



Onondaga County Legislature

HASSINA K. ADAMS
Clerk

NICOLE WATTS
Chairwoman

SPENCER BERG
Deputy Clerk

COUNTY FACILITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES – February 17, 2026 **CHAD RYAN, CHAIR**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Ryan, Majority Leader Hernandez, Mr. Thompson, Mr. Bush

ALSO ATTENDING: Chairwoman Watts, Mr. Brown; also see attached

Chair Ryan called the meeting to order at 2:47 p.m., and the previous meeting's minutes were approved.

1. ONONDAGA COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY: Amanda Perrine, Executive Director

- Requested transfer of \$55,500 from operating funds for maintenance projects in 2025
 - Funds will be apportioned to a facilities grant fund for 2026
 - Projects could not be completed within the deadline due to procurement timing for masonry supplies
- Ms. Hernandez: Point of record, you said \$5,500, do you mean \$55,500?
- Ms. Perinne: I definitely meant \$55,500
- Mr. Thompson: This is simply moving money that's already in the budget to allocate it?
- Ms. Perinne: It was already allocated in last year's operating funds,
 - Seeking to transfer it to a grant line

a. 2025 Transfer Resolution (\$55,500)

A motion was made by Bush, seconded by Ms. Hernandez, to approve this item. The item was considered.

2. BOARD OF ELECTIONS: Archie Wixon, Jr., Commissioner

- Requested approval of the classification of the SEQR
 - Short form SEQR was personally drafted
 - No environmental impact anticipated
 - Work constitutes regular maintenance and repair
 - Public funds require SEQR review
- a. Approving the Classification of an Unlisted Action Under the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act, Accepting the Short Environmental Assessment Form, and Accepting and Adopting the Negative Declaration in Connection with the Roof Replacement at the Onondaga County Board of Elections

A motion was made by Mr. Thompson, seconded by Ms. Hernandez, to approve this item; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- Authorization request for issuance of \$500,000 in bonds for roof replacement at the BOE
 - Current market costs reviewed and estimates conducted
 - Amount requested is sufficient to cover repairs, including crane service to lift air handlers and correct curbs
 - Funding includes installation of heat trays into scuppers and downspouts from green infrastructure installed in 2012
- Ms. Hernandez: How long does a roof last?
- Mr. Wixon: Target roof lifespan approximately 30 years
 - Common for commercial and industrial roofing
 - When BOE roof was originally renovated, 15 years remained on useful life
 - Project completed in 2012
 - War memorial is an exception with 50-year lifespan
- Mr. Thompson: With the anticipated market rates, will the \$500,000 be sufficient to cover the project? Not anticipating anything fluctuating that we would need to revisit?
- Mr. Wixon: We are not anticipating requesting additional funding
- Mr. Bush: While the building needs maintenance, we want to keep our properties safe and well-maintained. It's time that we look at a facility that is more accessible.
- Mr. Thompson: At present, that seems to be facility best suited for the BOE. We don't have an alternative place for the BOE right now. Should that present itself in the future, investing in this building now, would this be of value to the County in some capacity to maintain the building if it is no longer the BOE?
- Mr. Wixon: I cannot comment on the feasibility or business case for relocation of the facility. Putting any property in the market in good condition has a higher value than letting something in a deteriorating condition go on the market
- Ms. Hernandez noted she supports renovations because even if BOE is moved, she wants to ensure the building is sustainable for someone else.

- b. **BOND** – A Resolution Authorizing Roof Replacement at the Elections Headquarters in and for the County of Onondaga, New York, at a Maximum Estimated Cost of \$500,000, and Authorizing the Issuance of \$500,000 Bonds of Said County to Pay Costs Thereof (\$500,000)

A motion was made by Mr. Thompson, seconded by Ms. Hernandez, to approve this item. Ayes: 3 (Ryan, Hernandez, Thompson) Noes: 1 (Bush); MOTION CARRIED.

