



Minutes - May 19, 2025

Call to Order: Chair Bostwick called the hybrid County Board Staff Committee meeting to order at 4:30 P.M. in Conference Room N1/N2.

Committee Members Present: Supervisors Bostwick, Tillman, Brien, Mawhinney, Wilson, Towns, Peer, Leavy, and Gorman; Youth in Governance Member Max Olson.

Committee Members Absent: None.

Staff Members Present: John Light, County Administrator; Rich Greenlee, Corporation Counsel; Shanna Sanders, Deputy Corporation Counsel; Randy Terronez, Assistant to the Administrator; Kate Luster Human Services Director; James Otterstein, Economic Development Administrator.

Others Present: Supervisor Schwarz, Woodman, and Sutter; Kerry Swanson; Paula Vestin, Director of Survivor Empowerment Services; Doug Sutter; Kathe Crowley Conn, Historical Society; Cindy Browning; Patty Hansburry; Heidi Deininger, YWCA; Brittany de la O, YWCA.

Approve Agenda: Supervisor Peer moved approval of the agenda as presented, second by Supervisor Wilson. ADOPTED.

Citizen Participation, Communications and Announcements: Supervisor Woodman spoke in support of the community initiatives appropriations policy. Supervisor Woodman also commented on the Joint Staff/Finance meeting which was scheduled for the same night as Human Services, and they also have a public hearing that night and would like to look into rescheduling. Paula Vestin, Director of Survivor Empowerment Services, asked the board to reconsider the proposed elimination of the Rock County Community Agency Initiatives. Paula gave examples of what their agency uses the county money for. Supervisor Sutter spoke in favor of the reform. Stating it is not because these agencies don't do great things, but it should be the place of the County to contract with these agencies and have accountability for what the money is used for. Supervisor Schwarz did not agree with the way the policy is currently written, and would like to have everything contracted to make sure they fit with the County's initiatives. Supervisor Schwarz also mentioned item 7C their is an amended version of the Resolution. Cindy Browning, Executive Director of RSVP, explained how their agency uses the funds the County donates. Heidi Deininger with the YWCA of Rock County, explained how their agency supports the community with the funds donated by the County. Kathe Crowley Conn, Executive Director of the Rock County Historical Society, submitted comment but chose to read off her comments-attached to public comment. James Otterstein, Rock County, spoke on behalf of Rock County Tourism on how the organization helps throughout the entire county. Brittany De la O, YWCA Rock County, explained how the Care House helps the community with the

funds donated from Rock County.

Patty Hansburry, Program Director of Seniors Volunteering for Seniors, shared a report with the committee.

Supervisor Tillman mentioned the updates on policies spoken at previous meetings that won't be addressed until September.

John Light asked the committee if they were still interested in sending out a survey.

Supervisor Bostwick discussed the pre-budget meetings dates for July 9th, 16th, 17th, and 31st at the DWRC.

Approval of Minutes:

May 5, 2025 Minutes: Supervisor Tillman moved to approve May 5, 2025, minutes, second by Supervisor Towns. ADOPTED.

Approval of Transfers: None.

Report:

Community Initiatives: Supervisor Bostwick requested information from agencies requesting funding and submissions were attached to the agenda packet. Randy Terronez spoke about the attachments from the agencies and departments that was requested from the committee in the previous meetings. Randy also explained in the budget narrative how the specific agency's services fall under the County's umbrella and a statute is referenced. Supervisor Leavy thanked the agencies for their submissions. Supervisor Bostwick also thanked the people who came to the meeting and spoke for their agencies.

Review and Approval of Resolutions:

Authorize the Elimination of the Rock County Community Agency Initiatives Policy (Policy 2.02): Supervisor Towns moved approval of the above resolution, second by Supervisor Wilson at the April 7, 2025, County Board Staff Committee meeting.

Supervisor Bostwick noted this was postponed previously and is back on the floor for discussion.

