



Onondaga County Legislature

HASSINA K. ADAMS
Clerk

NICOLE WATTS
Chairwoman

SPENCER BERG
Deputy Clerk

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES – AUGUST 18, 2026 CHARLES E. GARLAND, CHAIR

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Garland, Mr. Ryan, Mr. Knapp, Ms. Block, Mr. McCarron

ALSO PRESENT: Ms. Denton, Mr. Bush, Mr. Thompson, Leader May; also see attached list

Chair Garland called the meeting to order at 11:34 a.m., and previous meeting's minutes were approved.

1. DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT: Daniel H. Wears, Commissioner

a. INFORMATIONAL: Overview of Emergency Management

- Department has three closely associated mission areas: fire, EMS, and emergency management
- Primary focus is county-level planning, how the county responds to and supports local jurisdictions
- In New York State, local jurisdictions have authority, unless it's something the county has authority for, such as public health
 - Majority of that falls back to town supervisors and village mayors, where the ultimate authority lies
- Work with all the public safety agencies, hospitals, National Grid, Red Cross, other county departments
 - How we coordinate, how we work with them really focuses on committees and different planning groups that exist
- Within the county, have the disaster preparedness committee
 - LEPC, local emergency preparedness committee; required by federal law; some focus on hazmat
 - General open meeting for any agency or organization with some kind of play in the emergency response recovery realm; home care agencies, infrastructure partners, other not-for-profits, other public safety agencies able to attend
- County emergency preparedness committee, more focused on county departments and key partners with a very large stake in preparedness and response recovery efforts
 - Focused on agencies that have a seat in the county's emergency operations center
- Integrating with other partners; work with fire chiefs association, police chiefs association, EMS directors association
 - Attend their meetings, have conversations, feedback with them, and use that information to inform our larger county-level plans
- Do a hazard vulnerability assessment every three years, currently done by New York State and coordinated by them; every county is required to do it

- County emergency preparedness assessment looks at our hazards, ranks them by what we're most likely to occur, what the impacts of those are
- Also looks at the county's capabilities to identify strengths and where we need to continue to work on and improve
- Capabilities:
 - Emergency operations center management, mass care and sheltering, firefighting, communications, public alert warning
 - Whenever faced with an emergency, decide which capabilities are most relevant and going to have the greatest impact on the outcome
- Look at that from an all-hazards perspective, focusing on those capabilities that apply regardless of what the emergency is; communications, EOC management, those all play in
 - During COVID, a lot of that was in our human needs area: activating feeding, testing, vaccination, other stuff
- Don't do all of these; this is about collaborating, coordinating with partners; don't do public health, don't do sheltering
 - Working with the agencies that do, understanding their capabilities, how they integrate into our system, our network; making sure we have established relationships and ways to work with them when needed
- Preparedness phase: monitoring what's going on in the community, special events, knowing what's happening, what resources are like in the community
 - Working with ambulance agencies to understand if they're stretched thin during large events
- Weather monitoring: keeping tabs on that, working with the National Weather Service
 - Communicating with them, sharing that information out with public safety agencies and towns and villages once it reaches a certain threshold
- Don't just push out information every time we get a briefing from the National Weather Service; try to gauge where it's most applicable and potentially going to have a community impact throughout the county
- This last year, focused on improving citizen preparedness and community outreach; did not do this before
- With the legislature's support and the county executive's support, added a citizen preparedness and community outreach coordinator position; involved a lot more community events than, more active in social media, pushing messaging, attending events
- Another big area: training and exercise
 - Focus on how we train people, share information about those plans, make sure they're aware of them, and exercise those plans
- Typically a tabletop exercise: discussion focused around an incident hazard, coordination and communication with other agencies
- Depending on what those are, include different people, different agencies, to test our plans, identify areas for improvement, and identify things we're doing well as a community
- Smaller-scale response activated through 911 notifications, based on an established list of criteria; when a trigger is hit, 911 notifies us of what's going on
- Sometimes triggers a field response, enhanced monitoring; increased resource deployment to one area could shift resources away from another community
- Monitoring what's going on; if appropriate, someone goes to the scene to help with on-scene responders, particularly as something grows
- Mass casualty incidents, structure fires, infrastructure failures
 - Also a blanket of whenever requested, through a public safety agency or the authority having jurisdiction
- Majority of response is in the field, on scene

