



Onondaga County Legislature

JAMIE McNAMARA
Clerk

TIMOTHY T. BURTIS
Chairman

TAMMY BARBER
Deputy Clerk

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WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE MINUTES – DECEMBER 11, 2025 COLLEEN A. GUNNIP, CHAIR

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Ms. Abbott

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

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

1. APPOINTMENTS:

- a. **Confirming Appointments and Reappointment to the Community Services Advisory Board (Elizabeth Nolan, Alexandra E. Punch, Antara Mitra, Mark M. Rusin, Paul M. Joslyn, Lisa Mancini, Siphon Mbuque, Lynn E. Hopkins, Seethalaksmi Ramanathan, Sarah M. Easterly)**

A motion was made by Mr. May, seconded by Mr. Knapp, to approve this item. Ayes: 3 (May, Knapp, Gunnip) Noes: 3 (Hernandez, Romeo, Garland); MOTION FAILED.

- b. **Confirming Appointment to the Onondaga County Board of Ethics (Matthew Malinowski)**

A motion was made by Mr. May, seconded by Mr. Garland, to approve this item. Ayes: 4 Noes: 2 (Hernandez, Romeo); MOTION CARRIED.

2. DISTRICT ATTORNEY: Joseph Coolican, Deputy District Attorney

- a. **Authorizing Advance Step Placement (Sponsored by Mr. Olson)**

PURPOSE: For Onondaga County District Attorney's Office to request that our Victim Assistance Supervisor be moved from a Step 3, Grade 31 to a Step 6, Grade 31.

OBJECTIVE/WORK PLAN: The Victim Assistance Supervisor is a crucial, public facing position that ensures victims of crime, as well as families of the victims of homicides, are treated with compassion, respect and patience as they encounter what may well be the worst moments of their lives. They are expected to be available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Additionally, there are administrative requirements to comply with the New York State Office of Victim Services. The Victim Assistance Supervisor has authority to speak on behalf of the District Attorney on issues related to their duties. In order to attract a qualified candidate, it is necessary to offer a salary commensurate with the duties and qualifications of the position.

FUNDING SOURCE: New York State Office of Victim Services

BUDGET:

Grade 31, Step 3 = \$65,477

to

Grade 31, Step 6 = \$67,933

Mr. Garland requested to be added as a cosponsor.

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

- 3. FACILITIES MANAGEMENT:** Archie Wixson, Commissioner
a. 2025 Transfer Resolution (\$468,138) (Sponsored by Ms. Cody)

PURPOSE: Appropriate and transfer funds to cover expenditures incurred beyond budget balance.

OBJECTIVE/ WORK PLAN: Shortfall in All Other Expenses is due to contracted janitorial service and trash service contracts being awarded after the draft budget was prepared. Contracts awarded came in much higher than anticipated; shortfall in Maint/Util/Rents is due to increased utility costs associated with the STEAM school.

Surplus available in Regular Employee Salaries due to salary savings and vacancies; surplus available in fringe corresponds to the savings in salary account.

FUNDING SOURCE: The funding will come from the Regular Employee Salaries and Employee Benefits accounts.

BUDGET:

<i>Transfer From Account</i>		<i>Amount</i>
641010	<i>Regular Employee Salaries</i>	\$191,310
691200	<i>Employee Benefits</i>	\$95,512
<i>Transfer To Account</i>		<i>Amount</i>
694100	<i>All Other Expenses</i>	\$152,185
694130	<i>Maint, Utilities, Rents</i>	\$134,637

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

4. WATER ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION:

- a. A Resolution Calling a Public Hearing in Connection with Proposed Improvements for the Onondaga County Sanitary District (December 29, 2025 at 10:25 a.m.)**

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

- b. A Resolution Approving Proposed Improvements for the Onondaga County Sanitary District in and for the County of Onondaga, New York (December 29, 2025) (Sponsored by Ms. Abbott)**

A motion was made by Ms. Hernandez, seconded by Mr. May, to approve this item. Ayes: 4 Noes: 2 (Romeo, Garland); MOTION CARRIED.

Ms. Hernandez requested to rescind her motion and the vote be retaken.

A motion was made by Mr. May, seconded by Mr. Knapp, to approve this item. Ayes: 3 (Gunnip, May, Knapp) Noes: 3 (Hernandez, Romeo, Garland); MOTION FAILED.

- c. A Resolution Authorizing the Issuance of \$515,000,000 Bonds of the County of Onondaga, New York, to Pay Costs of Improvements for the Onondaga County Sanitary District (\$515,000,000) (December 29, 2025) (Sponsored by Ms. Abbott)**

Chair Gunnip stated the item has been considered and a vote will not be taken.

5. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT: Marty Skahen, Director
a. Amending the 2025 County Budget to Provide for the Appropriation of General Fund Balance to Support Shape Up for Veterans (\$150,000) (Sponsored by Mr. Knapp)

PURPOSE: Authorize funding for the Shape-Up for Veterans Program

OBJECTIVE/WORK PLAN: To obtain funding so more Veterans can be assisted

FUNDING SOURCE: Fund Balance Transfer

BUDGET: \$150,000

Mr. Knapp and Mr. Garland requested to be added as cosponsors.

