



# Onondaga County Legislature

**JAMIE McNAMARA**  
Clerk

**TIMOTHY T. BURTIS**  
Chairman

**TAMMY BARBER**  
Deputy Clerk

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

## WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE MINUTES – OCTOBER 28, 2025 COLLEEN A. GUNNIP, CHAIR

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mr. May, Mr. Romeo, Mr. Knapp, Mr. Garland, Ms. Hernandez

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Ms. Abbott

**ALSO ATTENDING:** Mr. Meaker, Mr. Bush; also see attached

Chair Gunnip called the meeting to order at 10:39 a.m., and the previous meeting's minutes were approved.

### 1. **WATER ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION:** Odean Dyer, Commissioner

#### a. **Authorizing the County Executive to Enter Into a Utility Work Agreement with the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) for Highway and Bridge Improvements**

*(Sponsored by Ms. Abbott)*

- As I81 project continues, it comes in conflict with pipes
- This pipe is by Butternut trunk and needs to be moved
- This is at no cost to County/WEP; will be handled entirely by NYSDOT

#### **Questions/Comments from the Committee:**

- Will the committee receive a copy of the utility work agreement when it is done?
  - Can do
- Anytime another level of government has to go in the ground and touch the county's pipes (or gives the county ability to improve pipes), the county does it

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

- NYS will be physically redirecting the pipes?
  - Yes
- Will WEP have someone there?
  - Yes; will not have someone fulltime, but will have someone there during construction to have eyes on it
  - WEP are the experts when it comes to wastewater, not NYSDOT
  - Had meeting with NYSDOT last week to discuss several projects they are overseeing
- In the maps, it shows a floatable facility; is that back on?
  - Not included in this change
  - Right now the floatable facility is on hold
  - Have to go through approvals to move forward
  - Currently it is proposed, but will go through Legislative process when it comes time

***Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.***

**2. FINANCE:** Kathleen Kearny, Real Property Tax Director  
**a. Denying Application for the Correction of Certain Errors on Tax Bills**

- Repeat of solar farm – last time applied for same correction for county/town and village tax bills, which were denied
- This is for the school tax bill
- Assessor assessed a partial assessment, because it was not complete; company is saying they should not be assessed
- Once a solar farm is complete, it is valued by NYS formula
- Assessor made judgement on partial construction and put value on it
- When Mr. Weber and Ms. Kearny reviewed, they agreed that it is not a correction of error; the owner should have gone to the Board of Assessment Review, then tertiary if disagreed

**Questions/Comments from the Committee:**

- Please define complete; is that in the ground or connected to grid?
  - It was in the ground and partially constructed, but the farm did not have the certificate of completion until after the taxable status date
  - July 15<sup>th</sup> is when the solar farm was completely set up and hooked into the grid
- Is being hooked into the grid and receiving a certificate of completion one in the same?
  - Yes, believe they have to have certificate of completion first

**REQUEST: Please let the Clerk know if being hooked into the grid and the certificate of completion are the same**

- This has tracked a lot of confusion between local municipalities, NYS, Ag and Markets, etc.
- All levels of government have different perception of how things go; need to understand
- Is the denial due to incompleteness?
  - Did complete the farm on July 15, 2024
  - Everything for county/town, village and school taxes were as of March 1, 2024
  - Solar farm has since completed and is functioning
  - Assessor did follow NYS law and changed assessment based on formula (after completion)
  - Tax bills going forward will be based on assessment following the NYS formula

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

The meeting was adjourned at 10:46 a.m.

ATTENDANCE

Respectfully submitted,



JAMIE McNAMARA, Clerk  
 Onondaga County Legislature

COMMITTEE: WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE

DATE: OCTOBER 28, 2025

NAME (Please Print)	DEPARTMENT/AGENCY
ODIAN DYER	WEP
ERIC SCHUER	WEP
AMIE WILKIN	RPTS
KATHLEEN KEARNEY	RPTS
DAN KRANZ	CF
MELISSA COLOMBA	FIN OPS
JIM BEEBE	LEG
DARCIE LESNIAK	LEG
ETHAN LAMONTAGNE	LEG
RYAN OCKENDER	LAN
ISABELLE HARRIS	CE