- Also have instances with no 911 notification
- Comes from working with our partners; could be National Grid calling before weather to let us know the state of their infrastructure
- Emergency Operations Center
 - Operates at four levels: steady state, every day, always active and ready
- 34 seats in the EOC, made up of all our partners: public safety, healthcare, transportation, infrastructure; help to coordinate resource management and support for the response
 - EOC does not take over, does not run the entire incident; supports the incident, the municipalities, and the agencies

Questions/Comments:

- Mr. Ryan: Could clarify what that means when you say resource management and the kind of support role?
- Mr. Wears: If agencies need resources, all resources are scarce; we don't necessarily have them. Those requests from those agencies would come to the county. If we can source them within that room or within another agency that has direct control or ownership of that, then we would use that. If we can't do it, we have to try to purchase it or procure it through purchasing, and then we'd go to the state and ask for those resources
- Mr. Ryan: So this is materials, not necessarily staffing or bodies?
- Mr. Wears: It's everything, it's both. The same thing in reverse. When something happens outside our county, we're the mechanism to support those other communities. The most recent example of that is the Christmas Day snowstorm in Buffalo; when they needed resources, their requests went through the state and then down to counties to help source them
 - In that case, it was Syracuse Fire's rescue company for support with building stabilization and search, and the medical examiner's office also sent investigators to assist with the death investigations that had to occur. So we're the mechanism that brings resources in and out of the county for that
- Mr. Ryan: Do you have authority you can use to force, let's say Syracuse, to go, or are they willing to go just to help them?
- Mr. Wears: We coordinate. There is no authority to force them to go
- Mr. McCarron: I'll use nine eleven as an example, because I was assigned to our basement of the civic center back then; it was literally a big room of representatives from all the police and EMS agencies
 - I remember, as a brand new sergeant, getting a call on the midnight shift, an NYPD sergeant looking for the helicopter; I was given the authority to deploy that, so I called in the pilots, and we deployed personnel to Fresh Kills on Staten Island to go through debris
 - It all ran through the emergency operations center; the people with the authority to make those decisions are in the room, and they just coordinate all of that
- Mr. Wears: So we're the coordinator. When we look to build out the EOC, we try to have three to five people per agency in there, not the same people every time, who are trained and know how to get there, get in, and use the computer and our systems
- Mr. McCarron: Crazy time. You would think all this nutty stuff is going on, but it's so well organized within the center that it goes so much more smoothly than you would think
- Mr. Garland: For those of us who've visited, it's like CIC, Combat Information Central, in the military. You mentioned some of the organizations and agencies that have a seat; who are some of the ones that have a seat there?
- Mr. Wears: There are dedicated seats, and we also have swing space where we can change that up. 911 has a seat, and the EOC will have a public information officer; they sit together at the communications desk

