

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

Thursday, May 7, 2026
5:30 PM

Present:

Paul Arena, **Chairperson**
Valerie Hanserd, **Vice Chairperson**
John Butitta
Michael Thompson (7:01 departure)
Ray Thompson

Absent:

Joe Hoffman
Christina Valdez

Others Present:

Joseph Chiarelli, County Board Chairman
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
Debbie Crozier, Director, Human Resources
Lori Gummow, County Clerk, Winnebago County
Bill Crosby, Auditor, Winnebago County
Luke Carlson, Attorney, State's Attorney's Office
Jennifer Muraski, Coroner, Winnebago County
Matt Lane, Deputy Coroner, Winnebago County
Shawn Franks, Director, Facilities
Tom Klein, Circuit Clerk
Jennifer Stacy, Administrator, WCAS
Rick Borrett, Director, WCAS
Matt Gabel, County Board Member
John Sweeney, County Board Member
Jim Webster, County Board Member
Jim Beam, Care for Pets
Stephanie Hicks, PAWS
Zach Enderle, 1919 Architects
Clayton Nelson, Huffman Keel

AGENDA:

- A. Call to Order
- B. Roll Call
- C. Approval of Minutes –April 2, 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. Ordinance Amending Chapter 62, Article VI, Division 3 [Leaves of Absence] of the Winnebago County Code of Ordinances

- F. Resolution Awarding Purchase of Ford Expedition for Coroner's Office Using Fee Funds
Cost: \$81,038
- G. Discussion - Winnebago County Animal Services
- H. Discussion - Public Safety Building Update from Huffman Keel
- I. Other Matters
- J. Future Agenda Items
- K. Adjournment

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

Roll Call

Chairperson Paul Arena, yes; Ms. Valerie Hanserd, yes; Mr. John Butitta, yes; Dr. Michael Thompson, yes; Mr. Ray Thompson, yes.

A quorum is present.

Approval of Minutes – April 2, 2026

Chairperson Arena called for a motion to approve the minutes of April 2, 2026.

Motion: Ms. Hanserd. Second: Dr. Thompson.

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 read the Public Comment Section. Ms. Hicks of Care for Pets discussed county and city sponsored donations to alter 100 pit bulls, citing limited access to low-cost spay/neuter services, and reported that 116 Winnebago County pit bulls were altered, vaccinated, and provided other services. She is working with Animal Services, community members, the City Council, and Aldermen to address spay/neuter needs within the community.

Ordinance Amending Chapter 62, Article VI, Division 3 [Leaves of Absence] of the Winnebago County Code of Ordinances

Motion: Chairperson Arena. Second: Dr. Thompson.

Mr. Patrick Thompson shared information on the ordinance. Ms. Crozier reviewed the proposed amendments to the ordinance.

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 ordinance.

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

Resolution Awarding Purchase of Ford Expedition for Coroner's Office Using Fee Funds Cost: \$81,038

Motion: Chairperson Arena. Second: Dr. Thompson.

Mr. Patrick Thompson reviewed the resolution and 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.

Discussion - Winnebago County Animal Services

Mr. Patrick Thompson announced Mr. Rick Borrett as the new Director at Animal Services and shared updates on the facility, including the hiring of a full-time veterinarian. Ms. Jennifer Stacy, the Administrator, also provided an update on Animal Services improvements and current status. Mr. Borrett provided an update on the Illinois Department of Agriculture's annual shelter inspection.

- A discussion followed.

Discussion - Public Safety Building Update from Huffman Keel

Mr. Patrick Thompson introduced Mr. Clayton Nelson of Huffman Keel. Mr. Nelson provided an update on the construction of the Public Safety Building and shared materials with the committee. Mr. Zach Enderle, of 1919 Architects, also provided input on the construction.

- A discussion followed.

Other Matters

- Discussion took place regarding the Ordinance adopted in February 2026, regulating door-to-door solicitation.

Future Agenda Items

- No future agenda items reported.

Motion to Adjourn

Chairperson Arena called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion: Ms. Hanserd. Second: Mr. Butitta.

A unanimous voice vote passed the motion to adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Bleile
Executive Assistant