

WINNEBAGO COUNTY  
ARPA Strategy and Outcomes  
Commission Minutes

DATE: Thursday, December 14, 2023

TIME: 1:00 p.m.

PLACE: David W. Albrecht Administration Building  
112 Otter Avenue  
Oshkosh WI 54901  
Susan T. Ertmer 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  
Andy Buck, County Board Member  
Tom Belter, Public Member  
Beth Oswald, Public Member  
Paul Kaiser, Director of Finance (non-voting member)

ABSENT: Tom Borchart, County Board Member  
Tim Galloway, Public Member

ALSO PRESENT: Cassie Smith-Gregor, Deputy County Clerk  
Mary Anne Mueller, Corporation Counsel  
Victoria Kinderman, Corporation Counsel  
Supervisor Kay Horan  
Supervisor Doug Nelson  
Adam BellCorelli, County Executive's Office  
Candy Hall  
Tracy Ogden  
Jeff Trembly  
Amy McGowan  
Kathi Seifert  
Jason Schulist  
Trevor Fenrich  
Dave Mack, Captain, Sheriff's Office  
Brandon Ansell  
Deb Allison-Aasby, Damascus Road Project, Inc.  
Lisa Sennholz, Damascus Road Project, Inc.  
Doug Gieryn  
Lynn Kromm

via **Zoom**  
Supervisor Steven Binder  
Lu Scheer  
Alana Erickson  
Beth G  
Barb Tengesdal  
Tracy Gehrke  
Jennifer B. .  
Sally  
Tony Daley

### 1. Call to Order

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

### 2. Public Comments

Candy Hall, Executive Director of Child Care Resource and Referral in Kimberly, Wisconsin, asked the commission for their support regarding their Spirit Fund request. She explained the need for sub programs and stated that by approving their project, it would allow them to better collect the needed data to create and sustain a sub program in Winnebago County and support our children, families, and childcare providers. She thanked the commission for their time and consideration.

Supervisor Doug Nelson voiced his concerns regarding the issue of the Winnebago County Fire Chief's Association (WCFCFA) and their request to utilize Spirit Funds to replace mobile, portable and DVRS radios. Mr. Nelson realizes that Winneconne didn't request radios when that request came around. He re-read some of the resolution that was passed by the County Board at the November 21, 2023, meeting. He identified part of the title of the resolution "to be Distributed Equitably Among Association Member Fire Departments". Mr. Nelson stated there

is 15 departments and 14 of them will receive Spirit Funds to purchase radios and/or radio equipment. The Winneconne Fire Department is the only department that wouldn't receive any funds. Mr. Nelson does not believe that is equitable and hopes that the WCFCA will make it equitable and not disburse funds based on who submitted for radios and who did not. The reason Winneconne did not request any radios is because they are really hoping to get an upgrade for an airboat.

Supervisor Kay Horan stated she is on UW-Extension Committee. She spoke on behalf of Supervisor Steve Binder, who would like to know that the childcare issue will be addressed in Winnebago County. Ms. Horan also commented and supported Supervisor Doug Nelson's concerns regarding the Winneconne Fire Department. She stated they were responsible and budgeted for them as they were previously informed to do and should not be penalized for that. Ms. Horan also asked the commission to provide an update each month at the County Board meetings so all the Supervisors are aware of everything that this commission is doing.

Tracy Ogden, CEO of the Boys and Girls Club of Oshkosh, clarified the reason for their two requests and to answer some questions that came up. She informed the commission of all the services they provide and the need for the expansion to meet the big increase in attendance at the Boys and Girls Club. Ms. Ogden thanked the commission for their time and consideration.

Jeff Trembly, Board President of the Boys and Girls Club of Oshkosh, voiced his support for the Boys and Girls Club of Oshkosh project request. He stated that they have partnered with HeadStart and have children from 4 years old to 18 years old. This program has an impact on kids and may help children get on the right path.

Amy McGowan, Director of Development - Greater Fox Cities Area Habitat for Humanity and Kathi Seifert, Board of Directors Member – Fox Cities Habitat for Humanity voiced their support for the project request to Help Greater Fox Cities Area Habitat for Humanity Build or Rehabilitate 10 Homes in Northern Winnebago County and deeply appreciate the commissions consideration.

Jason Schulist, Executive Director for the Fox Valley Data Exchange, explained in detail what their project request entailed and voiced his support to build an online repository of community data used by organizations and governmental departments across Winnebago, Outagamie, and Calumet Counties. Mr. Schulist stated this is a community services organization and the primary purpose of this is to centralize and make data more accessible at the community level. He thanked the commission for their consideration.

Trevor Fenrich, Executive Director for Solutions Recovery, spoke about what their organization has been able to accomplish over the past several years to support individuals struggling with substance use in our community. Mr. Fenrich identified and explained in detail several services that they provide. He asked the commission for their support in their project request. This would allow Solutions Recovery to support the growing need for services and recovery in our community.

