



# Onondaga County Legislature

**JAMIE McNAMARA**  
Clerk

**TIMOTHY T. BURTIS**  
Chairman

**TAMMY BARBER**  
Deputy Clerk

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## WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE MINUTES – NOVEMBER 20, 2025 BRIAN F. MAY, VICE CHAIR

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Chair Gunnip

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

Vice Chair May called the meeting to order at 10:43 a.m., and the previous meeting's minutes were approved.

Vice Chair May stated the appointments will be considered, and there will be no votes.

### 1. **APPOINTMENTS:** Chairman Tim Burtis

#### **a. Confirming Appointment and Reappointments by the County Executive to the Board of Directors of the Onondaga Civic Development Corporation** (Janice Herzog, Vincent Cioci, Mitchell Latimer) *(Sponsored by Mr. Burtis)*

- Janice Herzog is replacing Allison Miller
- The appointments and boards are filled with volunteers; those willing to serve Onondaga County
- Been working on these boards since becoming Chair, and there is a lot to work for each board
- Understand the timing, but this takes work to get folks together
- This is a commitment for these residents; appreciate each one being willing to serve
- Encourage everyone to consider and vote in the affirmative

#### **b. Confirming Reappointments by the Chair of the Onondaga County Legislature to the Board of Directors of the Onondaga Civic Development Corporation** (Christopher Daniel, Kimberly Townsend) *(Sponsored by Mr. Burtis)*

- Best two individuals for the board at this time

#### **c. Confirming Reappointment to the Board of Directors of the Onondaga Civic Development Corporation** (Virginia Biesiada O'Neill) *(Sponsored by Mr. Burtis)*

- Joint reappointment between the Chair and County Executive

#### **d. Confirming Appointments to the Onondaga County Industrial Development Agency** (Alan Marzullo, Mark A. Muthumbi, Randy Wolken, Cydney Johnson, Elizabeth Dreyfuss) *(Sponsored by Mr. Burtis)*

- Most challenging board to take care of with many open slots
- These individuals are uniquely qualified for OCIDA as the county moves forward
- Appointments are volunteers
- Making sure terms are filled and not expired; i.e. Justice Oversight and Human Rights Commission

**e. Confirming Appointment to the Onondaga County Resource Recovery Agency (Dan Kranz)**  
(Sponsored by Mr. Burtis)

- Dan Kranz is willing to step up and is interested in OCRRA

**2. PARKS & RECREATION: Brian Kelley, Commissioner**

**a. Resolution to Amend the 2025 County Budget to Accept a Grant From the NYS Department of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation for Phase 2 of the Boardwalk Replacement Project at Beaver Lake Nature Center (\$1,250,000) (Sponsored by Ms. Cody)**

- Accepting grant from 2025 Municipal Parks and Recreation Program from NYS
- Will provide necessary funding for Phase II of boardwalk replacement at Beaver Lake Nature Center
- Phase II will replace the remaining 523' of boardwalk
- Phase I was just completed handling 2,053' of boardwalk
- Friends of Beaver Lake have committed up to \$250K in a fundraising campaign towards this project
- This should cover all the costs
- Will have the coolest trail in Onondaga County at Beaver Lake

**Questions/Comments from the Committee:**

- Great discussion on Tuesday at Facilities Committees
  - Great collaboration with the County, NYS and Friends of Beaver Lake

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

- Able to see Phase I and looking forward to seeing Phase II; Parks built the original boardwalk in the 70's and hoping this one lasts just as long

*Ms. Hernandez seconded the motion. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.*

**3. CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES: Megan Rooney, Deputy Commissioner, Administrative Services**

**a. 2025 Transfer Resolution (\$32,000) (Sponsored by Dr. Kelly)**

- Transfer from Maintenance/Utilities/Rents account to cover costs of mandated training for new caseworkers
- Hopefully vacancies will have stabilized and will not need this money next year

**Questions/Comments from the Committee:**

- How many vacancies are there?
  - Only 6 vacancies for caseworkers

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

**4. PERSONNEL: Donna Briscoe, Director of Employee Relations**

**a. Accepting and Approving the Contract Between the County of Onondaga, the Sheriff of Onondaga County and the Onondaga County Deputy Sheriff's Police Association, Inc.**

- Recognize hard work of both negotiating teams, as well as professionalism; with mediator reached tentative agreement
- Contract highlights:
  - Wage increase of 3% 2025
  - New salary structure in 2026
  - 5 year slotting schedule (currently 7 year schedule)
  - 3% wage increase in 2027 and 2028
  - Modifications to longevity premium