3. FACILITIES MANAGEMENT: Archie Wixson, Jr., Commissioner

a. **INFORMATIONAL** – Overview of Facilities Management

- Department has a roster of 133 full-time positions
 - Two deputy commissioners, four directors, various units broken into divisions performing services delivered to the rest of the county departments
 - Skilled trades division, consists of journeyman skills trades and includes members of the BTC - Building Trades Council
 - District Heating and Cooling Plant responsible for HVAC performance delivery
 - Maintenance division with handyman skillsets
 - Custodial staff work both days and nights; majority of custodial performed at night

- Every building has custodial members in case there is a need for an emergency custodial effort
 - Mail service processes and delivers mail for all County departments, including OCC, City of Syracuse
 - Driver messengers pick up and distribute mail and other communications
 - Grounds crew responsible for seasonal lawn care, and during the wintertime, assist with snow removal
 - Design and planning unit consists of four architects and a director
 - Construction management unit consists of three construction administrators and a director
 - Executive secretary; borrows two additional staff members from the Personnel and Finance Departments
 - Two deputy commissioners and Commissioner oversee twelve downtown complex buildings:
 - Center for Forensic Sciences
 - Erie Canal Museum
 - BOE
 - E-911 Center
 - Hillbrook Center
 - Environmental Health on Route 31
 - 21 parks: parks include the Zoo, NBT Stadium, Amphitheatre, Convention Center, and War Memorial
- \$28 million operating budget
 - Capital budget
 - Overseeing two large projects
 - Capital involvement estimated at \$240 million; projected reduction of \$200 million
 - Anticipates being in the range of \$30 million next year
 - Involvement includes funding from other departments
 - Manage projects for Parks, BOE, Sheriff, County Clerk, Hillbrook
 - Twenty-four projects underway; six considered substantially complete but not closed out due to paperwork or final billing
 - Most significant maintenance needs relate to capital needs
 - Difficulties include fluctuating market but have been able to overcome them
 - No policy or legislative issues identified
- Mr. Bush: What is the status of the Everson Garage?
- Mr. Wixon: That's one of the current projects we could have underway; we have not begun it. We still have the funding for it. Legislature has been kind enough to authorize it. It requires a complete vacancy for about six months.
 - I have not received vacancy support from Courts or this Legislature to find alternative parking for six months. We would also need to find alternative parking for the operations of the Everson Museum, which also uses a lot of that garage.
- Mr. Bush: One of my concerns is that it is inaccessible for the people who park there. It is not accessible.
- Mr. Wixon: It could have improved handicap accessibility
 - Garage was built consistent with applicable codes and regulations at the time of construction
 - Primary accessibility barrier is the ramp slope to the courthouse, which exceeds current ADA 20:1 slope requirements for ADA compliance
 - Distance between the loading dock and traffic pattern limits ability to achieve compliant slope
 - Mathematically may not be achievable
- Mr. Bush: You don't have the room to make it
- Mr. Wixon: Exactly. The distance needed is not quite enough to do it

- Mr. Bush: It is very difficult. One of our legislators who had mobility issues could not park there because she couldn't get up the steps
- Mr. Thompson: The obstacle to this repair is people agreeing to park elsewhere for approximately six months
- Mr. Wixon: Consultant design/specifications for full garage resurfacing were prepared in 2012. We had this on the table for a while
- Mr. Thompson: Are there alternative opportunities other than paying to park in a garage or on the street? Could arrangements be made within the budget?
- Mr. Wixon: There is no alternative parking budget. I am not aware of any alternative parking that the County controls in the downtown complex, especially nothing that is covered
- Mr. Ryan: When Public Safety relocates, will spaces open up for use?
- Mr. Wixon: Approximately 25 spaces exist in the courtyard between the criminal courthouse and public safety building. Remaining spaces behind the courthouse are designated for courthouse tenants
- Ms. Hernandez: It will be beneficial to find somewhere else for us to park during repairs. There are lots of maintenance that can deteriorate our vehicles, and I worry about safety. It is open and anyone can linger
- Mr. Wixon: We intend to do selective repairs where there are potholes or deteriorations. Lift station cover repairs required to accommodate new electrical feed to grinder pumps. The full resurfacing of the garage is quite an endeavor
- Mr. Ryan: Is authorization required from the courts or others to shutdown the garage and complete the work?
- Mr. Wixon: Coordination would occur through the County Executive's Office. No external sign off required beyond internal approval

b. 2025 Transfer Resolution (\$262,349)