- We have a public safety pod, which is the troopers, the sheriff's office, city police, city fire, county EMS, and county fire, which obviously we don't have as an EMS or fire agency; our deputy coordinator, who is one of our part-timers, works with them, and their job is to communicate with the 53 fire departments and 18 transporting agencies to make sure they have information and, as resource requests are needed, can go back and forth with it
- Across the way is our mass care and help desks, which is the county health department, the Red Cross, and our human needs group, a committee that focuses on food, water, shelter, and transportation during an incident
- State health has a desk there. This is where we have some swing space for intergovernmental partners or the National Weather Service, and we also have OCWA, National Grid, WEP, State DOT, County DOT, City DPW, National Weather Service, Centro
- There's also a seat for management/budget and county planning as our GIS experts, and IT has a seat for an IT support role in the room
- Mr. Ryan: So what do you have for staff size?
- Mr. Wears: Staff size right now is 12 full time. We also have 10 part-time fire investigators, who don't really fall under the true emergency management part; they do fire cause and origin investigations for all of the fire departments outside the City of Syracuse within the county, since it's their legal responsibility to determine cause and origin, but the county took that over decades ago to support them because they can't maintain that expertise and training
 - There are another 15 to 18 part-time deputy coordinators who do a lot of that field response and direct coordination with agencies in the preparedness phase as well. There's also an animal response team, an all-volunteer group of county volunteers through New York State Agri-Markets, about 15 people who do large animal rescue as well as small animal sheltering
 - If the county had to open a general population shelter, they would be able to open a domesticated pet shelter so people can bring their pets
- Mr. Ryan: I would venture to guess the counties surrounding us don't have the infrastructure we have in this department
- Mr. Wears: Correct
- Mr. Ryan: Do they have it at all?
- Mr. Wears: Yes, at different degrees; every county is going to be very different, depending on what their hazard vulnerability assessment shows about what they face. Wayne County and Oswego County have a heavy nuclear focus, which we don't have to have as much
 - There's also a difference in structure; some counties have their EMS coordinator in a different office, some have the fire coordinator elsewhere, some have the county coroner or code enforcement like we do, some have 911 and some don't
 - It varies county to county, but immediately adjacent to us, we have the most resources and the largest staff of our immediate neighbors
- Mr. Ryan: If you were to try to expand your purview, what would you?
- Mr. Wears: It's pretty big right now; there's always more work to do in this area, and that's something to continue to focus on
 - Having fire and EMS in the county together with emergency management is a really good model, since we work so closely with them anyway
 - It used to be that EMS was in the health department and fire was its own, changing back around the late '90s into the 2000s
- Mr. McCarron: Just for conversation, we know we got you the new mobile command center; Syracuse Police requested a new one based on the shooting of two officers. How does ours compare in size to SPD's?
- Mr. Wears: Ours is larger

- Mr. McCarron: Yeah, and I've seen ours and it will definitely be needed. I kind of asked that question as bait, just to show the need for Syracuse Police, because we saw that response, and what they had was insufficient
- Mr. Wears: We brought it to support them
- Mr. McCarron: 100%, and that was the next part of it, because it was such a large, prolonged incident
- Mr. Wears: That's the goal of ours: to support public safety agencies
- Mr. Knapp: And ours has the ability for drone technology, where Syracuse's old one doesn't, so they can be watching the drones inside, protected
 - I just want to throw in that Dan and his team, particularly during COVID, did an absolutely incredible job. More recently, last year, we had the OCWA water main break at Manlius and DeWitt, and Dan's team was the one handing out water and coordinating a lot of the efforts to get that done
 - The best thing, though, was last year, and this was Dan's idea, not mine: he called and said they needed to do an emergency exercise simulating a gas line rupture underneath the Lafayette Apple Festival, since a gas line actually does run underneath it
 - It was a tabletop exercise, like in the military, with probably 30 people around the table; New York State, National Weather Service out of Binghamton, State DOT, county DOT, and the various health departments all had a representative there
 - The best part was having the local fire departments from the southern end of the county down there
 - The stuff they learned was irreplaceable, from how to get coordinated assets to, at one point, Dan saying, "It's been 48 hours, Lafayette; none of you have gone home or slept, what are you going to do, they're starting to drop," just to get people thinking that you need backup
 - That's the kind of stuff they're bringing into the community
- Mr. Wears: One of the newer initiatives, tied to the citizen preparedness part, is really to support the legislature and county executive
 - Added a person who can do exercises, and has been offering to come to any public safety agency or municipality to help put on an exercise that meets their objectives, not the department's
 - That's something the department is actively trying to increase and do more of
- Mr. Garland: The audit; I've explained it, but can you just explain the process, the steps, when you might have the results, and when you might be able to come in and share that with us?
- Mr. Wears: The legislature appropriated funds to do an emergency medical services study of the system as a whole; we're nearing the end of a 12-month study
 - The study looks at everything from dispatch to transfer of care of patients at the hospitals, more at what the county dispatches, how, and who, and how state regulations impact that dispatch, not so much whether 911 is following step one versus its own procedures exactly, following the transfer of care
 - Over the past close to a year, hired a contractor with national-level expertise who does these studies all over the country, including a few in New York State, has been doing the work
 - Contractor is familiar with New York State EMS and its regulations, and has met with ambulance directors, fire departments, hospitals, and 911; meeting with towns and villages soon, with mayors and supervisors, to hear their feedback
 - Work has involved a lot of data analysis, with 911 providing CAD data on dispatch and transport times
 - Results expected middle to late September
 - An initial draft from the vendor was, last we heard, about 138 pages, covering the entire gamut, with a goal of providing recommendations to improve the system as a whole
 - Where those recommendations lead isn't known yet
 - Effort has been intentional to keep it unbiased, so the contractor can provide the best recommendations in their expertise