Dave Mack, Captain of the Sheriff's Office, and the current jail administrator, voiced his support of the request to use Spirit Funds to purchase the existing Christine Ann Building to expand Solutions Recovery. This is an excellent program, a growing need to provide individuals an opportunity to achieve sobriety. Mr. Mack stated that supporting Solutions Recovery and the STAR program is that goal.

Brandon Ansell voiced his support for the Damascus Road Project. Mr. Ansell spoke as a professional contact confirmation as to the work they do and what they've done in the community, particularly the human and sex trafficking issue that is taking place in our area.

Deb Allison-Aasby, Volunteer Business and Communications Director for the Damascus Road Project, provided an update on their new temporary home until a permanent home is determined. She thanked the commission for all they do and appreciates their consideration on the Damascus Road project request.

Lisa Sennholz, Founder and Executive Director for Damascus Road stated they've attended many of these meetings. She thanked the commission for their time, all of the opportunities they allowed them to speak and for their consideration to utilize the Spirit Funds for their project request.

Supervisor Steven Binder reminded everyone that UW Oshkosh had closed down their daycare and this community has been very fortunate to have the Oshkosh YMCA step up and take that over. Childcare is an issue that needs to be addressed. Mr. Binder also echoed Supervisor Doug Nelson's comments regarding the Winneconne Fire Department. They are the only Fire Department that will not receive any funds and that is not equitable. Supervisor Binder stated that the commission should somehow make it equitable for Winneconne, possibly push through a different project request.

Barb Tengesdal, First 5 Fox Valley (F5FV), stated she feels that a thriving community requires a robust vision to make a high impact investment in our youngest children. They have utilized The Help Me Grow Program and respectfully ask the commission to consider supporting The Help Me Grow Program to support early childhood development. Ms. Tengesdal thanked the commission for their time and consideration.

### **3. Approval of November 7, 2023, meeting minutes.**

Motion by Doemel, seconded by Farrey, to approve the November 7, 2023, meeting minutes. CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.

Co-Chair Egan reported that Supervisor Borchart and Tim Galloway asked to be excused for today's meeting.

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

Paul Kaiser provided a brief update for the commission on where all the towns and municipalities are at in this process. Mr. Kaiser stated out of the 21 municipalities, 17 of them have been sent their funds. He is still waiting for documentation and/or what the Town of Nekimi, Town of Vinland, Town of Wolf River, and the Village of Winneconne want to do with it. Mr. Kaiser will send out another email to them four municipalities relating to getting information on how they want to do that.

**5. Update/discussion: 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 approved and spent at this time.

**6. Discussion/Action: Resolution – Approving \$\_\_\_\_\_ from the Spirit Fund's Government Identified Community Projects Category to Assist in the Purchase and Renovation of New Facilities for the Damascus Road Project**

Motion by Doemel, seconded by Egan, to adopt the request from the Damascus Road Project at an amount of \$500,000.

Motion by Supervisor Buck, seconded by Supervisor Farrey, to make an amendment to the resolution. On Line 25, add the following verbiage to read, "BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors that the Damascus Road Project shall be responsible for reimbursement to Winnebago County for any disbursed funds which are determined by Winnebago County to have been misused or misappropriated. Any reimbursement of funds which is required by Winnebago County shall be due within 45 days after giving written notice to recipient of such misuse or misappropriation."

Vote on amendment to the resolution: CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.

Mary Anne Mueller, Corporation Counsel, clarified that on the resolution, it states the vote required for passage states "Majority of Members Present". When the resolution goes to the County Board, the vote required for passage will require two-thirds of the membership, not a majority.

Vote on resolution as amended: AYES: 6; NAYES: 1 - Belter; ABSTAIN: 0; ABSENT: 2 – Borchart and Galloway. PASSED.

**7. Discussion/Action: Resolution – Approving \$\_\_\_\_\_ from the Spirit Fund's Government Identified Community Projects Category to Expand Solutions Recovery Housing**

Motion by Belter, seconded by Oswald, to adopt the request from Solutions Recovery at an amount of \$500,000.

Motion by Supervisor Buck, seconded by Doemel, to make an amendment to the resolution. On Line 24, add the following verbiage to read, "BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors that the Solutions Recovery Housing shall be responsible for reimbursement to Winnebago County for any disbursed funds which are determined by Winnebago County to have been misused or misappropriated. Any reimbursement of funds which is required by Winnebago County shall be due within 45 days after giving written notice to recipient of such misuse or misappropriation."

Vote on amendment to the resolution: CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.