- Authorization requested for \$262,349 to address shortage in 413 account, primarily utilities
- Fourth quarter utility costs higher than anticipated
- Funds shifted among accounts in coordination with Finance to reconcile utility shortage
- Mr. Ryan: Does next year's budget reflect these increased costs?
- Mr. Wixon: Difficult to predict.
- Ms. Smiley: Adjustments made to major utility-using departments based on National Grid rate increases and seasonal projections for each one of the departments
- Mr. Ryan: Does the \$262,349 reflect a percentage increase of approximately 5%?
- Ms. Smiley: Reflects both rate increases for kilowatts and higher usage due to extreme cold temperatures in December

A motion was made by Ms. Hernandez, seconded by Mr. Thompson, to approve this item; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

c. **BOND** – A Resolution Authorizing the Issuance of \$1,450,000 Bonds of the County of Onondaga, New York, to Pay Costs Related to Improvements to Various County Buildings and Facilities in and for Said County (\$1,450,000)

- Authorization requested for issuance of bonds in the amount of \$1,450,000
- Capital account historically funded at \$500,000 annually since 2012
- Increase to \$750,000 requested due to lack of cost index adjustment for over ten years
- Includes purchase of portable 1.5 MW generator for different facilities

- Mr. Ryan: What is the cost of the generator?
- Mr. Wixon: I have budgeted the generator, transfer switch, and quick connect at \$700,000, totaling \$1,450,000
- Mr. Ryan: What other stuff is the \$750,000 being used for?
- Mr. Wixon: Roof repairs
 - Common area improvements
 - Lighting upgrades
 - Department renovations below CIP threshold (\$250,000)
 - Furniture
 - Sidewalk improvements
 - Wayfinding/signage
 - Unanticipated departmental needs
- Is the emergency funding part of a proactive plan?
- Mr. Wixon: Planned roof maintenance on various buildings, sidewalks, lighting, signage, new furniture, small renovations
 - \$700,000 could meet this year's need; the following year will also be the same amount
 - Funding also allows flexibility for needs arising during the year
- Mr. Ryan: Is this the first year it's \$750,000? Traditionally, it's been \$500,000. Is that amount not doing it?
- Mr. Wixon: Correct. Since Covid it has not been doing it

A motion was made by Ms. Hernandez, seconded by Mr. Thompson, to approve this item; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- d. **BOND** – A Resolution Authorizing DH&C Plant Upgrades in and for the County of Onondaga, New York, at a Maximum Estimated Cost of \$500,000, and Authorizing the Issuance of \$500,000 Bonds of Said County to Pay Costs Thereof (\$500,000)
- Authorization of \$500,000 for HVAC replacements and improvements
 - Replacing elements of HVAC
 - Equipment beyond useful life within downtown complex
 - Civic Center built in 1974 and County Office Building built in 1955
 - Still contains aging components
 - 2012 replaced air handlers, the roof top units, chillers, and heat exchangers in the County Office building
 - Continued need for repairs and maintenance on the fin tube/cabinet heats around the parameters of the offices in the Civic Center
 - Six years ago, improved the eastside and north side of the building in conjunction with curtain replacement
 - Upgrades within the steam plant
 - Labeled as DH&C Plan but involves improvement to other facilities
 - Hub of controls in other buildings are in the district heating and cooling plant
 - Hub systems include: Johnson Medicine System, Carrier View System, Pasco System, Simplex System
 - Hub of control center in the agency plan; need to perform a list of updates in the control system

- Completed upgrades to the boiler last year, extended useful life; next phase is being presented
- Mr. Ryan: Is this a one-time request?
- Mr. Wixon: Intended as one-time

