



Onondaga County Legislature

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TAMMY BARBER
Deputy Clerk

401 Montgomery Street • Court House • Room 407 • Syracuse, New York 13202
Phone: 315.435.2070 • onondagacountylegislature@ongov.net • www.ongov.net/legislature

WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE MINUTES – APRIL 29, 2025 **COLLEEN A. GUNNIP, CHAIR**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. May, Ms. Abbott, Mr. Romeo, Mr. Knapp, Mr. Garland, Ms. Hernandez
ALSO ATTENDING: Chairman Burtis, Ms. Cody, Mr. Bush; also see attached

Chair Gunnip called the meeting to order at 10:42 a.m., and the previous meeting's minutes were approved.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. TRANSPORTATION:

- a. Amending the Design (Scoping I-VI) and Right-of-Way Incidentals Phase of the Onondaga Boulevard (CR 240) Paving Project, PIN 3756.75, by \$150,000, and Increasing the Authorization to Pay in the First Instance 100% of the Federal Aid Eligible Costs by \$120,000, Amending Resolution No. 73-2022, and Authorizing the Execution of Agreements (\$120,000)**
(Sponsored by Ms. Cody)

Purpose: This legislation will authorize the Comptroller to pay in the first instance and additional \$120,000 of federal reimbursable monies for the Design and Right-of-way Incidentals phase of the Onondaga Boulevard 2R Paving Project, PIN 3756.75.

Summary: The objective of this project is to provide a two-course pavement treatment for Onondaga Boulevard between Fay Road and Velasko Road in the City of Syracuse, and in the Towns of Onondaga and Geddes. A safety alternative to reduce speed and vehicular crashes is being investigated, and likely will include reducing the highway from four lanes to three west of the Western Lights commercial area. Given that Westhill High School is within the project limits, pedestrian and bicycle accommodations are being explored. Drainage, roadside obstacle, guiderail, signage, and striping improvements will be made as part of the project. Finally, the traffic signals at the Wegmans entrance and at Velasko Road will be replaced. Construction is anticipated to be in 2027.

Fiscal Impact: This authorization is for the Design and Right-of-way Incidentals phase of the project, which is funded with 80% Federal Dollars, and 20% local dollars. The additional local share cost of \$30,000 is being funded through OCDOT's workplans.

- b. Authorizing the County Executive to Enter into a Five Year Agreement with the State of New York for Snow and Ice Control on State Highways for the 2024-2029 Seasons, and Superseding Resolution No. 201-2024 (\$5,339,023) (Sponsored by Ms. Cody)**

Purpose: To authorize the execution of agreements for a five year term with New York State for the County to plow State roads. This resolution extends the 2019-2024 contract term authorized by Resolution No. 14- 2020 an additional five years from 2024-2029 through the 2028-2029 plow season. Revises the dollar amount per season approved in Resolution 201-2024 based on new average annual base cost per season methodology by NYS for the 2024-2029 snow seasons.

Objective/ Work Plan: The County is reimbursed for plowing State roads based on an average of prior costs adjusted for any increase in labor, equipment, materials, and severity.

Funding Source: The funding source of this contract is the New York State Department of Transportation.

Budget: The estimated annual base amount per season for this five year extension is \$5,339,023 which is revised from the Resolution 201- 2024 amount per season of \$4,717,185.

2. **GREATER SYRACUSE LAND BANK:**

a. **2025 Transfer Resolution (\$250,000)** (Sponsored by Mr. Knapp)

A motion was made by Mr. May, seconded by Mr. Knapp, to approve the consent agenda. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.

REGULAR AGENDA

1. **TRANSPORTATION:** Marty Voss, Commissioner

a. **BOND: A Resolution Authorizing the Reconstruction and Construction of Improvements to Various Highways in and for the County of Onondaga, New York, at a Total Maximum Estimated Cost of \$6,000,000, and Authorizing the Issuance of \$6,000,000 Bonds of Said County to Pay Costs Thereof (\$6,000,000)** (Sponsored by Ms. Cody)

