

# LEGISLATIVE & LOBBYING COMMITTEE AGENDA

**Called by:** Chairman Chiarelli  
**Members:** Paul Arena, Angela  
Fellars, Tim Nabors, Valerie Hanserd,  
John F. Sweeney, John Penney

**DATE:** TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2026  
**TIME:** 4:00 PM  
**LOCATION:** ROOM 303  
COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BLDG  
404 ELM STREET  
ROCKFORD, IL 61101

## AGENDA:

- A. Call to Order
- B. Roll Call
- C. Approval of July 29, 2025 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. Legislative Update from Mercury
- F. Legislative Update from Fulcrum
- G. Legislative Priorities Discussion
- H. Future Agenda Items
- I. Adjournment

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

Tuesday, July 29, 2025  
5:30 PM

**Present:**

Angela Fellars  
Valerie Hanserd  
Kevin McCarthy (sub for Paul Arena)  
Tim Nabors  
John Penney (via Zoom)

**Others Present:**

Joseph Chiarelli, County Board Chairman  
Marlana Dokken, Director, Chairman's Office of Criminal Justice Initiatives  
Karen Elyea, Chief Strategy Officer

**Absent:**

Paul Arena  
John F. Sweeney

**AGENDA:**

- A. Call to Order
- B. Roll Call
- C. Approval of July 8, 2025 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 acknowledgment by the chair, please stand and state your name. Thank you.
- E. Resolution Authorizing the Winnebago County Board Chairman to Execute the First Amendment to the Professional Services Agreement by and between The Ferguson Group (“TFG”) and the County of Winnebago for Grant Writing Services
- F. Future Agenda Items
- G. Adjournment

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM.

**Roll Call** – Ms. Fellars yes, Ms. Hanserd yes, Mr. McCarthy, yes (sub for Mr. Arena), Mr. Nabors yes.

**A quorum is present.**

Chairman Chiarelli called for a motion to include board member Mr. Penney in the meeting via Zoom.

Motion: Ms. Fellars. Second: Ms. Hanserd, Mr. Nabors.

Chairman Chiarelli called for any discussion.

Chairman Chiarelli called for a vote.

The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

### **Approval of July 8, 2025 Minutes**

Chairman Chiarelli called for a motion to approve the minutes of July 8, 2025.

Motion: Mr. Nabors. Second: Ms. Fellars.

Chairman Chiarelli called for any discussion.

Chairman Chiarelli called for a vote.

The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

### **Public Comment**

The reading of the Public Comment Section of the Agenda was omitted due to no one present to speak.

Mr. Penney was welcomed to the meeting.

### **Resolution Authorizing the Winnebago County Board Chairman to Execute the First Amendment to the Professional Services Agreement by and between The Ferguson Group (“TFG”) and the County of Winnebago for Grant Writing Services**

Ms. Elyea reviewed The Ferguson Group’s contract for grant writing services and discussed the committee’s recommendation to amend the professional service agreement with The Ferguson Group for grant writing services. The committee agreed to reduce the level of service to Tier One, determining that the level would adequately meet the needs while avoiding overlap with existing lobbyist support. Ms. Elyea asked if anyone had questions for her and Ms. Dokken.

A discussion followed regarding the tier levels of services offered by The Ferguson Group, other grant-writing sources, and the costs associated with grants. The original goal was to consolidate services across departments, which was not fully achieved due to underutilization. The importance of keyword tracking for legislative opportunities was noted, although it would not be part of Tier One services.

The committee discussed the board’s successes in securing funding and the importance of recognizing successes related to grant funding to highlight the value of expenditures.

Chairman Chiarelli called for any other questions regarding the Resolution and called for a motion.

Motion: Mr. Penney. Second: Ms. Hanserd.

Chairman Chiarelli called for any further discussion and a vote.

The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

### **Future Agenda Items**

- None reported.

### **Motion to Adjourn**

Chairperson Chiarelli called for a motion to adjourn.

Motion: Mr. McCarthy. Second: Ms. Fellars.

The motion to adjourn was passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Bleile  
Executive Assistant

**Legislative Update  
from Mercury**

**Legislative Update  
from Fulcrum**

# **Legislative Priorities Discussion**