A motion was made by Mr. Bush, seconded by Ms. Hernandez, to approve this item; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- e. **BOND** – A Resolution Authorizing the Rehabilitation of Court Facilities in and for the County of Onondaga, New York, at a Maximum Estimated Cost of \$500,000, and Authorizing the Issuance of \$500,000 Bonds of Said County to Pay Costs Thereof (\$500,000)
- Request for authorization to fund \$500,000 for renovation in the courthouse
 - Only in court spaces
 - There is a one year delay in reconciliation for cost of the court’s tenancy
 - County reconciles with actual cost every year; court requests cost defrayment from the state
 - Reimburses the County from those funds
 - In year’s past, maintained residual funds to front request for a renovation or improvement
 - Has not been able to do that in the last few years
 - Court would reimburse the County a year later
 - Since going to the pro forma; request for renovations or improvements included in the capital
 - Fund used only upon request; reimbursement offsets expenditures
 - Expenditures include:
 - New furniture
 - New carpeting
 - Restroom renovations

A motion was made by Mr. Thompson, seconded by Ms. Hernandez, to approve this item; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- f. **BOND** – A Resolution Authorizing Improvements to Exterior Lighting at Various County Facilities in and for the County of Onondaga, New York, at a Maximum Estimated Cost of \$500,000, and Authorizing the Issuance of \$500,000 Bonds of Said County to Pay Costs Thereof (\$500,000)
- Authorization request of \$500,000 for LED/RGB lighting with programmable systems
 - Illuminate exterior of County buildings
 - Improves safety and aesthetics of pathways and common areas
 - Change coloration ability
 - Most lighting used in County buildings, except Civic Center, are ground mounted lighting
 - Most exterior lighting beyond useful life; many original fixtures
 - Mr. Ryan: You don’t have this anticipated going forward. Is this going to finish it up?

- Mr. Wixon: We believe we are going to take care of this in the downtown complex. If such a time the Legislature would enjoy going to other outlying buildings, we would have to come back. I haven't heard that yet.
- Mr. Ryan: What is your timeline, completion this summer?
- Mr. Wixon: Yes. Lighting company can act as a consultant to be engaged through competitive process. Fixtures and control systems selected thereafter. County electricians may perform installation.
- Mr. Ryan: Do you think the companies you're putting this out RFP be okay with that?
- Mr. Wixon: I will be discussing this with the Purchasing Department and relying of Purchasing Director to give me the best for that procurement
- Mr. Ryan: So this is just lighting for the downtown complex
- Mr. Wixon: Correct. We're only looking at the War Memorial to the Sheriff's headquarters on our properties
- Mr. Thompson: How much of this is replacement versus adding new lighting?
- Mr. Wixon: A lot of lights have ended their useful life. There's not a lot of illumination up against face of some of our buildings like we used to have it. The last time we did a lighting project was in 2009 and it was called the downtown lighting project.
 - Installed lights in Bernthal Way between the courthouse and the theater
 - Light standards running down the pathway of Everson Plaza
 - Installed large spotlights on the roof of the Civic Center
- Ms. Watts: Why bond this rather than fund through operating budget?
- Mr. Wixon: Bonding structure coordinated through fiscal process and bond counsel
- Ms. Smiley: Projects over \$250,000 typically placed in CIP to avoid annual operating spikes
- Ms. Watts: We would put this in bond because essentially, we don't have cash in hand. Is it because it's better for us and more cost-effective for the County? In terms of the taxpayer, who might ask why we are bonding instead of just paying for it when we have the fund balance?
- Ms. Smiley: Anything over \$250,000 is bonded; otherwise department's budget will spike
 - At the end of the year, when fiscal office closes out book, depending on County cash position, projects under \$500,000 or under \$250,000 are defrayed using cash to keep debt service low
 - Under purview of the CFO

A motion was made by Ms. Hernandez, seconded by Mr. Thompson, to approve this item; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- g. **BOND** – A Resolution Authorizing Rehabilitation/ Construction of Improvements at the OnCenter Facility in and for the County of Onondaga, New York, at a Maximum Estimated Cost of \$750,000, and Authorizing the Issuance of \$750,000 Bonds of Said County to Pay Costs Thereof (\$750,000)
- Request for authorization of \$750,000 for rehabilitation and improvements across the OnCenter complex
 - Includes Convention Center, War Memorial, three theaters, and Convention Center garage
 - Group of buildings that include the Convention Center
 - Determined to be a legitimate request to continue to improve and maintain event centers
 - Example: Elevator replacement in Convention Center garage sometime this year

