

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

Thursday, April 2, 2026  
5:30 PM

**Present:**

Paul Arena, **Chairperson**  
Valerie Hanserd, **Vice Chairperson**  
Joe Hoffman  
Ray Thompson  
Christina Valdez (via Zoom)

**Others Present:**

Patrick Thompson, County Administrator  
Steve Schultz, Chief Financial Officer  
Hope Edwards, Director, Purchasing (Staff Liaison)  
Lafakeria Reuter, State's Attorney's Office  
Chris Dornbush, Chief Operations Officer  
Ashlynn Fernandes, WCSO

**Absent:**

John Butitta  
Michael Thompson

**AGENDA:**

- A. Call to Order
- B. Roll Call
- C. Approval of Minutes –March 19, 2026
- D. Public Comment – This is the time we invite the public to address the Operations and Administrative 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. Public Hearing – Rural Transit FY2027
- F. Resolution Awarding Purchase of Network and Infrastructure Equipment for Public Safety Building Using Owner-Direct Funds  
Cost: \$140,915
- G. Resolution Awarding Purchase of an Asset Tracker Weapon Locker Storage System for the Winnebago County Sheriff's Office Using CIP 2026 Funds  
Cost: \$57,077
- H. Resolution Declaring Vacancy in Winnebago County Board District 6
- I. Other Matters
- J. Future Agenda Items
- K. Adjournment

Chairperson Arena called the meeting to order at 5:40 PM.

**Roll Call**

Chairperson Arena, yes; Ms. Hanserd, yes; Mr. Hoffman, yes; Mr. Thompson, yes.

A quorum is present.

Chairperson Arena called for a motion to include board member Ms. Valdez in the committee meeting via Zoom.

Motion: Ms. Hanserd. Second: Mr. Thompson.

Chairperson Arena called for a vote to include Ms. Valdez in the meeting.

The motion was passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Ms. Valdez was welcomed to the meeting.

### **Approval of Minutes – March 19, 2026**

Chairperson Arena called for a motion to approve the minutes of March 19, 2026.

Motion: Ms. Hanserd. Second: Mr. Hoffman.

Chairperson Arena called for any discussion.

Chairperson Arena called for a vote to approve the minutes.

The motion was passed by a unanimous voice vote.

### **Public Comment**

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

### **Public Hearing – Rural Transit FY2027**

Chairperson Arena stated that a public hearing is being held for the purpose of a Financial Grant from the State of Illinois, Downstate Area Programs, Rural Transportation Section 5311 and 5311(f) Grants for the State of Illinois FY2027, and read the rest of the notice. Public notice was given greater than 10 days before the scheduled hearing on April 2, 2026. Chairperson Arena asked for questions or comments from the public. Seeing none, he then asked for questions or comments from the Operations & Administrative Committee members or other County Board members. Seeing none, the hearing was closed.

### **Resolution Awarding Purchase of Network and Infrastructure Equipment for Public Safety Building Using Owner-Direct Funds**

**Cost: \$140,915**

Motion: Chairperson Arena. Second: Ms. Hanserd.

Mr. Patrick Thompson shared information on the resolution.

Chairperson Arena called for any questions or comments.

- A discussion followed.

Chairperson Arena called for any other questions.

Chairperson Arena called for a vote to approve the resolution.

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

### **Resolution Awarding Purchase of an Asset Tracker Weapon Locker Storage System for the Winnebago County Sheriff's Office Using CIP 2026 Funds**

**Cost: \$57,077**

Motion: Chairperson Arena. Second: Mr. Thompson.

Mr. Patrick Thompson reviewed the resolution and called for any questions or comments.

- A discussion followed.

Chairperson Arena called for a vote to approve the resolution.

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

**Resolution Declaring Vacancy in Winnebago County Board District 6**

Motion: Chairperson Arena. Second: Ms. Hanserd.

Mr. Patrick Thompson provided an explanation for the resolution.

Chairperson Arena called for any discussion.

Chairperson Arena called for a vote to approve the resolution.

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

**Other Matters**

- No other matters reported.

**Future Agenda Items**

- Mr. Thompson asked for additional information regarding Item F.  
Additional information was provided by Ms. Edwards.

**Motion to Adjourn**

Chairperson Arena called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion: Ms. Hanserd. Second: Mr. Hoffman and Mr. Thompson.

A unanimous voice vote passed the motion to adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Bleile  
Executive Assistant