support in Winnebago County. Ms. Tengesdal thanked the commission for even considering adding in the support around early childhood education and how the pandemic affected these families and children.

Deb Martin, a resident of Oshkosh, voiced her concerns regarding the increase in salary for the County Board of Supervisors. Ms. Martin also addressed the commission about the many needs in the community and really urged the commission to act as quickly as possible to get these spirit funds out. It has been over 2 ½ years of holding on to funds that were meant to help people in our community.

Katie Olson is the Lead Organizer for Esther, which is an interfaith social-justice organization. Ms. Olson wanted to address the homelessness issue. She urged the county to find ways to allocate as much money as possible into housing because it is needed, especially for low-income and justice impacted persons. Ms. Olson stated the homelessness rate in our area has tripled in the last few months. It's not even winter yet so we really need to be proactive as we can but also reactive at this time so, please consider that as funds are being disbursed. Thank you for letting me speak today.

Steve Nielsen from Nielsen Communications spoke regarding the radios. He wanted to let the commission know that he provided a competitive quote, as requested by the County Executive office. Mr. Nielsen stated as far as the competitiveness of their product that they have versus the Motorola; they are both 5-watt radios so the transmit power is the same. The transmit and receive sensitivity is going to be the same, if not better on the Kenwood. They have several departments that are using radios on the county system so they're fully compatible. If you look at the numbers, you'll be quite amazed. He thanked the commission for their time today.

Sandy Drexler, Executive Director for Tri-County Dental thanked the commission for looking at their proposal. Dental pain is something that can stop people in their tracks. Ms. Drexler stated that while they are not located in Winnebago County, 40% of their patients are from Winnebago County. They take their mobile clinic out to 24 schools in the Neenah and Oshkosh school districts. They are working really hard to provide free care to the people, and to the kids who are in our schools who are trying really hard to learn. If kids are able to minimize the time out of the classroom and have healthier teeth they're going to do better in life. They'll be able to complete their education and hopefully get great jobs, stay out of homelessness and be contributing members of society. Ms. Drexler mentioned they have a walk-in clinic for people who are in pain and a veteran's program, so they are caring for nearly 5,000 of our citizens every single year and appreciate the consideration that the commission is giving to them.

## **2. Approval of September 14, 2023, meeting minutes.**

Motion by Belter, seconded by ~~Faney~~ **Cox**, to approve the September 14, 2023, meeting minutes. CARRIED BY VOICE

VOTE.

**3. Presentation – Ideas of housing considerations of funding to address housing crisis – Lu Scheer, Winnebago County Housing Coordinator**

Lu Scheer, Winnebago County Housing Coordinator, addressed the housing crisis to the ARPA Strategy and Outcomes Commission. Ms. Scheer talked to the commission intensely about what they're looking for and what they need with the housing crisis that is happening. The project that she is speaking about is number 50 on the spreadsheet. She did a quick introduction of herself and explained how long she's been working in housing, housing development and property management. She has been working with community developers and banks and other funding agencies looking at the housing needs of Winnebago County to help develop a plan and how they can meet those needs. There's been housing studies done over the years and each and every one of them said we should build more housing. They are painfully aware that there isn't enough affordable rental housing, or housing for purchase and for sale on the market. It is estimated that one in four households in Winnebago County are currently suffering financial housing burden meaning they're spending over 30% of their money on housing. Housing helps economic development. Ms. Scheer talked about a couple of examples of affordable housing. The natural flow of housing has been severely interrupted. The housing shortage is not only Winnebago County, it is nationwide but proactive communities are doing something about it. Ms. Scheer stated she has been reading a lot of information and has been involved in webinars and meetings in communities in Wisconsin and across the United States. One of the common things that she is hearing in the communities, both cities and counties, is that they haven't spent out all their ARPA money. They're working on it and one of the things they're doing is they're setting aside ARPA funds to address the housing needs in their communities for the short and long term. Ms. Scheer is urging Winnebago County to consider a model that invests these ARPA funds in ways that would create long-term assistance to home ownership. It is a recommendation that we set aside \$6 million to provide assistance in developing housing funds. The work group that she is putting together will be meeting shortly. It will include funding sources, banks and other funding sources, developers, community planners and economic development individuals. They will be tasked with developing new housing ideas for the county. Ms. Scheer thinks there is an interest in our communities to make these changes to look at housing in a different way. The problem is there's a financial issue. Housing directly affects the economic development of our communities. If the county is committed to set aside funds for housing, it will help and address the housing crisis we see in the communities long beyond the time we see results.

Ms. Scheer then took questions from the commission.