2025 Highway Work Plan

DRAFT

Projects	2025 Operating Budget	2025 CHIPS**		Bond Issue	Federal/ State / Others Aid	Totals
<u>County Capital Projects</u>						
<u>Federal Aid Projects</u>				\$2,380,000	\$20,671,500 \$2,178,500	\$25,230,000
7th North Paving Project - ROW Acq. & Construction						
Buckley Road 2R Paving, Bear Rd to Henry Clay Blvd - Add'l Construction						
Buckley Road 2R Paving, Hopkins to Taft - Add'l Construction						
Canalways Trail - Salina Extension Trail Ph 2 - Design & Construction						
Limestone Plaza Bridge - Add'l Construction						
Old Rt 57 Bridge over the Oneida River - Add'l Design						
Onondaga Boulevard 2R Paving - Construction and Add'l Design						
Peck Road Bridge - Design & Construction						
West Dead Creek Bridge - Construction						
<u>Traffic System Management</u>				\$391,000		\$391,000
Traffic Signal Upgrades						
<u>Cold Mix Bituminous Reconstruction</u>						
8.74	\$935,000	\$840,000 **		\$1,065,570		\$2,840,570
at \$325,000 per Mile						
Treating 12.59 Centerline Miles						
Goal is 18.75 Equivalent Miles						
<u>Bridges</u>	\$250,000			\$1,450,000		\$1,700,000
<u>Hot Mix Bituminous Paving</u>	\$172,400	\$5,947,000 **		\$2,163,430		\$8,282,830
25.49						
at \$325,000 per Mile						
Treating 27.98 Centerline Miles						
Goal is 45 Equivalent Miles						
<u>Guiderail</u>	\$644,000					\$644,000

Bituminous Surface Treatment	\$2,798,600	\$2,798,600
62.19 at \$45,000 per Mile Goal is 75 Centerline Miles		
Testing	\$110,000	\$110,000
Drainage	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
Facilities Repair	\$90,000	\$90,000
2025 TOTALS	\$6,000,000	\$6,787,000
	\$7,450,000	\$22,850,000
		\$43,087,000

NOTE: Numbers refer to locations on attached maps and descriptions.

** CHIPS (Consolidated Highway Improvement Program) was implemented in New York State in June 1982 and was designed to replace revenues previously derived from New York State Motor Fuel and New York State Vehicle License Registration fees.

A motion was made by Mr. May, seconded by Mr. Knapp, to approve this item.

- Heard the state was reducing CHIPS; will it be at the same level or possibly more?
 - Heard that from peers around the state; will find out
- Is there typically a year-to-year variance?
 - On even number years there is more money coming from Albany, and odd number years is baseline
 - Pave Our Potholes and Emergency Winter Recovery - whatever the state decides, it goes through same CHIPS formula; county gets share prorated based on mileage

A vote was taken on the item. ***Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.***

b. BOND: A Resolution Authorizing Various Bridge Improvement Projects in and for the County of Onondaga, New York, at a Maximum Estimated Cost of \$1,450,000, and Authorizing the Issuance of \$1,450,000 Bonds of Said County to Pay Costs Thereof (\$1,450,000)

(Sponsored by Ms. Cody)

- Bridge projects in workplan

A motion was made by Ms. Abbott, seconded by Mr. Knapp, to approve this item. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.

c. BOND: A Resolution Amending Bond Resolution No. 189-2017, Dated December 5, 2017, Authorizing the Issuance of \$10,000,000 Bonds of the County of Onondaga, New York, to Pay Costs Related to Improvements to the North Area Highway Maintenance Facility and for Said County (\$2,970,000)

(Sponsored by Ms. Cody)

Summary: Rehabilitation project to improve the Jamesville and Marcellus DOT maintenance facilities.

Funding by Source (000's)

SOURCE	Prior	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	6-Year	Total
<i>Borrowing to Authorize</i>	-	500	2,150	-	-	-	-	2,650	2,650
TOTALS	-	500	2,150	-	-	-	-	2,650	2,650

Scope & Details: The Marcellus and Jamesville DOT Maintenance Facilities were built in 1989 and 2000, respectively. Neither facility has received upgrades in recent years, and repairs are needed.

The plan includes renovating the Jamesville & Marcellus Maintenance Shops to bring them up to current standards. Specifically, the employee work areas will be upgraded including new furniture, flooring, paint, and ceilings (in breakrooms, offices, bathrooms, and locker rooms). Also, the plan includes renovating infrastructure critical to DOT operations such as replacing overhead garage doors (and motors), HVAC, plumbing, and interior and exterior walking and driving surfaces consisting of failing asphalt & concrete. These improvements are necessary to increase the useful life of the facilities and provide a safer environment in which to work.

In spring 2025 we intend to seek legislative authorization for \$2,650,000 in bonds to finance this project.

- Residual bond balance from North Area Highway Bond to use at Marcellus and Jamesville
- If the projects are done now, it will save money
- Sewer line in Marcellus to get the DOT building off septic – got assistance from Legislator Abbott with the Village

Questions/Comments from the committee:

- What are the logistics of the borrowing?
 - Finance:
 - Original bond authorized for renovation of North Area, which came in under budget
 - Borrowed what was needed for the project with \$2.9M left in authorization
 - This is for different garages and capital assets, so the county has to have a resolution to repurpose the money
 - Cannot use it currently as it is for North Area
 - Made sense to look at old money DOT did not have to borrow for and repurpose it for the other facilities
- Compliment DOT's decision to fix up North Area and Camillus, and to come in under budget

A motion was made by Mr. Knapp to approve this item.

- Is this enough funding to get it done?
 - Yes

Mr. May seconded the motion. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.

