

Winnebago County Board
Legislative & Lobbying Committee Meeting
County Administration Building
404 Elm Street, Conference Room 510
Rockford, IL 61101

Tuesday, August 22, 2023
5:30 PM

Present:

Jaime Salgado, **Chairperson**
Paul Arena
Valerie Hanserd
John F. Sweeney

Others Present:

Joseph Chiarelli, County Board Chairman
Marlana Dokken, Director, Chairperson's Office of Criminal
Justice Initiatives

Absent:

Aaron Booker
Tim Nabors
John Penney

AGENDA:

- A. Call to Order
- B. Roll Call
- C. Approval of July 21 and 25, 2023 Minutes
- D. Public Comment – This is the time we invite the public to address the Legislative and Lobbying Committee with issues and concerns. We ask you to limit your comments to three minutes. Personal attacks or inappropriate language of any sort will not be tolerated. We will allow a maximum of five speakers on a first come basis with sign up at the meeting. Speakers may not address zoning matters which are pending before the ZBA, the Zoning Committee or the County Board. Personnel matters or pending or threatened litigation may not be addressed in open session. An individual may speak a maximum of three times per calendar year on the same topic. This prohibition shall include the repetition of the same topic in a statement on what is purported to be a different topic. After acknowledgement by the chair, please stand and state your name. Thank you.
- E. Discuss Legislative and Lobbying Committee Initial Plan and interim Priorities
- F. Future Agenda Items
- G. Adjournment

Call to Order

Chairperson Salgado called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

Roll Call

Chairperson Salgado yes, Mr. Arena yes, John F. Sweeney yes, Ms. Hanserd yes.

Approval of July 21 and 25, 2023 Minutes

Motion: Ms. Hanserd. Second: Mr. Sweeney.

Chairperson Salgado called for any discussion.

Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Public Comment

Chairperson Salgado omitted reading the Public Comment Section of the Agenda due to no one present to speak.

Discuss Legislative and Lobbying Committee Initial Plan and interim Priorities

Introductions were made by committee members to Mercury representatives. Cheri Bustos, Mercury Co-Chair introduced herself and gave some background on her political career, familiarity with Winnebago County and her current position as consultant with the public affairs and lobbying firm Mercury Public Affairs. Ms. Bustos shared the goal of Mercury is to serve the County and be good communicators and shared the history of Mercury and their experience and resources. Zach Koutsky, Mercury Managing Director introduced himself to the committee and gave a brief work background.

Five top priorities were identified by Mercury:

1. PSB Building Funding Gap
2. Quality of Water Wells
3. Roads, Specifically Perryville from Cherry Valley to Roscoe
4. Public Safety with Multiple Sub-Heads
5. Tackling Blight

Chairperson Salgado opened up the meeting to committee members to share their priorities.

Chairperson Salgado spoke about the expectations of the lobbyist and reported the Legislative & Lobbying committee will be responsible for communication and provide progress reports to the County Board. The committee can utilize the committee structure to highlight lobbyist or grant related items within the appropriate committees.

- Winnebago County Board Chairman Chiarelli and Ms. Dokken, Director will be the point of contact for Mercury.
- Mercury will create a report as an action item on the top priorities and give a presentation to the full County Board once the Grant Writer is secured.
- Chairman Salgado and County Board Chairman Chiarelli will create a schedule and determine the frequency of reporting.
- Ms. Dokken will follow up with Hannah on D-1 and D-2 reporting.
- Mercury requested a County Board Schedule of Meetings, an overview of the PSB and Synopsis of the Solid Waste Management Landfill.
- Mercury will provide the House and Senate calendars for the remainder of 2023.
- Mercury will prepare a letter from Chairman Chiarelli to Federal legislators announcing Mercury was hired to represent Winnebago County.
- Hold regular meetings to meet directly with legislators and invite the legislators to attend a County Board meeting to address issues.
- Host a Legislative & Lobbyist breakfast meeting with legislators to meet Mercury representatives.
- Schedule meetings with Federal legislators.

- Mercury will facilitate Legislative & Lobbying committee members to meet with the Danish Ambassador in February 2024 in Washington D.C. Mercury offered to coordinate arrangements and appointments.
- NACo holds a Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C. in February 2024. Mercury offered to coordinate arrangements and appointments.

Chairperson Salgado called for questions, comments or thoughts.

Future Agenda Items – None to report.

Motion to Adjourn

Chairperson Salgado called for a motion to adjourn.

Motion: Mr. Sweeney. Second: Ms. Hanserd.

Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Bleile
Administrative Assistant