



Onondaga County Legislature

JAMIE McNAMARA
Clerk

TIMOTHY T. BURTIS
Chairman

TAMMY BARBER
Deputy Clerk

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WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE FINAL REVIEW OF THE 2026 TENTATIVE BUDGET BUDGET REVIEW DAY 10 – SEPTEMBER 26, 2025 COLLEEN A. GUNNIP, CHAIR

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. May, Ms. Abbott, Mr. Romeo, Mr. Knapp, Mr. Garland, Ms. Hernandez
ALSO ATTENDING: Chairman Burtis, Mr. Meaker, Mr. Olson, Mr. McCarron, Mr. Bush, Dr. Kelly, Mr. Brown; also please see attached

Chair Gunnip called the meeting to order at 11:10 a.m.

Chair Gunnip:

- Thanked the County Executive staff and departments for their assistance
- Departments that did not come in during the budget, have been reviewed and the recommendation is to have those departments come in during committee meetings

Leader May:

- Gratitude to the Legislative staff, the Finance team and County Executive team
- Given a fiscally responsible preliminary budget from the County Executive
- Addresses fiscal reality of where Onondaga County stands including a slowing of sales tax growth and prepares for the realities facing in the coming years
- This is a balanced budget that weighs into the county's bond ratings, which allows the county to borrow at better rates saving taxpayer dollars
- Salary savings have been used to balance the budget
- In a responsible place with staffing – look forward to roster cleanups
- Ways & Means Report – committee reviewed the budget in depth and sending it to the Legislature to make a decision in a couple weeks

Leader Hernandez:

- Agree with a lot of what Leader May said; always thankful for staff and department heads
- Process has been easier, but wish the county was more aggressive with funding towards departments like DSS that deals with poverty levels

Chairman Burtis:

- Thanks to everyone involved in budget process
- Fiscally sound budget; excited to cut tax rate and supply residents with some relief, which looks different in each district
- Committed to doing what can be done for residents that they cannot do for themselves
- Look forward to the next year and what is to come; the county is in the beginning of great change and challenges

A. WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE REPORT**DECREASE INCREASE****05 – FACILITIES MANAGEMENT****APPROPRIATIONS:**

Decrease A590042 Svcs Other Govt – Public Safety (372,209)

Increase A590040 Svcs Other Govt – Genl Govt

Support 372,209

Increase Rec. Appropriations 0

Net Local Share \$0*A motion was made by Mr. May, seconded by Mr. Knapp, to approve this item. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.***DECREASE INCREASE****23651500 - COUNTY GENERAL****APPROPRIATIONS:**

Decrease A668720 Transfer to Grant Expend (250,000)

Increase A666500 Contingent Account 250,000

(Note: Land Bank)

Increase Rec. Appropriations 0

Net Local Share \$0*A motion was made by Mr. May, seconded by Mr. Knapp, to approve this item. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.***DECREASE INCREASE****25 - COUNTY LEGISLATURE****APPROPRIATIONS:**

Increase A668720 Transfer to Grant Expend 50,000

Increase Rec. Appropriations 50,000

Net Local Share \$50,000*A motion was made by Mr. May, seconded by Ms. Hernandez, to approve this item. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.*

	DECREASE	INCREASE
33 – WATER ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION		
<u>APPROPRIATIONS:</u>		
Decrease A694100 All Other Expenses	(2,253,224)	
Increase A666500 Contingent Account		1,846,972
<u>REVENUES:</u>		
Decrease A590039 County Svc Rev - WEP (Note: Reduces Sewer Unit Rate by \$2.00)	(406,252)	
Net Local Share		\$0

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

	DECREASE	INCREASE
3510 – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT		
<u>APPROPRIATIONS:</u>		
Increase A668720 Transfer to Grant Expend (Note: Ag Council Marketing)	25,000	
Increase Rec. Appropriations	25,000	
Net Local Share		\$25,000

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

	DECREASE	INCREASE
43 - HEALTH DEPARTMENT		
<u>APPROPRIATIONS:</u>		
Increase A666500 Contingent Account (Note: UpState Tick Lab)	75,000	
Increase A666500 Contingent Account (Note: CNY Lyme Alliance)	25,000	
Increase Rec. Appropriations	100,000	
Net Local Share		\$100,000

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

	DECREASE	INCREASE
79 - SHERIFF'S OFFICE		
Create Custodial Wkr 1 Gr. 2 (37,669-41,268)		
<u>APPROPRIATIONS:</u>		
Increase A641010 Total Salaries	37,669	
Decrease A641020 Overtime	(18,834)	
Decrease A641030 Other Employee Wages	(18,835)	
Increase A693000 Supplies & Materials	125,000	
<i>(Note: Equipment for cars)</i>		
Increase A694010 Travel & Training	47,500	
<i>(Note: Jiu Jitsu training)</i>		
Increase A671500 Automotive Equipment	500,000	
Increase Rec. Appropriations	672,500	
Net Local Share		\$672,500

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

	DECREASE	INCREASE
236520 COUNTY GENERAL UNDISTRIBUTED PERS		
<u>APPROPRIATIONS:</u>		
Decrease A644180 Prov for Sal & Wage/Ben Adj	(847,500)	
Decrease Rec. Appropriations	(847,500)	
Net Local Share	(\$847,500)	
	DECREASE	INCREASE
	Total Change	\$847,500
	Local Impact	\$0

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

Chair Gunnip stated that the levy remained the same and the tax rate is \$2.93 per thousand.