- Mr. Knapp: That's a huge issue going on in the county right now. This stuff is very expensive, especially for small towns trying to get coverage for their community; finding EMTs is tough, but the cost is prohibitive
 - Counties around us are doing various things, from one county setting up its own county system to another that has prepositioned paramedics around the county to get there quickly and stabilize the patient while waiting for the ambulance. A lot of different possibilities, but a big issue
- Mr. Ryan: So this is a one-time audit, not an annual audit?
 - Mr. Wears: Correct, it's one time. It's more of a study to look at staffing levels and response. Historically the county has run a full advanced life support system, where an ALS ambulance goes to every single call in the community
 - The study is looking at whether, for different call types and determinants out of 911, a BLS (basic life support) ambulance, with two paramedics, could be sent instead, a lower level of care but probably more appropriate in many cases, with the goal of keeping the more advanced level of care available and ready when ALS is really needed
- Mr. McCarron: A lot of this request for the study came from increasing response times. Say, if a town like DeWitt, Fayetteville, or Manlius, which has paid ambulance service, has its ambulance leave the hospital, it would often get dispatched as the closest ALS provider to numerous calls back to back in the city
 - Now Manlius taxpayers are paying for their own ambulance service and then not getting the service there, which increases response times in their own area. It also plays out in rural communities; there may be one ambulance for Tully, Fabius, and Lafayette, so if it's on a call there isn't always a second one available
 - A lot of the delay was also how long the turnover at the hospital was; the ambulance would get to the ER and sometimes wait 30, 40 minutes
 - It's such a great study; it could change the whole EMS system in Central New York, through little steps or maybe big ones
- Mr. Wears: One of the things included in the study is a requirement that the contractor give the county their data and analytics so the county can replicate the analysis moving forward; they're going to provide their Excel file with all of their formulas, which is much more in depth and comprehensive than anything we've been able to do internally before
- Mr. Ryan: How much autonomy does the county have over controlling whether an ambulance company is required to stay in the city rather than returning to its home district?
- Mr. Wears: They are state regulated; that's one of the things we talked about with the vendor
 - Some of the recommendations coming back could involve lobbying the state to change the regulations that dictate them, so some recommendations could be zero cost to the county
 - There will probably be some of those
- Mr. McCarron: Or some could be expensive. And it got to the point where some ambulance companies were not clearing the hospital, or notifying 911 that they were clearing the hospital, and were shutting off their GPS until they got back into their district

2. COUNTY LEGISLATURE:

- a. DISCUSSION: Consideration of Appointments to the Justice Center Oversight Committee – Charles E. Garland, County Legislator
 - Chairwoman Watts asked that this item be tabled until she is available; anyone with a name to suggest for the vacancy should share it with the committee

Questions/Comments:

- Mr. Knapp: Do we need a motion to do that, or can you just do that?

- Mr. Garland: She said we could just do that
- b. DISCUSSION: A Memorializing Resolution Reaffirming That Armed Federal Immigration Enforcement Officers May Not Intimidate Voters or Access Non-Public Areas at Polling Locations in Onondaga County Absent a Valid Judicial Warrant or Court Order; Encouraging the Identification and Distribution of a Protocol for Responding to Such Presence; and Encouraging the Posting of Know Your Rights Signage at Polling Places – Ellen Block, County Legislator
 - Memorializing resolution reaffirming that armed federal immigration enforcement officers cannot intimidate voters or access non-public areas at polling locations in the county absent a valid judicial warrant or court order
 - Encouraging the identification and distribution of a protocol for responding to such presence
 - Encouraging the posting of know your rights signage at polling places

Questions/Comments:

