



# Onondaga County Legislature

JAMIE McNAMARA  
Clerk

JAMES J. ROWLEY  
Chairman

MELANIE VILARDI  
Deputy Clerk

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## COUNTY FACILITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES – JANUARY 18, 2022 DEBRA J. CODY, CHAIR

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mr. Kinne, Mr. Bush, Dr. Kelly, Mrs. Ervin

**ALSO ATTENDING:** Chairman Rowley; also see attached

Chair Cody called the meeting to order at 11:36 a.m. *A motion was made by Mrs. Ervin, seconded by Dr. Kelly, to waive the reading and approve the minutes of the previous committee meeting. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.*

1. **FACILITIES:** Archie Wixson, Commissioner

a. **BOND: A Resolution Authorizing Improvements to the Community Plaza and Walks in and for the County of Onondaga, New York, at a Maximum Estimated Cost of \$300,000, and Authorizing the Issuance of \$300,000 Bonds of Said County to Pay Costs Thereof (\$300,000)**

Mr. Wixson:

- Sidewalk areas around Everson and War Memorial, project in place since 2012, depleted the funds previously authorized
- Need another \$300,000 to continue repairs for upcoming year to avoid trips and falls; also bring appeal back to where it was originally

Mr. Wixson replied to Chair Cody that the sidewalks are at least 40 years old, as the Everson Plaza was built in 1961. Chair Cody said that is important, and the county does not want any injuries or lawsuits.

Chairman Rowley asked if they are poured sidewalks. Mr. Wixson replied there is when it is applicable. In order for it to be useful for sidewalks and parking areas, there has to be soil below it, so it can receive water. It is above the garage where legislators park. Chairman Rowley replied it is not good.

*A motion was made by Mrs. Ervin, seconded by Dr. Kelly, to approve this item. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.*

b. **BOND: A Resolution Authorizing Capital Improvements at Various Facilities in and for the County of Onondaga, New York, at a Maximum Estimated Cost of \$11,565,000, and Authorizing the Issuance of \$5,095,000 Bonds of Said County to Pay Part of the Costs Thereof (\$5,095,000)**

Mr. Wixson:

- Introducing some cash and grant money
- 8<sup>th</sup> floor Civic Center, one of last floors not renovated, outdated with furnishings, right now it is vacant
- Housing a BOCES program on west side; east side Children & Family Services are introducing some additional programming to their operations, need to expand out of the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> floor
- Renovating the east side of Civic Center on 8<sup>th</sup> floor, confident that cost will be \$1,175,000, which includes renovation of ceilings, HVAC, lighting, flooring, and new furnishings with upgraded infrastructure
- Other floors of Civic Center revolve around the Social Services. Dept. programming
- Ms. Merrick has some space relocations, renovations, and some movement within their programs associated with other agencies such as JobsPlus

- Did not come for funding last year; determined Ms. Merrick's needs are \$1.8 million in debt, \$235,000 in cash, and ask for another million in 2023
- Renovate areas in BEC Clinic, Dr. Gupta's clinic in the basement level of Civic Center that serves the public
- Trouble with space, too close; ADA opportunity, two different levels, there is a lower level to that office, need to make some modifications to accommodate and bring up to today's standards
- Army Reserve Center located on Electronics' Parkway; property in good shape
- Perfect spot for primary EOC location, need to invest in facility to work out of there, most will be data, IT, infrastructure, furnishings, and technologies
- Mr. Wears is expecting \$1 million in grant funding; need to borrow \$1.1 million to make it a workable space
- Important not to have EOC location in downtown in Civic Center, if had capacity, would not be able to operate properly
- Asking for \$500,000 for the OnCenter Complex capital, asked for every year
- \$1.5 million in the past, this year asking for \$500,000 for technologies to bring them closer to standard marketplace

Mrs. Ervin asked if the Legislature was made aware of the EOC center before now. Mr. Wixson replied:

- Best use of this facility since acquired from the Army, after they chose not to renew their lease; county property
- Did not pay for it; 45 year agreement between US Department of Defense and Onondaga County, for a dollar a year they decided to build a newer, upgraded facility
- Mr. Wears' and administration looked into relocating EOC to that facility

Mr. Donnelly stated that the project was in the CIP for 2022, and if the county receives a million dollar grant that was applied for through the federal government, this funding would be used to renovate the building and move the EOC to that building. The project will not move forward unless they receive the grant. Chair Cody said there was talk during the pandemic of them looking for another space, because the Civic Center basement was not optimal. Mr. Donnelly apologized to Mrs. Ervin, as the intention was not to leave her out of the discussion, and he said it was presented in the CIP at budget time.

Mr. Kinne asked what will happen to the space in the basement and the former Army Reserve Center, and has that been vacant for a while. Mr. Wixson replied:

- Been vacant for about 3 years; been in county possession for a little over a year; 100 % satisfied nothing wrong with property, everything from the property has been turned over from the Army
- Accustomed to working with the Armed services; take very good care of their things; right now being used as one of the county's distribution centers for pandemic supplies, it is operating great
- Civic center basement - other agencies of support, other resources, never intended to have to address this kind of environment currently; outgrown; E-911 backup center still there; will not vacate it
- In joining Emergency Management, utilizing some of the workstations in main area; E911 uses this as a backup center whenever they have something going on; no major renovations
- What will be put at the Reserve Center - staff crammed into small area and they will operate out of the Army Reserve location, about 20,000 sq. ft. level
- 6.2 acres of land; looking to utilize 3.5 acres of fenced in yard to be an impound yard

Mr. Kinne asked about the status of the Sheriff's debacle (evidence storage), and Mr. Wixson replied that he cannot speak for the Sheriff. They looked at facilities, the Sheriff is partnering with the city, and they would like to own a building, not lease. It is ongoing.