Mary Anne Mueller, Corporation Counsel, clarified that on the resolution, it states the vote required for passage states "Majority of Members Present". When the resolution goes to the County Board, the vote required for passage will require two-thirds of the membership, not a majority.

Vote on resolution as amended: AYES: 6; NAYES: 1 - Cox; ABSTAIN: 0; ABSENT: 2 – Borchart and Galloway. PASSED.

**8. Discussion/Action: Resolution – Approving \$\_\_\_\_\_ from the Spirit Fund's Government Identified Community Projects Category to Help Greater Fox Cities Area Habitat for Humanity Build or Rehabilitate 10 Homes in Northern Winnebago County**

Motion by Doemel, seconded by Belter, to adopt the request from Greater Fox Cities Area Habitat for Humanity at an amount of \$500,000.

Vote on resolution: AYES: 7; NAYES: 0; ABSTAIN: 0; ABSENT: 2 – Borchart and Galloway.  
PASSED.

**9. Discussion/Action: Resolution – Approving \$\_\_\_\_\_ from the Spirit Fund's Government Identified Community Projects Category to Expand the Building of NOVA Counseling Services Facilities**

Motion by Doemel, seconded by Buck, to adopt the request from Nova Counseling at an amount of \$500,000.

Vote on resolution: AYES: 7; NAYES: 0; ABSTAIN: 0; ABSENT: 2 – Borchart and Galloway.  
PASSED.

**10. Discussion/Action: Resolution – Approving \$\_\_\_\_\_ from the Spirit Fund's Government Identified Community Projects Category to Expand the Childcare Space and Program Offerings at the Oshkosh YMCA**

Motion by Buck, seconded by Belter, to adopt the request from Oshkosh YMCA at an amount of \$500,000.

Vote on resolution: AYES: 7; NAYES: 0; ABSTAIN: 0; ABSENT: 2 – Borchart and Galloway.  
PASSED.

**11. Discussion/Action: Resolution – Approving \$\_\_\_\_\_ from the Spirit Fund's Government Identified Community Projects Category to Help The Boys and Girls Club of Oshkosh Expand the Youth-Focused Community Center**

Motion by Doemel, seconded by Buck, to adopt the request from The Boys and Girls Club of Oshkosh at an amount of \$500,000.

Vote on resolution: AYES: 7; NAYES: 0; ABSTAIN: 0; ABSENT: 2 – Borchart and Galloway.  
PASSED.

**12. Discussion/Action: Resolution – Approving \$\_\_\_\_\_ from the Spirit Fund's Government Identified Community Projects Category to Build an Online Repository of Community Data used by Organizations and Governmental Departments Across Winnebago, Outagamie, and Calumet Counties.**

Motion by Doemel, seconded by Cox, to adopt the request from Fox Valley Data Exchange (DEX) at an amount of \$250,000.

Vote on resolution: AYES: 3 – Egan, Doemel and Oswald; NAYES: 4; ABSTAIN: 0;  
ABSENT: 2 – Borchart and Galloway. FAILED.

**13. Discussion/Possible Action: Continue prioritizing, selection, and funding amounts for projects for Spirit Funding.**

The commission discussed the remaining projects. They decided to bring resolutions for the municipality requested projects that would meet criteria for Spirit Funding before addressing the rest of the non-profit requests.

The commission will continue this process, discussing each project, identifying details of the project; cost of the project; requested amounts; and determining the amounts to be considered by the commission at the next meeting.

Corporation Counsel will draft twelve (12) resolutions to review and vote on at the next meeting. These resolutions will have no dollar amounts. The commission will discuss and determine the amount for those projects at the next meeting. Those twelve (12) resolutions will be:

- Menasha
  - Mobile Traffic Barriers and Transport Equipment
  - Moving the Housing Authority to a new location; Water Street Plan
- Town of Algoma
  - The South leg of a 2-lane roundabout at Leonard Point Road and STH 21
- Omro
  - Old, dilapidated water and sewer utility crossing under the Fox River
  - Hire MSA Engineering to conduct a drainage plan

- Neenah
  - Vehicle Barrier System
- Oshkosh
  - Commonwealth Development proposing to develop a 55-unit low income mixed-use development
  - Affordable workforce housing
- Oshkosh Housing Authority
  - Homelessness Project
- Winneconne
  - Remodel of Barn in the Lake Winneconne Park
  - Improvement and addition of boat docks/piers
- Neenah/Menasha Fire
  - Emergency Service – Training

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

The next meeting date will be Wednesday, January 17, 2024, at 1:00 p.m. at the David W. Albrecht Administration Building in the Susan T. Ertmer Conference Room (Room 120).

**15. Adjournment.**

Motion made by Doemel, seconded by Cox, to adjourn at 3:28 p.m. MOTION CARRIES.

Submitted by:  
Cassie Smith-Gregor  
Winnebago County Deputy Clerk