- Ms. Block: There are spots within each polling site that are private and public, correct? What is that? Can you explain, Dustin?
- Mr. Czarny: Dustin Czarny, Democratic Elections Commissioner. The polling place itself, and extending a hundred feet from the entrance, is deemed a protective space. The only people allowed in that space are Board of Elections personnel, voters, people accompanying voters for assistance or family members, and poll watchers from the recognized parties and/or candidates; candidates are also allowed to stop within what's deemed a quick distance. Those are the only people allowed under election law to be inside an operating polling place
- Ms. Block: Would you agree with that, Mr. Ryan?
- Mr. Ryan: Yes
- Ms. Block: Yes. Okay, I just wanted to make sure I was operating off the correct understanding. Within the Board of Elections, are there plans in place in case of ICE entry into a polling station? Can I ask what that looks like?
- Mr. Czarny: What we would have in place is exactly what happened this last primary
 - When we received calls that individuals identifying themselves as ICE were entering a polling place, I immediately got on the phone, and both commissioners were in agreement; we were in communication
- Mr. Kevin Ryan: You give your comments? I'll give mine
- Mr. Czarny: We were in communication; I was driving down. We called the State Board of Elections and notified them. I called the Attorney General's office to notify them. But by the time I got there, there was no presence anymore
 - The person who was talked to by the agents, I put her in contact with the appropriate personnel. I don't want to go into what our particular procedures are, since they're security procedures, but there are steps in place that we would take, and we're expecting even broader conversation about that next week at our statewide convention, where the State Board is going to do several presentations and this is going to come up
- Ms. Block: So is this something that is coming down from the state at their direction?
- Mr. Kevin Ryan: No. Let me be clear, this wasn't attempted voter intimidation or an attempt to interfere with the polling operations or prevent anybody from voting. I found out about this after the fact; I was monitoring turnout and heard that we'd gotten calls in from a polling location
 - My fellow commissioner went down there to see what was going on, and by the time he got there they had already left. I got on the phone and tried to ascertain what was going on, and what I learned from my contacts with the Department of Justice and the Department of Homeland Security was that agents from out of town, from what's called the Internal Affairs Division of

- Homeland Security, had come up because they wanted to serve some sort of warning notice to one of our poll workers, saying she was under investigation because of comments she had made on social media that they claimed had doxxed a federal agent
- Whether those comments were inappropriate or amounted to doxxing a federal agent is, in my personal opinion, in the eye of the beholder; I don't believe there was anything wrong with what she posted, and I think she acted properly
 - Homeland Security sought to serve her with the warning; they went to her apartment, her boyfriend said she wasn't there and was working at the polling places, and when asked which one, said he didn't know
 - They then called her cell phone, she told them where she was and invited them down
 - They came to the Central Library, stayed on the sidewalk, and asked her to come outside
 - She said she didn't want to go outside since she was working, but that it was okay for them to come into the polling place
 - Coincidentally, they happened to be recording the entire encounter; they were there at her invitation to serve the notice, which was entirely inappropriate and wrong as a matter of law and of public policy for both the Justice Department and the State Board of Elections
 - They should not have done it, and I'm told there have been internal ramifications
 - I want to be clear that this was not a situation where federal agents went to a polling place to suppress the vote or intimidate voters. This is a great resolution, fine, pass it, don't pass it, there are laws on the books for this, and it will be discussed at next week's convention. And since Onondaga County again seems to be the standard bearer for unusual election activities and is front and center of statewide and nationwide media once more
 - I don't think federal policy will change because of anything this body does or doesn't do; as a Board of Elections we have procedures in place and frown on agents entering the polls for any reason, barring an actual law enforcement investigation or crime in progress
 - Showing up without a warrant is not appropriate, and there are laws in place for that
 - If asked to print additional materials to alert voters of their rights, I'm fine with that, but ask that funding be put in the budget to pay for it
- Mr. Czarny: I agree with the commissioner about the circumstances of the event, and that it was wrong for those agents to enter the polling place, invited or not; they don't get to go anywhere they're invited in
 - They should know that entering a polling place is wrong, and it's obvious they acted with disregard to federal law on this. A memorializing resolution sends a strong message that this community is going to watch for this
 - I'm glad Mr. Ryan agrees that we could post these know your rights notices; I think we have plenty of room in the budget for it, but if election boards go over budget it has to be paid for, so if this resolution provides funding for it, I'm sure we can work that out with the county print shop for the 150 polling places
 - I think this is a great resolution; standing up for the rights of our citizens, whether they know those rights or not, is very important
 - Mr. Kevin Ryan: I think this is a solution in search of a problem, but whatever, it's a notice to the voters; what's the harm?
 - Ms. Block: So it sounds like you'd both be amenable to posting the signage; doing this helps people know what is and isn't allowed, and you both have plans in place
 - I did speak with the person who was affected, twice, and had lengthy conversations about whether she typically knows her rights; she does
 - The fact of posting signage was born out of this, because in a situation where you feel intimidated or threatened, which I think a lot of people might be uncomfortable if law enforcement is approaching you; you may forget things; you get flooded with emotions and nervous, so having a reminder of what is and isn't your right