Mr. Bush asked for the address of the Army Reserve property. Mr. Wixson replied:

- 412 Electronics' Parkway Liverpool, New York; there are no folks out there, folks from Emergency Management (EM) and Facilities go in for tasks and leave
- EM may go in for the pandemic relief and Facilities might go to observe for repairs or leaks, then leave

Mr. Wixson responded to Mr. Bush concerning the projects:

- Seeing money from CIP, nothing has changed; details of these projects are in the agenda packet
- Details of design for Children & Family Services, the study estimation is based on cost for renovation of 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> floor, below the 8<sup>th</sup> floor over the last 3 years; adjustments made for current marketplace; costs are known, done this a lot

Chair Cody said to Mr. Bush that they can do Facilities field trips this year.

Legislator Kuhn asked if Chair Cody and Mr. Ryan looked at a certain building for evidence storage, and Chair Cody said that was not one of them.

*A motion was made by Dr. Kelly, seconded by Chair Cody, to approve this item. Ayes: 3 Abstentions: 2 (Kinne, Ervin); MOTION CARRIED.*

**2. ONONDAGA COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY:** Christian Zabriskie, Executive Director

**a. BOND: A Resolution Authorizing the Construction of an Addition and Improvements to the Petit Branch Library in and for the County of Onondaga, New York, at a Maximum Estimated Cost of \$1,544,229 and Authorizing the Issuance of \$950,000 Bonds of Said County to Pay Costs Thereof (\$950,000)**

- Build a Community Room; addition to Petit Branch Library; sits in middle of Westcott community, high traffic area location, circulates more than most of other branches; during shut down had 40 - 50 takeout's a day
- Gain public space for community organization when Library is closed, welcome community groups in without being open; much needed

*A motion was made by Mrs. Ervin, seconded by Mr. Bush, to approve this item. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.*

**3. PARKS AND RECREATION:** Brian Kelly, Commissioner

**a. Authorizing the Acceptance of 16.97 ± Acres of Land from the Friends of Beaver Lake, Inc. to Increase the County Land Area of Beaver Lake Nature Center**

- Acceptance of 16.97 ± acres of land - Church Road, back end of park; connects to 75 acres that the Friends have purchased and gifted to county in 2003
- Some additional road frontage on Church Road, currently using space for additional parking for Golden Harvest Fest
- Provides buffer against development construction and protects wild life; would expand trail system as attendance grows

*A motion was made by Mr. Bush, seconded by Dr. Kelly, to approve this item. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.*

**b. Amending the 2022 County Budget to Accept Grant Funds from New York State's State and Municipal Facilities Program for Renovations and Upgrades to the Oneida Shores Boat Launch (\$250,000)**

- Project beginning; multi-phase project; weigh Station for fishing, tournaments; construction of new retaining wall

*A motion was made by Dr. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Bush, to approve this item. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.*

**c. BOND: A Resolution Authorizing Replacement of Roofs and Mechanical Systems at the Zoo in and for the County of Onondaga, New York, at a Maximum Estimated Cost of \$2,000,000, and Authorizing the Issuance of \$2,000,000 Bonds of Said County to Pay Costs Thereof (\$2,000,000)**

- Replace majority of the roofs on site and look at the mechanical systems; most are original from the 1980's
- Done a lot of maintenance and repairs; now time to replace; safety for the animals and well being
- First year of project \$1 million towards the roof, second half of project will go towards engineering, mechanical
- The main roof on the front was installed in the 1980's; zoo opened in mid-80's; roof over 40 years old

Chair Cody commented it is a testament to Mr. Wixson and his staff for all his maintenance and repairs. She asked if the Animal Health Center has an opening date. Mr. Kelly replied that there is a certificate of occupancy, and they are moving to get it set up around February for everyone to see.

*A motion was made by Mrs. Ervin, seconded by Mr. Kinne, to approve this item. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.*

**d. BOND: A Resolution Authorizing Improvements to Various Parks in and for the County of Onondaga, New York, at a Maximum Estimated Cost of \$4,785,000, and Authorizing the Issuance of \$4,785,000 Bonds of Said County to Pay Costs Thereof (\$4,785,000)**

- Capital project used for preventive maintenance in the parks throughout the year; mostly to address safety issues, disrepair and enhancements to what is currently out there for the public

Dr. Chase asked if the bathroom was replaced in Onondaga Lake Park, and Mr. Kelly answered not yet due to COVID. There are bathrooms and porta potties available. Dr. Chase asked how Lights on the Lake was this year, and Mr. Kelly replied it was their second highest year with \$600,000 in revenue (40,000 cars).

*A motion was made by Mrs. Ervin, seconded by Dr. Kelly, to approve this item. Ayes: 4 Abstentions: 1 (Kinne); MOTION CARRIED.*

The meeting was adjourned at 12:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



DEBBIE KAMINSKI, Assistant Clerk  
Onondaga County Legislature

**ATTENDANCE**

**COMMITTEE: COUNTY FACILITIES COMMITTEE**

**DATE: JANUARY 18, 2022**

NAME (Please Print)	DEPARTMENT/AGENCY
Mark Canten	OCPL
Christa Zahresore	OCPL
Jennifer Frigano	Fin Ops
Br Kelly	Parks
Mark Nicolini	Parks
Tenisha Murphy	CE office
Yvette Velasco	LAW