- d. Amending the 2025 County Budget to Fund in the First Instance 100 Percent of the Federal Aid Eligible Costs at a Maximum Amount of \$1,120,000 for the Design (Scoping I-VI) and Right-of-Way Incidentals Phase of the Canalways Trail Salina Extension Project Phase 2, PIN 3757.02, and Authorizing the Execution of Agreements (\$1,120,000) (Sponsored by Ms. Cody)**

Purpose: This legislation will authorize the Comptroller to pay in the first instance \$1,120,000 of federal reimbursable monies for the Design & Right-of-Way Incidentals phase of the Canalways Trail Salina Extension Project Phase 2, PIN 3757.02.

Summary: The objective of Phase 2 of this project is to construct a portion of the trail along Onondaga Lake Parkway and the eight span pedestrian bridge over CSX rail lines to the trail terminus on Murphy's Island in the Town of Salina. Construction of Phase 2 is anticipated to be in 2028.

Fiscal Impact: This authorization is for the Design & Right-of-Way Incidentals phases of this project, which is funded with 80% Federal Dollars and 20% local dollars. The local share cost of the project in the amount of \$280,000 is being funded through OCDOT's workplans.

- Continued design for Loop the Lake; Bloody Brook to south of railroad bridge
- Phase II is Parkway to Murphy's Island – key to finishing the loop

- e. Amending the 2025 County Budget to Pay in the First Instance 100 Percent of the Federal and State Aid Eligible Costs at a Maximum Amount of \$5,320,000 for the Construction Phase of the Route 57 & Soule Road Paving Project, PIN 3756.72, and Authorizing Execution of Agreements (\$5,320,000) (Sponsored by Ms. Cody)**

Purpose: This legislation will authorize the Comptroller to pay in the first instance \$5,320,000 of federal and State reimbursable monies for the Construction phase of the Route 57 & Soule Road Paving Project, PIN 3756.72.

Summary: The work will include milling with a two-course asphalt pavement treatment (including isolated full depth reconstruction) on Route 57 from Pine Hollow Drive to Calder Court, and on Soule Road from Route 57 to Fairways East in the Town of Clay. Lane reductions are proposed to be implemented on Old Route 57 at the intersection with Soule Road. The objective of the lane reductions is to enhance safety and provide improved pedestrian accommodations. The number of lanes on Old Route 57 will be reduced by one lane on the north and southbound approaches. This will be accomplished through a combination of striping changes and narrowing of the pavement width. On the southbound approach, the lane reduction will allow for the installation of 800-feet of curbed sidewalk. Also, a new traffic signal will be installed at Fairways East, and all enclosed drainage and culverts within the corridor will be cleaned. Signage will be installed as needed to address existing deficiencies. Construction is anticipated in 2026.

Fiscal Impact: This authorization is for the Construction phase of the project, which is funded with 80% Federal dollars, 15% State dollars, and 5% local dollars. The local share cost of \$280,000 is being funded through OCDOT's workplans.

- f. Amending the 2025 County Budget to Pay in the First Instance 100 Percent of the Federal and State Aid Eligible Costs at a Maximum Amount of \$3,515,000 for the Construction Phase of the Buckley Road Paving Project, PIN 3756.78, and Authorizing Execution of Agreements (\$3,515,000) (Sponsored by Ms. Cody)**

Purpose: This legislation will authorize the Comptroller to pay in the first instance \$3,515,000 of federal and State reimbursable monies for the Construction phase of the Buckley Road Paving Project, PIN 3756.78.

Summary: The work will include milling with a two-course asphalt pavement treatment (including isolated full depth reconstruction) between Henry Clay Blvd and Bear Road in the Town of Clay. This project includes drainage improvements, and traffic signal improvements at the Buckley Road and Bear Road intersection, which will receive new traffic signal heads. Also, the existing span wire traffic signal at the Buckley Road and Wetzel Road intersection will be fully replaced. All existing pedestrian infrastructure, including any sidewalks, curb ramps, crosswalks, and pedestrian signals, will be upgraded to meet current standards. Pedestrian facilities will be added at the Buckley Road and Wetzel Road intersection, and sidewalk will be constructed on the west side of Buckley Road from Wetzel Road to Bear Road. Construction is anticipated in 2027.

Fiscal Impact: This authorization is for the Construction phase of the project, which is funded with 80% Federal dollars, 15% State dollars, and 5% local dollars. The local share cost of \$185,000 is being funded through OCDOT's workplans.

- g. Amending the 2025 County Budget to Fund in the First Instance 100 Percent of the Federal Aid Eligible Costs at a Maximum Amount of \$1,938,000 for the Design (Scoping I-VI) and Construction Phases of the Peck Road Bridge Over Chittenango Creek (C-192) Project, PIN 3757.48, and Authorizing Execution of Agreements (\$1,938,000) (Sponsored by Ms. Cody)**

Purpose: This legislation will authorize the Comptroller to pay in the first instance \$1,938,000 of federal reimbursable monies for the Design and Construction phases of the Peck Road Bridge (C-192) over Chittenango Creek project, PIN 3757.48. This project has been awarded 95% federal funds through the Bridge NY Program.