- Mr. McCarron: I want to say I'm personally insulted that somebody approached by law enforcement, being a 20-year law enforcement member, may forget things when approached by law enforcement; I don't think a sign posted on the wall 30 feet behind the entryway is going to make them remember things
 - I think this memorializing resolution is the smoke coming off a bonfire surrounded by mirrors, creating a narrative that does not exist in this circumstance. Both commissioners just told us and explained the circumstances, and while they may have exceeded their authority to enter, it sounds like the appropriate action was taken internally; we're not subject to know what that discipline is, but I think this resolution does nothing more than attempt to create a narrative that does not exist and further erodes a potential relationship with law enforcement
 - While not surprised, I'm embarrassed
- Mr. Czarny: I understand your position, Mr. McCarran, but I'll say this: we could not have dreamed up this scenario before it happened, and we don't know what the next scenario will be. I can tell you, from talking to inspectors, that they've asked for more guidance; this is the number one question in our inspector classes right now. I don't believe this is something unwanted by the inspector community or by the voting public in general
- Mr. McCarron: What does the memorializing resolution serve to do? We have existing federal laws, 18 USC 241, 52 USC 20511, and 52 USC 1038; all of these already exist. What does the memorializing resolution choose to do to address that?
- Mr. Czarny: We do have all these laws, but while you're able to pull those up from your laptop right in front of you, not everybody has that ability. These signs, posted in the polling places, will be available to the inspectors, who will read them as they're putting them up that day
- Having signs about whether people need to show ID, for example, has helped put out the laws that we have. I don't see any harm in it, and I do see a help in it; I wish we could come to some agreement, but if not, I respect your opinion, Legislator McCarron
- Mr. McCarron: Thank you, Commissioner. And if the resolution simply were to put up signs, with all the other resolves removed, I might be more supportive of it
- Mr. Garland: When these incidents happen, sometimes isolated as this one was, whose responsibility is it to look at these incidents and offer suggestions? Would that be the Attorney General's office, or the New York State Board of Elections?
- Mr. Czarny: I think it would be all of us; it goes to the county commissioners, the state board, and the Attorney General's office. That's why, when this incident happened, I tried to get everybody involved, since I didn't know what was going on at the time
 - In the aftermath, we were able to figure it all out; there were also some questions about whether this was a hoax in the immediate aftermath
 - I commend Commissioner Ryan's ability to get direct answers from Homeland Security; we were working as a team on this
 - We live in unprecedented and unusual times, and there's no playbook; I'm hoping to get more answers at our convention next week. I think this resolution, and others being passed in other communities, are helpful in that discussion
- Mr. Garland: ICE has not come out of the wood work. So this hasn't happened in any other county in New York State; there have been no other incidents anywhere similar where these questions have arisen?
- Mr. Czarny: As far as I know, this hasn't happened anywhere in the nation; this is a unique situation. In talking to advocacy groups and my contacts, this is the first time an ICE agent entered a polling place while it was operational
 - There were certain instances of people out in parking lots across the street, and we even had law enforcement across the street from Ross Towers on an unrelated incident that got people scared and calling our office