**4. Update/discussion: Status of where Municipalities stand regarding the \$145,000 Spirit Funds distribution.**

Paul Kaiser provided a brief update and handout for the commission on where all the towns and municipalities are at in this process. He identified that the Town of Nekimi, Utica and Vinland are all having Highway work done by the county so they will get a payment to the Highway Department through the county to take care of their invoices for that road maintenance. Mr. Kaiser has received information from the Town of Nepeuskun and another municipality but has not had time to review that yet. He stated that they are moving forward and getting the payments out as they are getting documentation in. Co-Chair Egan stated and thanked Mr. Kaiser for attending the Towns Association meeting. During this meeting, Mr. Kaiser informed municipalities of the funds available to them and explained the process of what was needed to obtain those funds.

**5. Discussion/Possible Action: Resolution: Approving \$250,000 from the Spirit Fund's Government Identified Community Projects Category to Renovate the Omro Area Community Center.**

Motion by Supervisor Buck, seconded by Supervisor Cox to adopt.

Motion by Supervisor Cox, seconded by Supervisor Farrey, to make an amendment to the resolution. On Line 27, add the following verbiage "as long as the OACC remains committed to its mission to strengthen the lives of the individuals, families, and the community" after the word "Center".

Vote on amendment to the resolution: AYES: 8; NAYES: 0; ABSTAIN: 0; ABSENT: 1 – Borchart.  
PASSED.

Motion by Beth Oswald, seconded by Supervisor Cox, to make an amendment to the resolution. On Line 29, add the following verbiage "NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors that upon completion, OACC will submit supporting documentation to the Winnebago County Finance Director outlining the expenditures. The documentation will be submitted within 6 months of the completion of the project but not to exceed 5 years from date of disbursement."

Vote on amendment to the resolution: AYES: 8; NAYES: 0; ABSTAIN: 0; ABSENT: 1 – Borchart.  
PASSED.

Vote on resolution as amended: AYES: 8; NAYES: 0; ABSTAIN: 0; ABSENT: 1 – Borchart. PASSED.

**6. Discussion/Possible Action: Continue prioritizing and selection of projects for Spirit Funding.**

Supervisor Farrey requested updated documents at each meeting showing what monies have been allocated; spent; and what amount of funds is left as they go through and determine what projects they will consider and approve for funding. Basically, a running total as they discuss and determine eligibility of projects for funding.

The commission started to discuss each project separately where they left off at the last meeting and select projects that would meet criteria for Spirit Funding.

Member Tom Belter mentioned he had another commitment and needed to leave in about 5 minutes.

Motion made by Doemel, seconded by Belter to halt discussion of item # 6 and move to agenda item #8 as the next item up to discuss. CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.

Member Tom Belter left at 1:47 pm.

#### **8. Set next meeting date and time.**

The next meeting date will be Friday, October 20, 2023, at 1:00 p.m. at the Winnebago County Sheriff's Office, Richard Meyer Community Resource Room.

Motion made by Doemel, seconded by Farrey to move agenda item # 7 as the next item up to discuss before going back to discussing item #6. CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.

#### **7. Discussion/Possible Action: Winnebago County Fire Chiefs Association (WCFCFA) – Replace mobile, portable and DVRS radios in the county in the amount of \$3.2M.**

Motion by Supervisor Farrey, to make an amendment to approve the radios in the amount of \$3,172,000 excluding radios to the City of Oshkosh. This motion dies for lack of a second.

Motion by Supervisor Buck, seconded by Tim Galloway, to table this agenda item until the next ARPA Strategy and Outcomes Commission meeting scheduled for Friday, October 20, 2023. CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE. (Nay: Egan)

Todd Sweeney, Fire Chief of the Fox Crossing Fire Department and who is also on the Winnebago County Fire Chiefs Association; and Adam BellCorelli from the County Executive's Department will work on obtaining the additional information and answers to questions requested and asked by the commission. They hope to provide this information to the commission at the next meeting.

#### **6. Discussion/Possible Action: Continue prioritizing and selection of projects for Spirit Funding.**

The commission continued discussing each project separately, where they left off earlier in the meeting, and select projects that would meet criteria for Spirit Funding. As the commission discussed each project, they identified details of the project; cost of the project; requested amounts; and determined the minimum and maximum amounts to be considered by the commission. The commission will continue the selection process of projects for spirit funding at the next meeting.

#### **9. Adjournment.**

Motion made by Farrey, seconded by Buck, to adjourn at 4:33 p.m. MOTION CARRIES.

Submitted by:  
Cassie Smith-Gregor