

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

Thursday, January 15, 2026

Immediately following the Operations & Administrative Committee Meeting

Present:

John Butitta, Chairperson
Paul Arena
Valerie Hanserd
John F. Sweeney

Absent:

Joe Hoffman
Keith McDonald
Christina Valdez

Others Present:

Patrick Thompson, County Administrator
Steve Schultz, Chief Financial Officer (Staff Liaison)
Lafakeria Reuter, State's Attorney's Office
Hope Edwards, Director, Purchasing
Chris Dornbush, Chief Operations Officer
Shawn Franks, Director, Facilities
Debbie Jarvis, Director of Court Services, 17th Judicial Circuit
Dan Magers, Chief Information Officer
John Penney, County Board Member
Justin Egler, WCSO
Josh Liston, WCSO
Chad Bounds, WCSO
Dominic Barcellona, Retired Deputy Chief WCSO

AGENDA:

- A. Call to Order
- B. Roll Call
- C. Approval of November 20, 2025 Meeting 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. Ordinance for a Budget Amendment for Cameras and Access Card Readers
- F. Ordinance for a Budget Amendment for Emergency PSB Boiler Replacement
- G. Ordinance for a Budget Amendment for Emergency JDC HVAC System Repairs
- H. An Ordinance to Abate the 2016E Public Safety Sales Tax Alternate Bond Property Tax Levy for the Year 2025 Payable 2026
- I. An Ordinance to Abate the 2017C Tort Property Tax and Quarter Cent Sales Tax Alternate Bond Property Tax Levy for the Year 2025 Payable 2026
- J. An Ordinance Abating the Tax hereto Levied for the Year 2025 Payable 2026 to Pay the Principal of and Interest on Taxable General Obligation Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source) Series 2018 of Winnebago County, Illinois
- K. An Ordinance to Abate the 2020A Alternative Bond Property Tax Levy for the Year 2025 Payable 2026

- L. An Ordinance to Abate the General Obligation Refunding Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source), Series 2021A Bond Property Tax Levy for the Year 2025 Payable 2026
- M. An Ordinance to Abate the General Obligation Refunding Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source), Series 2021B Bond Property Tax Levy for the Year 2025 Payable 2026
- N. An Ordinance to Abate the General Obligation Alternate Refunding Bonds (Public Safety Sales Tax Alternate Revenue Source), Series 2022 Bonds Property Tax Levy for the Year 2025 Payable 2026
- O. An Ordinance Abating Special Tax Roll for 2025 Levy Year for Properties within the Special Service Area for the I-39/Baxter Road County Water District Project
- P. Closed Session to Discuss Pending Litigation
- Q. Resolution Authorizing Settlement of Pending Litigation (Javen Dowthard et al. v. Winnebago County Sheriff's Office, et al.)
- R. Other Matters
- S. Adjournment

Call to Order

Chairperson Butitta called the meeting to order at 5:50 PM.

Roll Call

Chairperson Butitta, yes; Mr. Arena, yes; Ms. Hanserd, yes; Mr. Sweeney, yes.

A quorum is present.

Approval of November 20, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Motion: Chairperson Butitta. Second: Mr. Arena.

Chairperson Butitta called for any discussion.

Chairperson Butitta called for a vote to approve the minutes of the November 20, 2025, meeting.

The motion was passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Public Comment

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

Ordinance for a Budget Amendment for Cameras and Access Card Readers

Motion: Chairperson Butitta. Second: Ms. Hanserd.

Mr. Schultz advised that the ordinance was returned to the committee by the County Board. Committee members expressed interest in conducting additional research on the topic.

- A discussion followed.

Chairperson Butitta recommended voting down the ordinance and asking the Sheriff's Administrative and the Purchasing office to return with two amendments: one for the cameras and another for the badge readers.

Chairperson Butitta called for a roll call vote on the ordinance.

Mr. Arena, no; Ms. Hanserd, no; Mr. Sweeney, no; Chairperson Butitta, no.

The ordinance was not passed by a unanimous voice vote.

The committee's consensus is to request bids for the project expansion and to require that the work originally committed to Montel be completed.

- A discussion followed.

Ordinance for a Budget Amendment for Emergency PSB Boiler Replacement

Motion: Chairperson Butitta. Second: Mr. Arena.

Mr. Schultz and Mr. Franks discussed the need for the PSB Boiler replacement.
Chairperson Butitta called for any discussion.

- A 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 Emergency JDC HVAC System Repairs

Motion: Chairperson Butitta. Second: Mr. Arena.

Mr. Schultz reviewed the ordinance for the JDC HVAC system repairs.

Chairperson Butitta called for any discussion.

- A discussion followed.

Chairperson Butitta called for a vote to approve the ordinance.
The motion was passed by a unanimous voice vote.

An Ordinance to Abate the 2016E Public Safety Sales Tax Alternate Bond Property Tax Levy for the Year 2025 Payable 2026

An Ordinance to Abate the 2017C Tort Property Tax and Quarter Cent Sales Tax Alternate Bond Property Tax Levy for the Year 2025 Payable 2026

An Ordinance Abating the Tax hereto Levied for the Year 2025 Payable 2026 to Pay the Principal of and Interest on Taxable General Obligation Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source) Series 2018 of Winnebago County, Illinois

An Ordinance to Abate the 2020A Alternative Bond Property Tax Levy for the Year 2025 Payable 2026

An Ordinance to Abate the General Obligation Refunding Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source), Series 2021A Bond Property Tax Levy for the Year 2025 Payable 2026

An Ordinance to Abate the General Obligation Refunding Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source), Series 2021B Bond Property Tax Levy for the Year 2025 Payable 2026

An Ordinance to Abate the General Obligation Alternate Refunding Bonds (Public Safety Sales Tax Alternate Revenue Source), Series 2022 Bonds Property Tax Levy for the Year 2025 Payable 2026

An Ordinance Abating Special Tax Roll for 2025 Levy Year for Properties within the Special Service Area for the I-39/Baxter Road County Water District Project

Chairperson Butitta stated that he would group Ordinance Abatements Items H., I., J., K., L., M., N., and O. together for a single vote and approval.

Mr. Schultz advised that these are all bond issues requiring an annual property tax abatement.

Chairperson Butitta called for any discussion.

Chairperson Butitta called for a vote to approve the ordinances H. through O.

The motion was passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Closed Session for Pending Litigation

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

Motion: Mr. Arena. Second: Mr. Sweeney.
The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Roll Call

Chairperson Butitta, yes; Mr. Arena, yes; Ms. Hanserd, yes; Mr. Sweeney, yes.

Chairperson Butitta – No action was taken during the closed session.

Resolution Authorizing Settlement of Pending Litigation (Javen Dowthard et al. v. Winnebago County Sheriff's Office, et al.)

Motion: Chairperson Butitta. Second: Mr. Arena.

Chairperson Butitta called for any discussion.

Chairperson Butitta called for a vote to approve the resolution.

The motion was passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Other Matters

None reported.

Adjournment

Chairperson Butitta called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion: Chairperson Butitta. Second: Mr. Arena.

The motion was passed by a unanimous voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Bleile
Executive Assistant