- Ms. Watts: Visit Syracuse indicated potential loss of convention contracts due to technology and modernization needs. \$750,000 seems like a band-aid. What is the long-term plan?
- Mr. Wixon: Two and a half years ago, improvements were made to the Convention Center.
 - Upgraded five new meeting rooms with brand new technologies
 - Larger infrastructure needs would be brought forward separately
 - Coordination ongoing with Executive Office, ASM Legends working closely with Visit Syracuse to identify ways to keep the County as a marketable location
- Mr. Donnelly: Digital rewiring and ballroom upgrades completed using ARPA funds
 - Continued modernization efforts are underway to include electronic boards that display notifications about activities in a room
- Mr. Ryan: Is \$750,000 enough?
- Mr. Wixon: It will be enough this year

A motion was made by Mr. Thompson, seconded by Mr. Bush, to approve this item; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- h. **BOND** – A Resolution Authorizing Remediation of Hazardous Materials at Various County Facilities in and for the County of Onondaga, New York, at a Maximum Estimated Cost of \$500,000, and Authorizing the Issuance of \$500,000 Bonds of Said County to Pay Costs Thereof (\$500,000)
 - Authorization request for hazardous material remediation within buildings
 - Encounter unforeseen conditions that could potentially expose buildings to asbestos, PCBs, or lead
 - Negative impact on operating budget due to funds utilization to remedy situations as they emerge
 - Material surveys conducted and are thorough; however, unforeseen concealed condition encountered requires removal in order to undertake repair
 - Funds will enable the department to respond promptly and ensure buildings are safe and environmentally sound
 - Mr. Ryan: Has money been set aside in previous years?
 - Mr. Wixon: No, I have not set money aside in previous years
 - Mr. Ryan: How was the \$500,000 determined?
 - Mr. Wixon: Based on recent expenditures and outstanding needs
 - Spent \$200,000 last year getting rid of materials
 - Mr. Ryan: Where were funds pulled from in the past?
 - Mr. Wixon: Pulled from funds dedicated to project that uncovered hazardous material
 - Not included in probable construction cost estimates because it was an unforeseen condition; depleted the project
 - In some cases could not do more because some funds would have to be allocated for abatement efforts
 - Taken out of department operating budget

A motion was made by Ms. Hernandez, seconded by Mr. Thompson, to approve this item; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- Mr. Bush: Why are the bonding resolutions done separately?

- Mr. Wixon: Bond counsel advises on how resolutions should be legally crafted
- Mr. Ockenden: Each resolution can only consider one item, cannot bundle multiple projects into one bond resolution

4. PARKS & RECREATION: Brian Kelley, Commissioner

At the request of Mr. Kelley and with the consent of the Chair, Item F was considered out of order prior to Items B through E. The remaining items were taken up in the order listed on the agenda.

- Approving the Classification of an Unlisted Action Under the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act, Accepting the Short Environmental Assessment Form, and Accepting and Adopting the Negative Declaration in Connection with a Paving Project at Beaver Lake Nature Center

A motion was made by Ms. Hernandez, seconded by Mr. Thompson, to approve this item; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- Approving the Classification of an Unlisted Action Under the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act, Accepting the Short Environmental Assessment Form, and Accepting and Adopting the Negative Declaration in Connection with Installation of a Splash Pad at Jamesville Beach Park

A motion was made by Ms. Hernandez, seconded by Mr. Thompson, to approve this item; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- Approving the Classification of an Unlisted Action Under the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act, Accepting the Short Environmental Assessment Form, and Accepting and Adopting the Negative Declaration in Connection with Relocation of a Volleyball Court at Jamesville Beach Park

A motion was made by Ms. Hernandez, seconded by Mr. Bush, to approve this item; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- Approving the Classification of an Unlisted Action Under the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act, Accepting the Short Environmental Assessment Form, and Accepting and Adopting the Negative Declaration in Connection with Construction and Redesign of the Willow Bay Parking Lot at Onondaga Lake Park