Summary: This Peck Road Bridge is located in the Town of Manlius near Ferstler Road and will be rehabilitated. This 150' continuous steel girder 2-span bridge was built in 1989, with the substructure and approach slabs rebuilt in 1999. Recent inspections show excessive tilt of the rocker bearings at both ends of the bridge, and the joints are at maximum compression. The reinforced concrete deck is deteriorated, and the wearing surface is worn and polished in the wheel paths. The objective

of this project is to replace the deck, approach slabs, bearings and guiderail, and to repair the substructure elements. Construction is anticipated to be in 2027.

Fiscal Impact: This authorization is for the design and construction phases of the project, which is funded with 95% Federal Dollars from the Bridge NY Program, and 5% local dollars. By intermunicipal agreement, the County of Madison will pay for ½ of the local share in the amount of \$51,000, therefore the OCDOT local share cost of \$51,000 is being programmed through OCDOT's workplans.

h. Amending the 2025 County Budget to Fund in the First Instance 100 Percent of the Federal Aid Eligible Costs at a Maximum Amount of \$1,840,000 for the Design (Scoping I-VI) and Right-of-Way Incidentals Phase of the Route 57 Bridge (C-237) Over the Oneida River Project, PIN 3757.03, and Authorizing the Execution of Agreements (\$1,840,000) (Sponsored by Ms. Cody)

Purpose: This legislation will authorize the Comptroller to pay in the first instance \$1,840,000 of federal reimbursable monies for the design and right of way incidentals phase of the Route 57 Bridge over the Oneida River Project, PIN 3757.03.

Summary: The Three Rivers Bridge (County Bridge C-237) over the Oneida River is a three-span structure with 62-ft long steel multi-girder approach spans, and a 250 ft long steel thru-truss main span, having a reinforced concrete deck built in 1940, and it is in disrepair. The superstructure truss is similar in age to the old Belgium Road Bridge now replaced. Heavy section loss on numerous truss gusset plates and sheered anchor rods is apparent as well as deteriorated bearings. The design phase will investigate if the bridge, located in the Town of Clay, is entirely replaced or rehabilitated. Construction is anticipated in 2031.

Fiscal Impact: This authorization is for the design and right of way incidental phase of the project, which is funded with 80% Federal dollars and 20% local dollars. By intermunicipal agreement, the County of Oswego will pay for ½ of the local share in the amount of \$230,000, therefore the OCDOT local share cost of \$230,000 is being programmed through OCDOT's workplans.

i. Amending the 2025 County Budget to Pay in the First Instance 100 Percent of the Federal and State Aid Eligible Costs at a Maximum Amount of \$6,745,000 for the Construction Phase of the Buckley Road Paving Project, PIN 3756.70, and Authorizing Execution of Agreements (\$6,745,000) (Sponsored by Ms. Cody)

Purpose: This legislation will authorize the Comptroller to pay in the first instance \$6,745,000 of federal and State reimbursable monies for the Construction phase of the Buckley Road Paving Project, PIN 3756.70.

Summary: The work will include milling with a two-course asphalt pavement treatment (including isolated full depth reconstruction) between Hopkins Road and Taft Road in the Town of Clay. It also includes replacing the existing drainage system, widening the roadway to include turn lanes at select intersections, and removing existing concrete median areas. Improvements to the traffic signals and signs will also be included. The project will also include constructing sidewalks between Bailey Road and Taft Road to improve pedestrian accommodation and accessibility and will provide 6 ft. shoulders between Hopkins Road and Bailey Road to accommodate occasional bicyclists and pedestrians. Construction is anticipated in 2027.

Fiscal Impact: This authorization is for the Construction phase of the project, which is funded with 80% Federal dollars, 15% State dollars, and 5% local dollars. The local share cost of \$355,000 has been funded through OCDOT's workplans

j. Amending the 2025 County Budget to Pay in the First Instance 100 Percent of the Federal and State Aid Eligible Costs at a Maximum Amount of \$1,900,000 for the Construction Phase of the Limestone Plaza Bridge (C-235) Over Limestone Creek Project, PIN 3756.74, and Authorizing Execution of Agreements (\$1,900,000) (Sponsored by Ms. Cody)

Purpose: This legislation will authorize the Comptroller to pay in the first instance \$1,900,000 of federal and State reimbursable monies for the Construction phase of the Limestone Plaza Bridge over Limestone Creek Project, PIN 3756.74.