- 10 hour workday holidays
- Small increases to shift differential clothing allowance, the 20/80 schedule and on call occurrences
- Incorporating MOA's – death in the line of duty, terminal leave payouts and holiday pay for veterans
- Included adjustments to the overtime
- Compensation revisions – when sick unverified is used, it does not count as overtime
- New language for Healthcare Coalition – will help when doing plan redesign and to damage/lost county property
- Estimated total of 4 year cost is \$17.85M

**REQUEST: Copy of the current/past salary schedule.**

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

**5. COUNTY CLERK:** Emily Bersani, County Clerk  
**a. Mortgage Tax Apportionment**

- 6 month report of mortgage tax due to city, towns and villages
- April 2025 – September 2025
- Dispersing just over \$6.2M
- 16% increase over previous 6 months; 15% increase from same time period last year

**Questions/Comments from the Committee:**

- Onondaga County is one of few counties that distribute this money to the towns, villages, city and Centro
  - Amount for Centro was a little over \$3M

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

**6. FINANCE:** Kathleen Kearney, Real Property Tax Director  
**a. Delegation of Authority to Approve Corrections to Tax Bills Resulting in Refunds or Credits Not Exceeding \$2,500**

- Give Finance the authority to handle the small corrections that come in

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

- b. Bloody Brook Drainage District Tax – General Apportionment**
- c. Bloody Brook Drainage District Tax Town of Clay Apportionment**
- d. Bloody Brook Drainage District Tax Town of Salina Apportionment**
- e. Bear Trap – Ley Creek Drainage District Tax – General Apportionment**
- f. Bear Trap – Ley Creek Drainage District Tax Town of Clay Apportionment**
- g. Bear Trap – Ley Creek Drainage District Tax Town of DeWitt Apportionment**
- h. Bear Trap – Ley Creek Drainage District Tax Town of Salina Apportionment**
- i. Authorizing General Apportionment of Harbor Brook Drainage District Tax**
- j. Harbor Brook Drainage District Tax Town of Geddes**
- k. Meadowbrook Drainage District Tax General Apportionment**
- l. Meadowbrook Drainage District Tax Town of DeWitt Apportionment**
- m. 2026 City Drainage District Abstract**
- n. Onondaga County Sanitary District, 2026 City Abstract**
- o. Onondaga County Sanitary District General Apportionment**
- p. Allocation of 2026 Onondaga County Water District Special Assessment Among Zones of Assessment and Fixing Composite Rates for the Several Towns and the City of Syracuse within said**

**District**

- q. **Onondaga County Water District, 2026 City Abstract**
- r. **Calling for a Public Hearing on the Assessment Roll for Southwood-Jamesville Water District (December 16, 2025 at 12:55 p.m.)**
- s. **Calling for a Public Hearing on the Assessment Roll for Warners Water District (December 16, 2025 at 12:57 p.m.)**

- City rates at 479.04 – close to last year
- Outside the city is 474.28 per unit

**A motion was made by Ms. Hernandez, seconded by Ms. Abbott, to approve items 6b – 6s. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:03 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



JAMIE McNAMARA, Clerk  
Onondaga County Legislature

**ATTENDANCE**

COMMITTEE: **WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE**  
DATE: **NOVEMBER 20, 2025**

NAME (Please Print)	DEPARTMENT/AGENCY
Sah'che Dunbar	Boces
Valarie Wolfanger	Boces
Envie Decroizat	Boces
Jeiryn Bean	Boces
Jordan Gannett	Boces
Phyllis Mieritz	Boces
Steven Adsitt	Boces
Nate Word	Boces
Serena Becker	Boces
Louisa BRESNAHAN	PERSONNEL
Anno Marie Donohue	Personnel
Lynne Walker	CO. CLK.
Jill Haswell	County Clerk
Bri KELLY	PA/PS
Sandy Miller-Martens	FINOPS
Kathleen Kearney	Real Property
Annie Wilkinson	Admin
Chad Ryan	Residen
Laura Decca	Finance
Nicole Watts	Leg Ed+D
Emily Bersani	County Clerk
Megan Pomey	DCTS
Darce Heniak	Leg.
Jim Beebe	Leg.
Ethan LaMontagne	Leg.
Joe Frateschi	Leg.
Ryan Ockenden	Law