

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

Thursday, April 16, 2026
5:30 PM

Present:

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

Others Present:

Joseph Chiarelli, County Board Chairman
Patrick Thompson, County Administrator
Steve Schultz, Chief Financial Officer (Staff Liaison)
Lafakeria Reuter, State's Attorney's Office
Chris Dornbush, Chief Operations Officer
John W. Rader, Managing Director, Baker Tilly US, LLP
Kathy Pomahac, Executive Director, Carrie Lynn Center
Jeff Metheny, VAC, Alternate, VFW Post #342

Absent:

Joe Hoffman

AGENDA:

- A. Call to Order
- B. Roll Call
- C. Approval of March 19, 2026 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. Baker Tilly Present Audited Financial Statements for September 30, 2025
- F. Ordinance for a Budget Amendment for State's Attorney VOCA Grant Renewal
- G. Ordinance for a Budget Amendment for Deferred Prosecution Grant Renewal
- H. Resolution Authorizing Wage Increases for Non-Bargaining Unit Employees of the County of Winnebago, Illinois
- I. Resolution Authorizing the County of Winnebago, Illinois' Participation in Opioid Litigation Settlements with Six (6) Remnant Defendants – Regional Distributor/Dispensers
- J. Resolution Granting Public Safety Sales Tax Funding to the Children's Advocacy Center of Winnebago County (Carrie Lynn) To Support Renovations and its Co-Location at the Hart Building Located at 214 N. Church Street, Rockford, IL
- K. Ordinance for a Budget Amendment in Public Safety Sales Tax Funds to the Children's Advocacy Center of Winnebago County (Carrie Lynn) for Renovations and Co-Location at the Hart Building
- L. Closed Session to Discuss Labor Negotiations
- M. Other Matters
- N. Adjournment

Call to Order

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

Roll Call

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

A quorum is present.

Approval of March 19, 2026 Meeting Minutes

Motion: Chairperson Butitta. Second: Ms. Hanserd.

Chairperson Butitta called for any discussion.

Chairperson Butitta called for a vote to approve the minutes of the March 19, 2026, 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 State's Attorney VOCA Grant Renewal

Motion: Chairperson Butitta. Second: Mr. Sweeney.

Mr. Schultz provided details about the Ordinance.

Chairperson Butitta called for any discussion.

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 Deferred Prosecution Grant Renewal

Motion: Chairperson Butitta. Second: Ms. Hanserd.

Mr. Schultz provided details about the Ordinance.

Chairperson Butitta called for any discussion.

Chairperson Butitta called for a vote to approve the ordinance.

The motion was passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Resolution Authorizing Wage Increases for Non-Bargaining Unit Employees of the County of Winnebago, Illinois

Motion: Chairperson Butitta. Second: Ms. Valdez.

Mr. Schultz provided information on the Resolution.

Chairperson Butitta called for any discussion.

- A discussion followed.

Chairperson Butitta called for a vote to approve the resolution.

The motion was passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Baker Tilly Present Audited Financial Statements for September 30, 2025

John Rader, Managing Director at Baker Tilly, presented the 2025 audited financial statements, reviewed the relevant materials, and offered to answer any questions.

- A discussion followed.

Mr. Metheny, VAC, discussed concerns regarding the Baker Tilly audit of the VAC and the potential need for a forensic audit.

- A discussion followed.

Mr. Schultz gave a presentation on a first draft of 2026 balance projections and shared a graph

showing the PSST and General Fund balances and their combined total.

- A discussion followed.

Resolution Authorizing the County of Winnebago, Illinois' Participation in Opioid Litigation Settlements with Six (6) Remnant Defendants – Regional Distributor/Dispensers

Motion: Chairperson Butitta. Second: Ms. Valdez.

Ms. Reuter provided background details on the Resolution.

Chairperson Butitta called for any discussion.

- A discussion followed.

Chairperson Butitta called for a vote to approve the resolution.

The motion was passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Resolution Granting Public Safety Sales Tax Funding to the Children's Advocacy Center of Winnebago County (Carrie Lynn) To Support Renovations and its Co-Location at the Hart Building Located at 214 N. Church Street, Rockford, IL

Motion: Chairperson Butitta. Second: Mr. Sweeney.

Mr. Sweeney thanked Ms. Pomahac, Executive Director of the Carrie Lynn Center, for attending the meeting, and then discussed the Resolution supporting both locations.

Chairperson Butitta called for any discussion.

- A discussion followed on amending the Resolution.

Motion: Mr. Sweeney made a motion to amend the Resolution, Paragraph 8, to read:

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the County Board of the County of Winnebago, Illinois that the County of Winnebago, Illinois will grant six hundred and sixteen thousand dollars (\$616,000.00) to Carrie Lynn from public safety sales tax to support renovations and Carrie Lynn's co-location at the Hart Building located at 214 N. Church Street, Rockford, Illinois. *Additionally, any sale proceeds of Carrie Lynn's property located at 826 N. Main Street, Rockford, Illinois, shall be remitted to the County's public safety sales tax fund.*

Second: Ms. Hanserd.

Chairperson Butitta called for any discussion concerning the amendment to the resolution.

Chairperson Butitta called for a vote to approve the amendment to the resolution.

The motion to approve the amendment to the resolution was passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Chairperson Butitta called for any discussion concerning the resolution as amended.

- A discussion followed.

Mr. Sweeney stated that the Illinois House Bill 4949 passed the second reading in committee today with a unanimous bipartisan vote in the Illinois House, mandating actions like this to consolidate children's advocacy centers into facilities like this. The legislation being passed is due to the County's justice system's proactive approach, as Rockford serves as a model for the state.

Chairperson Butitta called for any further discussion.

Chairperson Butitta called for a vote to approve the resolution as amended.

The motion to approve the resolution as amended was passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Ordinance for a Budget Amendment in Public Safety Sales Tax Funds to the Children's Advocacy Center of Winnebago County (Carrie Lynn) for Renovations and Co-Location at the Hart Building

Motion: Chairperson Butitta. Second: Mr. Sweeney.

Chairperson Butitta called for any discussion.

Chairperson Butitta called for a vote to approve the ordinance.

The motion was passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Closed Session to Discuss Labor Negotiations

Motion: Chairperson Butitta made a motion to enter a Closed Session. 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; Ms. Valdez, yes.

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

Other Matters

- Mr. Schultz provided a document related to salaries requested at the last meeting for FY27 budgetary information earlier.
 - A discussion followed. Mr. Schultz will provide additional information on the County Board salary information.

Adjournment

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