A motion was made by Mr. Thompson, seconded by Mr. Bush, to approve this item; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- BOND** – A Resolution Authorizing Improvements to Various Parks in and for the County of Onondaga, New York, at a Maximum Estimated Cost of \$3,460,000, and Authorizing the Issuance of \$3,460,000 Bonds of Said County to Pay Costs Thereof (\$3,460,000)
- Most important yearly CIP ask for parks department

- Allows preventative maintenance and ability to pivot for emergencies
- Projects included:
- Beaver Lake Nature Center:
 - Pave two rows of overflow parking lot, improve accessibility
 - Engineering design for reconfiguration of visitors center and classrooms
 - Ceiling repairs around gift shop, leaks present
- Highland Forest:
 - Replace roof on sawmill building
- Jamesville Beach:
 - Install splash pad
 - Relocate volleyball courts
 - Hire engineer for blue-green algae mitigation of reservoir
- Pratts Falls:
 - Re-roof Camp Brockway with metal roof
- NBT Stadium:
 - Concrete repair and replacement throughout facility
- Onondaga Lake Park:
 - Construction of Willow Bay parking lot
 - Engineering completed this year
 - Redesign to solve drainage and parking issues
- Southern District (Highland, Pratts, Jamesville):
 - Land surveys, properties not surveyed in years
 - Encroachment issues suspected at Highland Forest
 - Redefine boundaries
- Parkwide Emergency and Repairs, \$250,000:
 - Catchall for emergencies at lodges
 - Camp Brockway and Skyline Lodge, weddings and paid functions require ability to react in real time

- Mr. Thompson: Many of these items are listed in the agenda but some are not, did I get an updated agenda?
- Mr. Kelley: All items fall under the Parks Various Improvements bond of \$3,460,000.
- Mr. Ockenden: Each is an individual itemized project under that total. Four require separate SEQR resolutions as unlisted actions. Remaining projects are Type 2 classifications and do not require SEQR resolution.
- Mr. Thompson: Are we voting on every single one of those projects individually?
- Mr. Ockenden: Only four require separate resolutions, those are the unlisted actions requiring short form environmental assessment. The others do not require a resolution due to their Type 2 classification.
- Mr. Ryan: Does the \$3,460,000 cover all the projects listed?
- Mr. Kelley: Yes, every itemized project adds up to the \$3,460,000 total.

A motion was made by Ms. Hernandez, seconded by Mr. Thompson, to approve this item; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- f. **BOND** – A Resolution Authorizing Improvements to Carpenter's Brook Fish Hatchery Building in and for the County of Onondaga, New York, at a Maximum Estimated Cost of \$120,000, and Authorizing the Issuance of \$120,000 Bonds of Said County to Pay Costs Thereof (\$120,000)

- Hire architect through engineering firm to design new hatchery building
- Existing buildings inefficient and deteriorating, near failure
- New unified building to house: hatchery, diet room, oil storage, offices
- Restroom facility to receive complete renovation
- Original building built in 1930s
- Timeline:
 - 2026: engineering design (current request)
 - 2027: construction of building
 - 2028: restroom facility and compliance components
- Cost of engineering is approximately \$120,000
- Mr. Ryan: Has that been approved?
- Mr. Kelley: No, we're asking for the bonding

A motion was made by Mr. Bush, seconded by Ms. Hernandez, to approve this item; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE: Kristi Smiley, Chief Fiscal Officer of Onondaga County

a. INFORMATIONAL – Overview of Bonding Schedules

- Six steps in debt process:
 - Department requests
 - Capital Improvement Plan
 - Authorization resolutions
 - Bond sale
 - Debt service management
 - Redemption of bond
- Timeline:
 - March–May: departments define scope and cost
 - Late May: submitted to budget office
 - June–September: analysis, project updates, timing review, preliminary debt service schedule
 - September: CIP plan brought to legislature
 - Roadmap relative to capital improvements
 - January: projects reviewed as year-end fiscal state assessed
- Bond authorizations voted on today do not mean county is going out to bond immediately
- Bond Sale Process:
 - County chases the spend, does not bond until departments are ready to spend
 - Strong fiscal position allows county to not have money up front
 - Online auction process for bond issuance, lowest interest rate
- Debt Service Management:
 - Bond proceeds invested to reduce debt service spend
 - Refinancing opportunities reviewed regularly
 - Project savings go into reserve for bonded debt to offset future debt service
- Ms. Watts: What is our debt load versus fund balance?