A motion was made by Mr. May, seconded by Ms. Hernandez, to approve the Ways and Means Report. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.

B. RESOLUTIONS:**1. Accepting and Approving the Contract Between the County of Onondaga and the New York State Nurses Association**

Mr. Hummel, Personnel Commissioner, presented the following information:

- Reached tentative agreement after negotiating since late 2023 and going to mediation
- Terms for review and adoption
 - 3% wage increase per year
 - 7 hour workday with unpaid lunch (previously 8 hour with paid lunch) - creating more flexibility
 - Increases to differentials and premiums
 - Employer side has changes to language allowing for flexibility in scheduling; contract previously restrictive
 - Makes modifications to get in line with other contracts; process Personnel has been doing to align standard provisions to make them easier to administer
- Total cost of contract over term of January 2024 – December 2027 is just over \$992K

Questions/Comments from the Committee:

- How many members does this represent?
 - Low to high 20s
- How will the 7 hour workday affect staffing?
 - It will not; still at work for same set of hours
 - Originally an 8 hour work day with paid lunch, but work never performed during lunch
 - Now 7 hour with unpaid lunch, which gives them ability to leave building – could not with paid lunch
 - Will have coverage during lunch periods between 11am-2pm
 - Provides flexibility for department and members
- Are there safeguards for alcohol and drug testing?
 - New agreement includes drug and alcohol testing for members; part of standardization of contracts
 - There are protocols not part of the contract for health and safety dealing with sharps, different infections they come in contact with, etc. – as well as state and federal regulations not in the contract
- This will be 35 work hours and 70 every two weeks
 - Yes, that will be the base hours for the employees
- Contract has been approved by the administration and ratified by the union
 - Yes
 - Thank you to the negotiating team, Donna Briscoe and Anne Marie Donohue for working over 2 years on this

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

Chair Gunnip stated for the record that the budget resolutions and local laws listed on the agenda have been presented and considered by the Ways and Means Committee.

2. Adopting the Annual Budget for the County of Onondaga for the Fiscal Year Beginning January 1, 2026 and Ending December 31, 2026 and Authorizing the County Executive to Enter into Contracts with Other Governmental Units in Which Appropriations and Revenues are Approved by Adoption of the 2026 Budget

3. Providing for Various Personnel Changes Related to the Adoption of the 2026 County Budget and Amending the Onondaga County Salary Plan

4. **A Resolution Adopting an Amended Schedule of Sewer Rents for the Onondaga County Sanitary District** *(Sponsored by Ms. Abbott)*
5. **Approving and Authorizing the Industrial Wastewater Surcharge Billing Rates and Amending Resolution No. 153-2013** *(Sponsored by Ms. Abbott)*
6. **Providing Continuous Individual and Family Dental and Health Insurance Benefits through December 31, 2025, at County Expense for those County Officers and Employees During Their Active Military Duty**
7. **Authorizing Onondaga County to Pay the Difference in Pay Between Military Base Pay and Base County Salary to County Officers and Employees While Performing Ordered Military Duty**

C. LOCAL LAWS:

- a. **A Local Law Relating to Certain Fees Collected by the Onondaga County Health Department and the Center for Forensic Sciences for Medical Examiner and Forensic Laboratory Services, and Further Amending Local Law No. 10-2024** *(Sponsored by Dr. Kelly)*
- b. **A Local Law Relating to Certain Fees Collected by the Onondaga Health Department, and Further Amending Local Law No. 16-2002** *(Sponsored by Dr. Kelly)*
- c. **A Local Law Relating to Certain Fines Collected by the Onondaga County Health Department for Violations Related to Lead Hazard Compliance** *(Sponsored by Dr. Kelly)*
- d. **A Local Law Providing for Fees to be Collected by the Onondaga County Department of Parks and Recreation, and Further Amending Local Law No. 10-2013; 11-2017; 8-2019** *(Sponsored by Ms. Cody)*

The meeting was adjourned at 11:28 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



JAMIE McNAMARA, Clerk
Onondaga County Legislature

ATTENDANCE

COMMITTEE: WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE FINAL REVIEW - DAY 10
DATE: SEPTEMBER 26, 2025

NAME (Please Print)	DEPARTMENT/AGENCY
Isabelle Harris	CE
Dan Kroane	CE
Kristi Smiley	Finance
Jason Dean	Finance
Brian Donnelly	CE
Carl Hummel	Personnel
Erin Welch-Fair	County Attorney
Anne Marie Dunohue	Personnel
Donna D. Brisson	Personnel
Sirena Sharpe	Finance