Summary: The work will include the removal of the existing bridge deck, removal and storage of the existing steel superstructure, installation of scour protection, substructure repairs, reinstallation of the stored steel superstructure, construction of a new cast-in-place concrete bridge deck, and reconstruction of the roadway at the approaches, including new guide rail. The project will eliminate structural deficiencies and hydraulic vulnerabilities, and extend the service life of the crossing. This bridge is located within the Village of Fayetteville, and construction is anticipated in 2026.

Fiscal Impact: This authorization is for the Construction phase of the project, which is funded with 80% Federal dollars, 15% State dollars, and 5% local dollars. The local share cost of \$100,000 is being funded through OCDOT's workplans.

Questions/Comments from the committee:

- Lot of construction with I81; is there any coordination between the state and County DOT?
 - There is room for improvement with communication with the state
 - Maintaining dialogue with Regional Director to be on same page; particularly with things that converge
 - Intensive construction period over next 3-4 years with I81 and the growth in community
 - Caughdenoy will be closed Monday for WEP to do sewer work
 - Lot of federal and state money to build, just growing pains

A motion was made by Mr. Knapp, seconded by Ms. Hernandez, to approve items 1d – 1j. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.

2. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: Bob Petrovich, Deputy County Executive, Economic Development & Planning; Marty Skahen, Director of Community Development; Kevin Sexton, Chief Information Officer

- a. Amending the 2025 County Budget to Provide for the Appropriation of General Fund Balance to Support Housing, Economic Development, and Technology Initiatives (\$33,000,000)**
(Sponsored by Mr. Knapp)

Mr. Petrovich presented the following information.

Semiconductor Supply Chain – \$27,000,000

\$27M of loans to the Onondaga County Industrial Development Agency (OCIDA) for the purpose of acquiring real property to support the semiconductor supply chain ecosystem. OCIDA will create sites to support the location of companies in the microelectronics manufacturing/semiconductor supply chain industry.

- Supporting projects in community to make sites shovel ready for supply chain investments across the county
- Have learned from process that the county needs sites to get projects
- Looking to use the funding to assemble sites to support Micron and larger ecosystem being developed across the state
- Supporting supply chain companies from Japan, Korea, Taiwan, and United States
 - Onsemi making ~\$120M investment in DeWitt
 - Serving Wolfspeed in Utica
 - Potentially GlobalFoundries in Saratoga
 - West into Ohio to support Intel projects there
- Targeted sites – need funding to secure and advance the sites to shovel ready condition, so foreign investment is comfortable investing in this community

Questions/Comments from the committee:

- How many sites will this money get shovel ready?
 - Do not know; have not negotiated transactions yet
 - One is under contract – expanding science and technology park south of Micron campus
 - Looking to use funds to secure the property and make site bigger
 - Supply chain companies need to be across the street, as requested by Micron; some can be within 10 miles
 - Will have supply chain companies outside the county also
 - Trying to target potential companies (i.e. chemical, gas, materials)
 - The company wants to own the dirt; do not want lease arrangements
 - Looking at 30 acre blocks and want to amass larger site to concentrate activity
 - Do not know how far the money will be stretched; deal oriented and focused on outcome

- How will the \$27M loan be repaid?
 - It is subject to terms and conditions with the IDA and county; contract does not exist; have to negotiate terms
 - Intention to pay money back through IDA fees and land sales over life of loan
- Will the contracts be shared with the Legislature?
 - Assume it will be public document between IDA and county
- Please provide more information on the “callable loans”, which is a very fluid formula on where benefits and gains are to be had
 - Do not disagree
 - There will be a lot of cascading economic activity associated with supply chain companies coming to the community
 - Micron has ~900 companies they do business with
 - (i.e.) If the county picks up 10% of those companies, it will have a dramatic effect on the economic activity in the county with another 5,000-6,000 jobs (including housing, property taxes, and sales tax that runs county government)
 - Expecting a wave of positive activity as a result; not just getting land and standing up companies
- If the county has a loan contract, the money is coming back, and it may be better utilized reinvesting in the next deal
- What metrics is the county using to judge the success of the projects?
 - Businesses locating here would be obvious metric
 - Micron will not be successful without vendors and suppliers here to give them what they need to manufacture
 - Micron also has consumables and machines to be calibrated and replaced
 - All the companies that support Micron, drive the success of Micron
 - Question is how do companies from Japan, Taiwan, and even American get here with least possible stress
 - Fair number of the companies are family owned and will make significant capital investment into community
 - Most of this has been done offshore, so reshoring supply chain in the county will reduce impediments and barriers in making foreign investment into the United States
 - Trying to create an environment that will be a seamless approach
 - Will help with right-to-build approvals, SEQR review, foreign trade zone issues, etc. – issues to solve to get companies to locate here and make multimillion dollar investments
 - Trying to get companies comfortable picking a site and be up and running in 18-24 months
 - Metric is assembling sites and having companies making decisions about being here
- With \$33M and 900 companies, how many companies is the county shooting for? (i.e. 15 or 40)
 - County Executive wants them all
 - County will have a couple hundred acres south of White Pine (cannot develop all 200 acres due to wet areas and setback requirements)
 - If county can get 2-5 companies on 10-20 acre blocks of land, that would be a big win, but does not finish the race
 - Need other sites to secure with this funding to give other options and ask what block of land is most appealing
 - Whoever comes first will get a great deal
- Agree with technical support from the county, but do not understand why a company making millions of investment into the county would need county money to acquire the land
 - County is being preemptive by acquiring land upfront
 - Intention is to sell the land to companies when they pick a spot to locate
 - County is not buying the land for the companies, the county is buying land and can subdivide sites
 - County will sell and have a real estate transaction
 - Money is being loaned to OCIDA
- OCIDA is authorized to do these types of deals; county cannot do it, which is why OCIDA was established
- Why is OCIDA not using technical support garnered through people, so they are not taking on that burden?
- Will OCIDA potentially buy acres of land that will not be used, because a company will choose a different spot?
 - That question is not totally accurate
 - The county is being strategic about what land it is looking to acquire
 - Not picking up 100 acres in the middle of nowhere