- Ms. Smiley: Indebtedness limit: 7% of five-year average real property tax value, approximately \$2.5 billion
 - County currently at only 14% of indebtedness level
 - Goal: keep debt service as flat as possible
- Mr. Ryan: What percentage of authorized bonding do we actually execute?
- Ms. Smiley: Constantly reviewing and canceling unused authorizations
- Specific percentages to be provided, not available off the top of head
 - Follow up
- Mr. Ryan: What are the upcoming bonds?
- Ms. Smiley: Still outstanding: Sheriff's Department, E911, DOT, WEP
 - E-911 and Sheriff's Office, refining costs
 - All others anticipated April committee
- Ms. Watts: Can you provide advance notice when you send the bonding to bond counsel?
- Ms. Smiley: Yes

6. DISCUSSION OF CORRESPONDING OUTSIDE BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS: Nicole Watts, Chairwoman

a. Review and Discussion of Appointments to Outside Boards (*Attachment No. 1*)

- Matching outside boards and commissions with committees for placements
- Two active boards connected to this committee:

Erie Canal Museum:

- Previously served by Legislator Cody as Facilities Committee chair
- Legislator Ryan has stepped in and has been attending
- Need to make it official — resolution forthcoming to formalize appointment

Friends of Beaver Lake Board of Directors:

- Legislator May has been serving
- Wishes to continue
- Term-by-term basis — resolution forthcoming for reappointment

All Other Boards:

- Status unclear, defunct, or called only for certain purposes
- Will circle back if anything comes up

C. Adjournment at 4:00p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



HASSINA ADAMS, Clerk
Onondaga County Legislature

ATTENDANCE	
COMMITTEE: COUNTY FACILITIES COMMITTEE	
DATE: FEBRUARY 17 th 2026	
NAME (Please Print)	DEPARTMENT/AGENCY
Mike Carter	OCPL
Amanda Ferrino	OCPL
Kristi Smiley	Finance
Dan Mulvihill	Finance
Archie Wixson	OCFM
Bryan Kelley	Parks
Gudney	CE
Karen Haysler	FinOps - FM
Diamond Russell	CE
Susan Deegan	Finance

ATTACHMENT NO. 1



Onondaga County Legislature

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OUTSIDE BOARDS & COMMISSIONS County Facilities Committee

Erie Canal Museum

The mission of the Erie Canal Museum is to engage the public in a story of the Erie Canal's transformative impact on the community through collaboration, education, equity, stewardship, and transparency. The Board of Regents granted a charter for the museum, and funding is established under New York State's Article 6 Finance Law.

Appointing Authority: County-designated representative selected by the Chair of the Legislature.

Current Appointments:

- VACANT
 - Was Debra Cody, who was chair of the facilities committee.
 - Non-voting position.
 - Previously held a position for the length of the term.



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OUTSIDE BOARDS & COMMISSIONS County Facilities Committee

Friends of Beaver Lake Board of Directors

The overall mission of Friends of Beaver Lake is to ensure the best experience for visitors, through financial and volunteer support to the Nature Center, with a duty of impartiality and fairness. The Board of Directors acts in accordance with the By-Laws of the Corporation through *care*, *loyalty*, and *obedience* outlined in the “Right from the Start: Responsibilities of Directors of Not-for-Profit Corporations”, from the New York State Office of the Attorney General Charities Bureau. Provided in Section 5.1- County representative has no term limit, they are serving in conjunction as an elected official.

Appointing Authority: The Chair of the Legislature selects which legislator will serve as the county-designated representative, in accordance with the corporation’s bylaws.

Current Appointments:

- Legislator May
 - The wording of the by-laws seems to suggest that all directors, including legislators, serve without limits.
 - Non-voting position.
 - Previously held a position for the length of the term.



