

**Winnebago County Board  
Finance Committee Meeting**  
County Administration Building  
404 Elm Street, Room 303  
Rockford, IL 61101

Thursday, July 17, 2025

Immediately following the Operations & Administrative Committee Meeting

**Present:**

John Butitta, Chairperson  
Paul Arena  
John F. Sweeney  
Christina Valdez

**Others Present:**

Patrick Thompson, County Administrator  
Steve Schultz, Chief Financial Officer  
Lafakeria Reuter, Civil Bureau Chief, State's Attorney's Office  
Chris Dornbush, Chief Operations Officer  
Hope Edwards, Director, Purchasing  
Shawn Franks, Director, Facilities

**Absent:**

Joe Hoffman  
Keith McDonald

**AGENDA:**

- A. Call to Order
- B. Roll Call
- C. Approval of June 5, 2025 Minutes
- D. Public Comment – This is the time we invite the public to address the Finance 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 that 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 Chairman, please stand and state your name. Thank you.
- E. Resolution Authorizing an Increase in the Salary of the Winnebago County Public Defender
- F. Ordinance for a Budget Amendment for Public Defender Funding
- G. Ordinance for a Budget Amendment for CJC Elevator Rebuild
- H. Closed Session to Discuss Pending Litigation
- I. Budget Update
- J. Other Matters
- K. Adjournment

**Call to Order**

Chairperson Butitta called the meeting to order at 6:25 PM.

**Roll Call**

Chairperson Butitta yes, Mr. Arena yes, Mr. Sweeney yes, Ms. Valdez yes.

A quorum is present.

### **Approval of June 5, 2025 Minutes**

Motion: Chairperson Butitta. Second: Ms. Valdez.

Chairperson Butitta called for any discussion.

Chairperson Butitta called for a vote to approve the minutes of June 5, 2025.

The motion was passed by a unanimous voice vote.

### **Public Comment**

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

### **Resolution Authorizing an Increase in the Salary of the Winnebago County Public Defender**

Motion: Chairperson Butitta. Second: Mr. Sweeney.

Chairperson Butitta called for any discussion.

- Discussion followed.

Chairperson Butitta called for a vote to approve the resolution.

The motion was passed by a unanimous voice vote.

### **Ordinance for a Budget Amendment for Public Defender Funding**

Motion: Chairperson Butitta. Second: Ms. Valdez.

Chairperson Butitta called for any discussion.

- Discussion followed.

Chairperson Butitta called for a vote to approve the ordinance.

The motion was passed by a unanimous voice vote.

### **Ordinance for a Budget Amendment for CJC Elevator Rebuild**

Motion: Chairperson Butitta. Second: Ms. Valdez.

Chairperson Butitta called for any discussion.

- Discussion followed.

Chairperson Butitta called for a vote to approve the ordinance.

The motion was passed by a unanimous voice vote.

### **Budget Update**

Mr. Schultz discussed the FY26 Budget, CIP FY26 Budget, and long-term CIP Budget. Mr. Schultz shared highlights of the River Bluff Health & Rehabilitation Budget. The Meeting of the Whole is scheduled for August 14, 2025. There will be no Finance Committee meeting on August 21, 2025. The Ordinance will be brought to the Finance Committee on August 28, 2025, for approval. The Budget will go into a three-week layover on September 4, 2025, at the County Board meeting.

Chairperson Butitta called for any questions.

- Discussion followed.

Chairperson Butitta called for any additional discussion.

Mr. Dornbush will follow up on the matter of continuing the Illinois state grocery sales tax. To ensure the local tax takes effect on January 1, 2026, an ordinance must be passed and submitted to the Illinois Department of Revenue before October 1, 2025.

### **Closed Session to Discuss Pending Litigation**

Chairperson Butitta called for a motion to enter a Closed Session.

Motion: Mr. Arena. Second: Ms. Valdez.

Chairperson Butitta called for a vote to enter a Closed Session.

The motion was passed by a unanimous voice vote.

**Roll Call**

Chairperson Butitta yes, Mr. Arena yes, Mr. Sweeney yes, Ms. Valdez yes.

No action was taken in the Closed Session.

**Other Matters**

None reported.

**Adjournment**

Chairperson Butitta called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion: Chairperson Butitta. Second: Ms. Valdez.

The motion was passed by a unanimous voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Bleile

Executive Assistant