- Making sure all critical utility infrastructure is there (or close by) to stand up site and support this kind of investment
- Being strategic and looking at areas that would support this type of ecosystem
- Do not have deals yet, but have people seriously considering coming here
- County has shown some stuff it has, but it will not last long; need broader scope of opportunity to secure future investment in and around the community
- Private sector only interested in real estate deals
- County is interested in creating an economic development opportunity that is broader, not squeezing every dime out of the real estate
- County is looking at what the capital investment will be from the company, how many jobs they are creating, and what they are doing to support Micron, the community and Onondaga County
- How big of a concern is the real estate market? Is there a worry that the sites will go away?
 - Yes
- Micron is required to do an environmental impact statement; will these other companies be required to do the same?
 - Similar to what the county did at White Pine
 - Had block of land, but when looking at attracting semiconductor investment, it was clear the site was not big enough for current and expansion needs
 - Needed it to be bigger – went from 340 acres to almost 1,400 acres today
 - Education for county in understanding the industry
 - Drafted a Generic Environmental Impact Statement (GEIS) before Micron
 - Doing the same thing here – a draft GEIS, as it causes delay but is part of process
 - Will go through the GEIS process with the land the county controls
 - When a company comes to the county, the county has already calculated (into the matrix of review) that the company would fall underneath that
 - Company would only have to do a supplement to the generic study and can be approved to locate on the site
- By creating White Pine, Micron was given a reason to come to Onondaga County, but with the suppliers, Micron is a financial incentive for them to come; why do suppliers need more of an incentive?
 - Yes, some suppliers have to be here, but some do not, and some are on the fence
 - Question is how does the county ensure Micron's success?
 - Micron's success is not only driven by what they are doing, but what they need in terms of support
 - Short sighted to have the point of view that the suppliers will figure it out on their own
 - The county wants to drive the conversation, agenda and success
- There are businesses out there where Micron is not their only client, and those are the ones that the county wants here
- If the county is driving it, the county can say where they can and cannot go
- It will better spread the wealth to the south and west (not only Clay)
 - Micron will not be successful without a supply chain for them
 - Micron identified critical companies they think need to be located proximal to their location
 - If the county want's Micron to succeed, have to take initiative to get those companies here
 - Reaching out to companies and trying to figure out where the best places are based on their strategic importance for the overall project being developed
 - Some companies will be across the street, some within a mile, some further away
 - If the county does not take the initiative, the county will be at risk for less than complete success
 - County is providing tech support, but the question is where a business can set up
 - Some companies have hired realtors, but they are drawn to what county has because of the infrastructure
 - Companies need help from the county with utilities, wastewater, water, etc.
- OCIDA is doing their job, which is developing industrial areas
- When foreign countries/companies come, they will not contact a local real estate agent; OCIDA are the people that know about infrastructure and power; this is how international businesses conduct themselves
- Supply and demand gets the county to the point where it is today, but this is where the county leverages generational investments made into (i.e.) White Pines to be able to ensure "here" means Onondaga County
 - County is competing for these supply chain companies

- Binghamton is competing in theirs; Oneida County is competing for their ecosystem with Woldfspeed
- Do not want to have another (i.e.) Edwards Vacuum that should have located here
- To avoid that, the county is being proactive and focused on what it is trying to attract here
- Initially will be proof of concept; if the county gets a couple deals, then things get easier and better

Mr. Skahen presented the following information.

Onondaga County Housing Initiative Program (OCHIP) - \$5,000,000

\$5M expansion of the O-CHIP program targeting the creation of much needed housing. To date O-CHIP has been very successful awarding \$6.94M to projects that will create over 1,700 units for a total investment of over \$600M.

