

The Committee of the Whole of the Village of Winnebago, August 5, 2026.

The online meeting link to GoToMeeting was made available to employees and the public to attend remotely.

1. RECORDING OF THE MEETING

The meeting was recorded.

2. CALL TO ORDER

The Committee of the Whole of the Village of Winnebago met in person on August 5, 2026, at 6:10 p.m. with President Franklin J. Eubank, Jr. presiding.

3. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Trustee Jason Ackerman, Trustee Adam LeFevre, Trustee John Kim
and Trustee Mike McKinnon.

ABSENT: Trustee Jeremy Graham and Trustee Duane Springer.

Guests present: Attorney Mary Gaziano, Village Administrator Joseph Dienberg, Treasurer Dana Novinson, Public Works Director Chad Insko, Chief Jeff White, Lieutenant Nick Haff, Deputy Clerk Kellie Symonds, Erin Chmielowski, Everett Butzine, Lily Zahn, and Kyle Okubo.

4. ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM

A quorum was established.

5. MEETING GUIDELINES

Discussion and Vote to Allow an Absent Trustee to Vote By Phone or Other Allowable Means.

No absent Trustee attended remotely.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

Each speaker is limited to three (3) minutes. A maximum of thirty (30) minutes shall be generally allowed for public comment at each meeting.

No one requested to address the Board.

7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. Approval of Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes of July 15, 2026

Motion made by Trustee LeFevre, seconded by Trustee Ackerman.

Motion carried on a voice vote.

8. DISCUSSION

- a. *Greater Rockford Chamber of Commerce Economic Development Agreement*

Everett Butzine explained the Greater Rockford Area Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development and the possible agreement with the Village. This organization is the joining of

the Rockford Chamber of Commerce and Rockford Area Economic Development Council (the Village was a member of this organization) and will include the entire county for those communities that choose to join.

b. *CivicPlus Website, Agenda Management, and Accessibility Platform Migration Discussion.*

Erin Chmielowski explained the CivicPlus website and the upgrade as our present website is aging out. She explained the increased costs and how the Department of Justice has increased accessibility requirements.

c. *Discussion of Entry-Level Police Officer Recruitment*

Chief White explained the issues with finding a new police officer. There are very few acceptable officers in the certified officer pool.

(Trustee Kim left the meeting at 7:18 p.m.)

Chief White will prepare information on the cost of sending a possible candidate to the academy as compared to an officer that is included in the budget.

The Winnebago County Sheriff's Department is covering open shifts when there is no local coverage - their coverage is answering calls, not full-shift coverage.

d. *Discussion Regarding Early Acceptance of Employee Resignations*

If an employee resigns, the supervisor will use their discretion whether the employee leaves immediately or is allowed to work through to the end of the resignation period.

e. *Review of Closed Session Minutes*

Motion made by Trustee LeFevre, seconded by Trustee Ackerman to go into Executive (Closed) Session at 8:02 p.m. to discuss the Closed Session Minutes. Motion carried on the unanimous roll call vote of the three Trustees present.

9. EXECUTIVE SESSION (CLOSED SESSION) Pursuant to 5ILCS 120/2(c)

The Board returned to the Committee of the Whole at 8:11 p.m. from Executive (Closed) Session.

10. NEW BUSINESS

None.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 8:11 p.m.

Motion made by Trustee LeFevre, seconded by Trustee Ackerman. Motion carried on a voice vote of those present.

UNAPPROVED

Sally Jo Huggins, Village Clerk