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OUTSIDE BOARDS & COMMISSIONS County Facilities Committee

Friends of Rosmond Gifford Zoo Board of Directors (STATUS UNCLEAR)

Mission is to provide support to the zoo through the raising of finances to support animal care/conservation, species preservation, wildlife education, Zoo-based events, and zoo volunteers. Follows the New York Prudent Management of Institutional Funds Act (NYPMIFA) for endowment management. Elected to serve no more than two consecutive 3-year terms.

Appointing Authority: County-designated representative selected by the Chair of the Legislature, in accordance with the corporation's bylaws

Current Appointments:

- UNCLEAR
 - o Might be Debra Cody, who was chair of the Facilities Committee, in line with the Erie Canal Museum. On the website, she is listed as "Executive Director at Onondaga County Republican Committee," which is improper if she was appointed as a legislator.



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OUTSIDE BOARDS & COMMISSIONS County Facilities Committee

Advisory Committee for Veterans' Affairs (DEFUNCT)

Established by Resolution No.211-2007 and Resolution No.188-2008 and amended by Resolution 161-2015. The advisory committee serves to provide advice on various issues related to Veterans at the request of the Legislature or raising issues on its own. The committee consists of eight total members. Advice is to be communicated through a report delivered to the Facilities Committee of the Legislature. Appointments are intended to reflect the interests of the community, with one member being a non-Veteran and six members being Veterans. The legislator appointee shall serve as the Chair of the Committee.

Seems to have been supplanted by the Onondaga County Executive Veterans Advisory Board.

Appointing Authority: Two members are appointed by the Majority Leader of the Legislature, two members are appointed by the Minority Leader of the Legislature, four members are appointed by the Chair of the Legislature, and one appointee is a Legislator.

Current Appointments:

- No current appointments are listed for the Six Possible Members.

Reasons For Being Defunct:

- No action since 2015.



Onondaga County Legislature

HASSINA K. ADAMS
Clerk

NICOLE WATTS
Chairwoman

SPENCER BERG
Deputy Clerk

OUTSIDE BOARDS & COMMISSIONS County Facilities Committee

Vehicle Use Review Board (DEFUNCT)

Vehicle Use Review Board (VURB) has been referenced in the most recent findings, March 2020, as a legislative discussion for a potential forum for regular communication regarding county vehicle usage. There was a discussion of disbanding it in October of 2020, but there is no record of such a resolution passing.

Appointing Authority: The Chair of the Legislature makes an appointment and also recommends to the County Executive, and the County Executive Appoints.

Appointments:

- Chair Appointment
- Chair Appointment, Approved by the County Executive
- Division of Management & Budget
- Rep From Facilities Management Department
- Rep From Purchasing Department
- Rep From ExecExecutive Department

Reasons for Being Defunct:

- Discussion in October 2020 of Disbandment, soon after, no longer showed up in the record.



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OUTSIDE BOARDS & COMMISSIONS County Facilities Committee

Capital Program Committee (DEFUNCT)

Established by Article VI (Financial Procedures) of the Onondaga County Charter, this committee of the County Legislature is responsible for the review of the County Executive's proposed six-year capital program and the capital components of the tentative budget. The submission is due on or before September 15th of each year. The formal submission is to the Clerk of the County Legislature and is reviewed there or by a designated committee.

Appointing Authority: Committee called by the County Executive

Appointments

- Ways & Means Committee

Reasons for Being Defunct:

- Article VI allows for the committee to be supplanted by Ways & Means
- No action since 2009



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OUTSIDE BOARDS & COMMISSIONS County Facilities Committee

OC Convention Center/War Memorial Complex Management Corp (DEFUNCT)
Established pursuant to Chapter 839 of the Laws of the State of New York of 1987, the Convention Center / War Memorial Complex Management Corporation manages and operates the Onondaga County Convention Center / War Memorial Complex (Oncenter Complex), a county-owned facility developed to support conventions, events, and tourism. The Corporation operates under a Management Agreement with the County and is governed by a Board of Directors that exercises fiduciary duties and approves the Corporation's annual budget. There is no recent record of this board.

Appointing Authority: County Executive appoints; the Legislature approves.

Current Appointments:

- ALL VACANT?

Reasons for Being Defunct:

- Last appointment activity was in 2011.
- Not able to find a public record of who serves on the Board of Directors.