- Market rate housing is 53%, mixed is 19%, and affordable is 28% of the units
- 68% of units are within the city with 32% outside the city within the county
- Feeling there will be an influx with Micron this fall

Questions/Comments from the committee:

- What has been appropriated so far for OCHIP?
 - Original was \$10M
 - Last year did three \$5M pots: 1 for senior housing, 1 for infrastructure (infill) and 1 for affordable
 - \$25M total
- What is included in the over \$6M that has gone out?
 - The \$5M pots are directed towards specific things and will take longer to spend
 - Senior housing is directed at development for a senior community with a bigger footprint than a senior housing building funded under OCHIP
 - Infill is for projects on site
 - (i.e.) in Liverpool by Amazon, talking about doing an apartment project where there is a field for a driving range with no infrastructure; money would go towards what has to be done
 - Almost \$7M of the original \$10M has been allocated
- Is OCHIP supposed to help support housing, or to get people to build more? 1% does not sound like it drives housing
 - Anything you can do for a developer drives housing
 - It is very difficult to build housing, so anything anyone can do is a key factor in moving forward
- When will the 1,700 units be online?
 - Everything is in different stages
 - Fully paid out 8 projects with a number underway and others working themselves through
 - (i.e.) Harrison Street above Ale 'n' Angus – striping that and getting underway
 - (i.e.) Project at Fayette Park – the developer is trying to close the gap to build housing

Mr. Sexton presented the following information.

AI and Technology Investments – \$1,000,000

\$1M to procure 350 computers for Social Services and other county departments to replace computers that are not certified to run Windows 11 or receive security updates and other software updates. Additionally, expand ongoing initiatives to implement AI-driven solutions, leveraging technologies such as Machine Learning, Chatbots, Natural Language Processing, Computer Vision, Data Engineering, and Data Analytics. These advancements aim to enhance customer service, streamline operations, reduce manual processing, and drive efficiencies which potentially provide cost savings across county departments.

- Social Services-Economic Security and Children & Family Services need 350 computers – no longer able to get patching or updates from the state system
- AI development and implementation
 - DOT – smart signaling to better promote traffic flow in peak hours for street lights on specific roads in county
 - E911 – looking at translation and transcription services

- IT – implementing Chatbot to answer general questions via the website; implemented pilot with Sheriff's Dept. site
- SNAP under DSS has number of pilots
 - One for rights and responsibilities that need to be communicated to callers as part of SNAP
 - Implementing solution to answer basic questions
 - AI training

Questions/Comments from the committee:

- Please breakdown the \$1M for what is the hard cost versus soft cost
 - Hard cost is \$350-400K for computers
 - Roughly \$600K for operational and implementation investment on case by case basis for those wanting AI solutions
- Will the 350 computers being replaced be repurposed, or will the hard drives be destroyed?
 - Hard drives always get wiped
 - Have a number of vendors that e-recycle
 - Usually beyond end of life; those being replaced are not certified to run Windows 11
- From authorization to get things up and running (for the computers), what is the timeline?
 - Varies; it is coordination once PCs get imaged to work on getting people offline to get them implemented
 - Probably able to turn around 100-200 a month as far as imaging and getting ready
- Where does the county start with the AI process?
- Is it going out to find needs, or looking for a basic platform to build off?
 - Finding right use cases are what is important
 - What companies are out there introducing solutions, and what types of solutions are they supporting
 - A lot of it is gearing up to drive efficiencies and eliminate manual processing
 - (i.e.) Amount of time on phone call – if there is an automated system to handle the bulk of questions, it frees up people to answer other calls and provide additional customer service
 - Will work with departments to find out the specific opportunity
 - AI supports (i.e.) machine learning, analytics for better decision-making, Chatbots for automated responses, document summarization to read 100 page documents and summarize for Law Dept., etc.
 - Departments will drive it and work with teams to implement it
 - IT helps with integration and security
 - AI brings risk
 - If people are incorrectly sharing personal information in the cloud, have no control over it
 - Will be putting in policies and procedures to avoid doing things like that
 - Getting started not easy, as departments have not thought about how AI can help
 - Have 5-6 departments moving ahead with it, and IT will help evaluate the use cases, and what it will bring
- Will there be implementation at DSS dealing with AI and languages?
 - DSS uses a translation solution called Translate Live, which helps requests from people who do not speak English
 - Other departments are looking at translation services as well

A motion was made by Mr. May, seconded by Ms. Abbott, to approve this item. Ayes: 6 Noes: 1 (Romeo); MOTION CARRIED.