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

6. PERSONNEL: Carl Hummel, Commissioner
a. Personnel Resolution (WEP) (Sponsored by Ms. Abbott)

The Onondaga County Personnel Department is continuing its efforts to consolidate all County payroll processing functions within the Personnel Department. To date, the Personnel Department has assumed payroll processing duties for the following departments: Adult & Long-Term Care, Board of Elections, Community Development, Children and Family Services, Social Services – Economic Security, Diversity & Inclusion, Economic Development, Facilities Management, Health, Information Technology, Law, OCPL, Parks & Recreation, Personnel, Planning, Probation, Purchasing, Veterans Service Agency. The consolidation to date has resulted in a more consistent application of the terms and conditions of employment as established by the various collective bargaining agreements, as well as greater efficiencies of work product, as these 19 departments are serviced by only seven (7) payroll clerks.

The consolidation of these payrolls has been accomplished, to date, with the existing staff within the Personnel Department. However, future consolidation, including this next planned phase, will necessitate the transfer of employees from other departments engaged in payroll processing to the Personnel Department. Therefore, since Water Environment Protection (WEP) is the next payroll to be consolidated, the resolution before you would authorize the transfer, under New York State Civil Service Law § 70.2, of two positions from the WEP roster to the Personnel roster. The positions are occupied, and the incumbents would therefore become Personnel Department employees. Upon transfer, these two employees would remain in their current titles, but would eventually be converted to payroll series titles that provide a career path.

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

b. Personnel Resolution (HELP)

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

7. PURCHASING: Daniel Hammer, Director
a. 2025 Transfer Resolution (\$50,000)

PURPOSE: The implementation of a contract management system.

OBJECTIVE/WORK PLAN: The 2025 budget included appropriations for a contract management system. The contract management system is in progress but has not yet been completed. These funds are for the continuation of this project.

FUNDING SOURCE: The 2025 Operating Budget

BUDGET: \$50,000

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

8. **FINANCE**: Kathleen Kearny, Real Property Director
- a. **Approving and Directing the Correction of Certain Errors on Tax Bills**
 - b. **Approving an Alternative Allocation of Payments in Lieu of Taxes Related to Property Owned By Tessy Plastics Corp. (\$272,989.27)**

A motion was made by Mr. Knapp, seconded by Ms. Hernandez, to approve items 8a - 8b. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.

- c. **2026 Town Tax Rates, Fixed, Ratified and Confirmed**
- d. **Southwood-Jamesville Water District Tax – General Apportionment**
- e. **Southwood-Jamesville Water District Tax, Town of DeWitt Apportionment**
- f. **Southwood-Jamesville Water District Tax, Town of Onondaga Apportionment**
- g. **Warners Water District Tax – General Apportionment**
- h. **Warners Water District Tax, Town of Camillus Apportionment**
- i. **Warners Water District Tax, Town of Van Buren Apportionment**
- j. **Authorize the County Comptroller to Transfer 2025 Unencumbered Appropriations and Appropriate Revenue After Expiration of the 2025 Fiscal Year Upon Approval of the County Executive and the Chairperson of the Ways & Means Committee**
- k. **Authorizing the County Comptroller, Upon Approval of the Finance Department Division of Management and Budget and the County Executive's Office, to Transfer 2025 Unencumbered Appropriation Account Balances in Excess of \$7,500 into, between, and among all Interdepartmental Chargeback Appropriation Accounts and Adjust the Corresponding Interdepartmental Revenue Accounts**

A motion was made by Mr. Knapp, seconded by Mr. May, to approve items 8c – 8k. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.

9. **LAW**:
- a. **Settlement of S.K. v. Onondaga County, et al. (Index No. 003100/2024)**

Mr. Ockenden stated for the record, Legislators, the Resolution you are to consider is concerning a settlement of SK vs Onondaga County, and I would therefore recommend such be discussed in Executive Session.

A motion was made by Mr. May, seconded by Mr. Knapp, to go into executive session for the purpose of discussing a settlement of SK v. County of Onondaga. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.

Mr. May made a motion, seconded by Mr. Knapp, to leave executive session. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.

Chair Gunnip stated for the record that no motions or actions were taken during executive session.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:37 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



JAMIE McNAMARA, Clerk
Onondaga County Legislature

ATTENDANCE

COMMITTEE: **WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE**

DATE: **DECEMBER 11, 2025**

NAME (Please Print)	DEPARTMENT/AGENCY
Onondaga	WEP
Jenn Paumelle	DCFS
Jamie Wilkinson	Onondaga City
Kate Kearney	On City Finance
Joe Coolican	DA's Office
Michele Robbins	"
Lucy Holga	"
Marty Skahn	Community Development
Susan Dean	Finance
Dan Hamer	Purchasing
Chel Ryan	Public
Darcie Kesniak	Leg