

# OMRO TOWN CRIER

Vol 4, Issue 7, July 2023

## SPIRIT FUNDS

The Winnebago County Board has approved distribution of ARPA funds to the municipalities within the County including the Town of Omro. [Welcome to Winnebago County | Winnebago County](#) This is a link to the home page of the Winnebago County website which has links to Spirit Fund information. The money comes from the Federal Government through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA). For information on the specifics of amount and use, please contact the Town Chair, a Board Supervisor, the Town Clerk, or the Town Treasurer. The following link will provide contact information: [Town Board/Contacts \(townofomro.us\)](#)

Additionally, the Board members discussed the fact that there should be funds for additional projects that might be suggested by individual residents within the County. Such projects would have to be something that the Town was not going to do anyway, would have to be a one-time project (no continuing costs for maintenance over the long term) and would benefit more than one property owner. Other restrictions apply. A copy of that set of rules make up the last page and a half of this issue. As this editor attempted to follow that sheet it was not clear that individual projects were actually provided for but the Clerk assures this editor that county Officials made that declaration. In any case, the individual would have to make submission through the Town Officials and get approval before being allowed to proceed.

A three-page document entitled [Winnebago County Spirit Fund Local Government Allocation](#) should be attached to the mailing of this issue. Those readers who get this issue another way might request that document from the Town Clerk.

## JULY 17, 2023, TOWN BOARD MEETING

There was no public comment.

The Board did the following:

Discussed with the Chris Shea family the potential for moving forward on the purchase of unused cemetery property on Liberty School Road. There was some confusion during the discussion over parcel sizes and when and to whom parcels were deeded.

The family asked and the board agreed to provide a letter that would show that the Board approves of the family contacting the Wisconsin Historical Society and the Wisconsin Burial Board to work toward “uncataloging” the unused portion of the cemetery. There seems to be evidence that probing has been done. Perhaps that was by someone from the Green Bay Diocese.

Approved a resolution appropriating Winnebago County Spirit Funding. See associated article above.

Discussed the potential for individual projects that could receive additional Spirit Funds.

Voted to disallow a claim by Paul Brockman per insurance carrier’s advice.

Discussed but took no action on the potential for providing a deposit site for residents’ yard waste.

Approved the re-submission for liquor license renewal for the Fox Valley Trap Club, Inc.

Approved Operator Licenses for six applicants.

The Board went into closed session to discuss continuing litigation.

## **TOWN BIRTHDAY PARTY**

Following the article on submissions below is a full-page spread advertising the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the Town of Omro. The afternoon focuses on Town residents and their families while the evening opens the celebration up to all comers. Food will be free as long as it lasts. Sale of beverages is to benefit the Omro Rushford Fire Department.

In advance you might enjoy reading some of the history of the Town by purchasing the book

FROM BACK YONDER TO TODAY FORWARD

TOWN OF OMRO HISTORY

1848-2017

which is available at the Town Hall. It was put together by the Town of Omro Historical Group.

## **SUBMISSIONS FOR THE NEWSLETTER**

This is Issue 7 of Volume 4 of the free on-line newsletter devoted to things in the Town of Omro. Previous issues can be found on the Town of Omro website: [Town Newsletter \(townofomro.gov\)](http://TownNewsletter(townofomro.gov))

If this editor does not know of an event it will not be included in the enewsletter. Please share your thoughts for additional articles or questions. Reader contributions (ideas, not money) will be appreciated and can be sent to [NewsLetter@townofomro.gov](mailto:NewsLetter@townofomro.gov) as can requests to be included in the mailing list.

Please share this with friends and encourage them to add their e-mail address to the distribution list.

The editor is Tom Tuschl.

Saturday, September 16  
at the  
**Omro Town Hall Grounds**  
(and adjacent property courtesy of Milk Source & Omro Dairy)  
4205 Rivermoor Road, Omro  
Festivities begin at 1 p.m.



Join us for  
Food ~ Games ~ Historical Displays  
Music & More!



Music by  
4North Acoustic  
1 to 5 p.m.  
-----  
Spicy Tie Band  
7 to 10:30 p.m.

Children's  
Entertainment  
courtesy of



Performances at  
2 pm  
and  
4 pm



*As Much Fun As You Can Have*  
**SPICY TIE BAND**  
*Wisconsin Party Band*  
*With Your Clothes On!*

*Free Admission*  
*Beverage Sale Proceeds to Benefit*  
*Omro-Rushford Fire Department*

## **Framework of the Spirit Fund Spending**

Prepared by the ARPA Strategy and Outcomes Commission

Reviewed at the March 9, 2023, meeting

Approved unanimously at the April 14, 2023, meeting

### **Overarching Requirements**

**Legacy:** projects are to be ones which can be looked at as multi-generational or used to improve the quality of life within our county for years to come

**One-time-funds:** projects which require on-going or future costs should be mitigated as much as possible. To achieve this requirement, projects should generally be capital in nature, revolving funds, or endowments.

**Geographic Assortment of Funds:** projects should be spread out as much as possible to impact different geographic areas of the county

**Enhancing Funding Opportunities:** Frequently, other funding opportunities require matching funds. Using Spirit Fund dollars as local match should be encouraged to allow the dollars to go further.

### **Project Types to Base Decisions**

**Debt Avoidance:** When a local government issues debt, typically, it is done so under the debt levy; therefore, debt raises property taxes. As much as possible, projects should avoid Winnebago County's issuance of debt to avoid future tax increases.

**Sustainability Planning:** As these are one-time funds, planning for the future and preparing for potential fiscal cliffs is essential. Projects of this type should look to efficiency, consolidation, and reform.

**Emergency Response:** The original ARPA legislation called for improving resiliency in response to emergencies. Improvements to our emergency response system are essential to this goal.

**Water Quality & Sustainability:** Winnebago County is covered by 25% water and has about 10% of the state's inland surface water.

**Quality of Life:** Parallel with water, Winnebago County's people are an important resource. Projects which improve our quality of life including enhancements to tourism, health, and human services are appropriate. The wellbeing of our citizens ensures we can recruit and maintain our workforce. Projects should especially consider that basic needs are met.

### **Categories to Divide the Funds**

Percentages could be changed by the commission as projects and priorities are more clearly defined.

#### **County Government Projects (~50% of funds)**

These projects are proposed by the County Executive and his department head team. The projects are also led and complete by the county. Projects should be balanced between already planned and projects which would not otherwise be completed without the infusion of investment.

#### **Government Identified Community Projects (~50% of funds)**

These are projects which are identified by the commission and are intended to be a collaboration between county departments and community. Projects are administered by county departments and could be granted to sub-recipients or county projects.

Changes to this document may be made from time-to-time by a majority vote of the ARPA Strategy and Outcomes Commission.