

**Winnebago County Board
Economic Development Committee**

County Administration Building
404 Elm Street
Room 303
Rockford, IL 61101

MINUTES of
Monday, May 12, 2025 at 5:30 PM

Members Present:

John Sweeney, Chair
Tim Nabors, Vice Chair (arrived at 5:35 pm)
Angela Fellars
Valerie Hanserd
John Penney (Virtual via Zoom)
Ray Thompson (arrived at 5:40 pm)

Absent:

Brad Lindmark

Other Present:

Chris Dornbush, Chief Operations Officer, Winnebago County
Marlana Dokken, Dir., Chair's Ofc of Criminal Justice Initiatives
Jennifer Muraski, Coroner
Lafakeria Vaughn, State's Attorney's Office
Chris Scrol, County Board Member
Kevin McCarthy, County Board Member
Joseph Chiarelli, Winnebago County Board Chairman
Karen Elyea, Chief Strategy Officer
Jean Crosby, Realtor
Christina Valdez, County Board Member
Michael Thompson, County Board Member
Angie Goral, County Board Member
Aaron Booker, County Board Member

AGENDA:

A. Call to Order

Chairman John Sweeney called the meeting to order at 5:35 PM.

B. Roll Call

A roll call was taken of all members present. Chairman John Sweeney, Tim Nabors, Angela Fellars, and Valerie Hanserd.

A quorum is present.

Chairman John Sweeney called for a motion to include John Penney in the meeting via Zoom.

Motion was made by Tim Nabors and seconded by Angela Fellars.

MOTION WAS APPROVED (4-0). Aye votes were: Chairman John Sweeney,
Tim Nabors, Angela Fellars, and Valerie Hanserd.

John Penney was welcomed to the meeting.

C. Approval of Minutes

MOTION TO APPROVE the minutes of **April 14, 2025**, Economic Development Committee by Valerie Hanserd and seconded by Tim Nabors.

MOTION APPROVED (5-0). Aye votes were: Chairman John Sweeney, Tim Nabors, Angela Fellars, Valerie Hanserd, and John Penney.

D. Public Comment

Chairman John Sweeney noted for the record that no members of the public were here to speak for the public comment section; therefore, the public comment will not be read in.

E. Ordinance Amending Chapter 2 (“Administration”) Of The Winnebago County Code To Restore Administrative Authority To The County Board Chairman

MOTION TO APPROVE was made by Tim Nabors and seconded by Valerie Hanserd.

Ray Thompson arrived at 5:40 PM.

A redlined amendment was distributed to committee members for review.

Chairman John Sweeney called for a motion to replace the original Ordinance E. in the Packet with the redlined Ordinance Amending Chapter 2 (“Administration”) Of The Winnebago County Code To Restore Administrative Authority To The County Board Chairman to bring this forward on the Agenda and become Item E.

MOTION TO AMEND (#1) was made by Tim Nabors and seconded by Angela Fellars.

Discussion followed by Chairman John Sweeney, Lafakeria Vaughn, Angela Fellars, Ray Thompson, Valerie Hanserd, Tim Nabors, John Penney, Angie Goral, and Chris Dornbush.

MOTION TO AMEND (#1) WAS APPROVED (6-0). Aye votes were; Chairman John Sweeney, Tim Nabors, Angela Fellars, Valerie Hanserd, John Penney, and Ray Thompson.

Chairman John Sweeney called for another amendment, as follows;

MOTION TO AMEND (#2) was made by John Sweeney and seconded by Tim Nabors.

- Amendment 1.** Section 2-49 (a) (1) Duties Section A, Administrative Responsibilities,
- a. Add language at the end of the paragraph after the word law:
 - i. “, in accordance with Winnebago County Human Resource Policies.”

And under Article 3, Division 2, Administrator:

- Amendment 2.** Section 2-123
- a. Add language under appointment-dismissal, begin with:
 - i. “Except as provided in any employment contract,”

- Amendment 3.** Section 2-151
- a. Add language

i. “chief”

MOTION TO AMEND (#2) WAS APPROVED (6-0). Aye votes were; Chairman John Sweeney, Tim Nabors, Angela Fellars, Valerie Hanserd, Ray Thompson, and John Penney.

Further discussion followed.

MOTION TO APPROVE AS AMENDED (#1 & #2) was made by John Penny and seconded by Valerie Hanserd and Angela Fellars.

MOTION APPROVED WITH AMENDMENTS (#1 & #2) (6-0). Aye votes were: Chairman John Sweeney, Tim Nabors, Angela Fellars, Valerie Hanserd, Ray Thompson, and John Penney.

F. Other Matters

None reported.

G. Adjournment

MOTION TO ADJOURN the meeting by John Penney and seconded by Valerie Hanserd.

MOTION APPROVED (6-0). to adjourn at 6:21 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Bleile
Executive Assistant