Supervisor Towns explained the practice has been questioned for years, not only in Rock County but also in other counties throughout Wisconsin. Supervisor Towns summarizes guidance from a Wisconsin Counties Association webinar suggesting that tax dollars given to community agencies should have an identified public purpose authorized by statute, be documented in a contract, and have a mechanism for monitoring. Supervisor Wilson explained this discussion is a consideration of the funding policy instead of a budgetary issue, noting this is not the money-saving solution the committee is looking for. Randy Terronez provides an overview of the community initiatives policy and budget, including responses from county departments and funded agencies about their impact and services.

Supervisor Gorman questioned if the policy is accomplishing what the statute requires. Rich Greenlee answered that the policy was designed to aggregate funding, it has worked, and the County has not been legally challenged. The committee discussed the potential impact of moving community initiative funding from the administration budget to individual department budgets. Supervisor Leavy

expressed concern that departments might cut these programs if their budgets are tight. The committee debates whether this change could lead to a more appropriate allocation of funds or potentially put valuable services at risk.

Supervisors Bostwick, Wilson, Brien, Tillman, Towns, Peer, Mawhinney, and Gorman voted Nay and Supervisor Leavy voted Yay. Motion Failed.

Reforming Community Agency Initiatives Appropriations Policy: Supervisor Towns moved approval of the above resolution, second by Supervisor Tillman.

Supervisor Towns expressed the need to be in line with the legal recommendations and still allow agencies to receive funding to provide needed services.

Supervisor Wilson moves to strike lines 16,17, and 18 from the Resolution, second by Supervisor Gorman. Adopted.

Supervisor Gorman questioned why the funding was originally put in the administrator's budget and not the individual department budgets. Kate Luster and Randy Terronez provided historical context, explaining that the current centralized approach was adopted to address challenges with accountability and comply with the Attorney General's recommendations. Supervisor Wilson noted the WCA webinar recommended three ways to comply: having a contract, an MOU, or a Resolution.

ADOPTED as amended. Supervisors Bostwick, Tillman, Brien, Mawhinney, Wilson, Towns, Peer, and Leavy voted Yay. Supervisor Gorman voted Nay.

Resolution Implementing the Process for the Rock County Administrator Performance Review:

Supervisor Tillman moved approval of the above resolution, second by Supervisor Wilson.

Supervisor Tillman, Schwarz, and Corp Counsel worked together to make modifications to the resolution based on previous feedback and research from other municipalities. Supervisor Tillman discussed all the changes individually. Supervisor Wilson suggested the full name of County Board Staff Committed should be addressed in the Resolution. It is the committee's intent to have this available in February 2026. Supervisor Gorman questioned who would be presenting the evaluation to the County Board. Supervisor Tillman suggested the County Board Staff Committee Chair designate who would present.

ADOPTED.

To Ratify the 2024-2025 Labor Agreement Between Rock County and the Deputy Sheriffs'

Supervisor Association: Supervisor Wilson moved approval of the above resolution, second by Supervisor Gorman.

John Light explained this is a 2 year contract with the first year having a 3.2% increase and a 3.8% increase for the second year. John noted that there is a 1% insurance premium contribution for staff that completed the HEIP requirements or a 10% insurance premium contribution for those that do not complete the HEIP requirements.

ADOPTED.

Recognizing Christy Collins: Supervisor Towns moved approval of the above resolution, second by Supervisor Wilson. ADOPTED.

Recognizing Shelly Hogan for Service to Rock Haven: Supervisor Brien moved approval of the

above resolution, second by Supervisor Towns.
Supervisor Brien noted Shelly Hogan would not attend County Board.
ADOPTED.

Recognizing Nathan DeBoer: Supervisor Peer moved approval of the above resolution, second by Supervisor Gorman. ADOPTED.

Recognizing Craig Weberg: Supervisor Tillman moved approval of the above resolution, second by Supervisor Wilson. ADOPTED.

Next meeting date and time: June 9, 2025 at 4:30 PM

Adjournment: Supervisor Tillman moved adjournment at 6:00 PM, second by Supervisor Towns.
ADOPTED.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Wolf
Administrative Professional III

NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED BY COMMITTEE.