3. SHERIFF: Maureen Murphy, Chief of Administration

a. Memorializing the New York State Legislature to Enact Senate Bill No. S7384 and Assembly Bill No. A7934, and Concurring in the Preparation of a Home Rule Request (*Sponsored by Mr. Olson*)

- Several police members were inadvertently not placed in the proper retirement system when coming to the Sheriff's office during the previous administration
- Personnel worked to correct as many as possible
- There were a handful outside the timeframe allowed with NYS retirement to just move them to the proper system
- It requires legislation to be passed to get them into the proper retirement system
- Evaluated every police member to ensure they are all in the correct system

- Now have processes in place to ensure it does not happen again
- Not their tier, but going into 552 20-year police retirement; right now they are in the wrong retirement system

Questions/Comments from the committee:

- Please confirm that everyone is in the proper spot
 - Sheriff:
 - Hope so, except these 6 needing legislation
- This Legislature does not do memorializing resolutions, but this is a Home Rule request that is required before state legislation can be enacted
- Who placed the officers there, and is this a technicality?
 - Sheriff:
 - Previous administration did it
 - There is a specific form that NYS retirement system requires: 552 form for 20 year retirement
 - Initial onboarding form to join the retirement system was done, but the second form was not completed
 - Second form is the one the Sheriff signs to attest that the person is doing police duties
 - Second form was not sent
 - Officers are in the right tier and everything, but not in the right plan to get the 20 year retirement
- Home Rule requires this resolution from the state for them to carry it, correct?
 - Law:
 - This is not a memorializing resolution, it is a Home Rule request
 - Last time this was done was a police officer that wanted to take the test
 - These are random scenarios that require the Legislature to act
- Are there 3 retirement systems (teachers, regular and police/fire)?
 - Sheriff:
 - Not for the Sheriff – it is the 20 year, 552 plan
 - Personnel:
 - The county is part of the NYS Local Retirement System (NYSRLS)
 - 815 is the 30 year plan (most employees)
 - 89K is the Correction Officers 25 year plan
 - 552 is the Police Officers 20 year plan
 - All fall under the NYSLRS
 - In this scenario, because the 552 was not submitted, these officers are sitting in a 30 year retirement, not 20 year like the rest of the officers

A motion was made by Mr. May, seconded by Mr. Garland, to approve this item. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.

- 4. FINANCE:** Amie Wilkinson, Assistant Director, Real Property Tax; Steve Morgan, Chief Fiscal Officer
- a. Approving and Directing the Correction of Certain Errors on Tax Bills**

A motion was made by Mr. May, seconded by Mr. Knapp, to approve this item. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.

b. Confirming Appointment of Kristi Smiley as Chief Fiscal Officer

Mr. Morgan presented the following:

- Mr. Morgan is retiring from public service and last day is May 29th
- County Executive is seeking confirmation of appointment of Kristi Smiley to be new CFO; resume attached
- Resume is unmatched in terms of experience in county government
- Ms. Smiley came from Economic Development and has done a fantastic job running Finance Operations

- Became Mr. Morgan's right hand on the budget side when Ms. Venditti left
- Do not see anyone else who would fill the role better

Questions/Comments from the committee:

- Great appointment and look forward to working with Kristi Smiley
- Mr. Morgan has been a phenomenal partner with the Legislature and County Executive; the help provided has been immeasurable particularly through the budget process and tough times
 - Echo the feeling
 - 13 years as CFO (longest running)
 - The county's financial position is as strong as it has ever been – collective effort with County Executive, colleagues in the Executive's office, team in Finance, and this body's various leaders and legislators
- When Mr. Morgan pulled the financials out of the different departments, Ms. Smiley lead that and did a fabulous job; great faith in Ms. Smiley taking over for Mr. Morgan
 - Would challenge anyone to put up a person with the relevant experience for this role
 - With Ms. Smiley working her way through the organization and being exposed to the budget, the combination of her operational experience, knowledge and the budget is invaluable
 - Centralizing financial operations under the Executive was to have better information and knowledge about the inner workings from a financial perspective of the various departments that lead to a more productive budget process
 - Can build a budget for the county in the first instance fairly quickly

A motion was made by Mr. Knapp, seconded by Ms. Hernandez, to approve this item. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.

5. LEGISLATURE:**a. Standard Work Day and Reporting Resolution**

A motion was made by Mr. May, seconded by Mr. Knapp, to approve this item. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:56 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



JAMIE McNAMARA, Clerk
Onondaga County Legislature

ATTENDANCE

COMMITTEE: **WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE**DATE: **APRIL 29, 2025**

NAME (Please Print)	DEPARTMENT/AGENCY
C RAUBER	OC DOT
M. Voss	OC DOT
Penny Donahue	fin ops/OC DOT
Henryetta Cullaway	
Tamara Hughes	Fin ops
Robert Petrovich	CE OFFICE
M. Murphy	OC SO
L. Dell	OC SO
Kevin Sexta	OC IT
Isabelle Harris	CE
Cydney Johnson	CE
Dan Kranz	CE
Jason Dean	Finance
Kristi Smiley	Finance
Marty Skalen	CO
Darcie Lesniak	Leg
Ami Wikstrom	Property tax
Anne Marie Donahue	Personnel
John DeSantis	Leg
Melissa Colombo	fin ops
Jim B	Leg
Ethan C	Leg