- This was a very unique situation; I hope an isolated situation, but there is genuine fear amongst inspectors, poll workers, and voters, and I think anything we can do to tell people we're on their side and will help protect them is important
- Ms. Block: I want to be clear that this did not come up today without touching base with the Sheriff's Office; they are supportive of this and are available to respond to incidents if needed or if people are nervous. They explained the policies around elections and how they might respond, and said if anybody has concerns, they can call 911
- Mr. McCarron: However, they have no legal authority over federal law enforcement. So, Commissioners, next week is the State Board of Elections convention? And this will be brought up?
- Mr. Czarny: Yes; it'll be brought up by me if by nobody else, but it's also been part of the planning discussions. This is a hot topic across our election community, and it has come up at every convention or workshop since the primary, and will again next week
- Mr. Garland: Will it only be brought up, or will there be actual movement on it, so that something happens to ensure this is addressed in the future?
- Mr. Czarny: I hope there will be movement on it. The State Board has its own processes to go through. They are working with the Attorney General's office. I don't want to give the impression people aren't working on it, but I also don't want to promise a date and have that not happen. I believe before the election we will have some better guidance, and I hope so
- Mr. Garland: Which is why it would be important for individual counties, when something like this happens, to try to do something to reassure their residents and voters that they are at least taking steps, even if it doesn't have any teeth, so to speak
- Mr. Czarny: I believe that's true, Legislator Garland
- Mr. McCarron: Understanding this will be brought up at the state level next week, I would like to make a motion to table this until after that state meeting, so we can get more information from both commissioners as to what decisions were made there
- Ms. Block: I think it's important to get this out as soon as possible. I understand the concern, but given that elections are pretty much upon us, getting this out as soon as possible would be important
- Deputy Clerk Berg: I just want to clarify, this is a discussion; so if you're asking to table it, you can table the discussion
- Mr. McCarron: We're not taking a vote on this resolution? Ok, I withdraw my motion
- Mr. Czarny: I don't want to give the impression that I believe we're going to come out of there with all the answers next week; I don't. I believe there will be discussions, and I'll be pushing for a resolution of some kind from the state, but I can't guarantee something is coming down. I believe it will, because I believe a lot of people feel strongly enough about this on all sides of the aisle, but I don't want to promise I'm coming back with answers next week
- Mr. May: Do we have a plan for when this is going to be moved or voted on?
- Ms. Block: Potentially for September
- Mr. May: At Session?
- Mr. Garland: Yes
- Mr. May: Is it going to Ways and Means?
- Ms. Block: It doesn't
- Mr. Garland: Then we'd have to wait until then to vote on tabling it
- Mr. Kevin Ryan: I want to apologize for having to step out; my attorneys had been waiting in the hallway to bring a resolution to another dispute, and since the meter is running on the county's dime, I didn't want to let that go on. I don't know what was said after I left, but my position is this:
 - I don't want a signal to be sent to the voters of this community that they have something to fear from federal agents. This was not a situation where we have a practice and pattern of voter intimidation or suppression by federal agents in this community

- When we pass a resolution like this, it sends a signal that people need to be wary; I don't think that's fair or appropriate, and I think it's a misapprehension of what actually occurred on the day in question, which gives rise to this
- Glad you spoke with Ms. Taylor, our board of elections worker, but this is already covered in the inspector classes; I know Ms. Taylor has a position on this, and I think she has a GoFundMe campaign that resulted from it, so everyone gets their 15 minutes of fame
- Don't want to turn this into more than it needs to be; this is my concern with memorializing resolutions, since I don't believe the federal government will change what it does because of anything Dustin and I, or this body, does. With that, you do what you want to do
- Ms. Block: I agree with that; I also want to say the motion to move this forward was driven by that, but there has been a lot of talk about who's going to be at the polls going back as far as March. The public has expressed to me that they want some reassurance that things will be safe, which drives it too
- Mr. Garland: Gentlemen, thank you; it's our understanding you're going to have your convention next month. We would hope you have the opportunity to bring this up and maybe we can try to resolve it
- Mr. Kevin Ryan: It's going to be brought up, since we just went to a seminar on crisis management last week, and this is a crisis; there are, for all intents and purposes, 57 boards of elections statewide, since the five counties of New York City comprise a city board of elections. This could have happened anywhere, and of course it had to happen in Onondaga County
- Mr. Garland: That in itself should be reassuring to all the voters, just knowing they should be talking about that

A motion was made by Mr. McCarron, seconded by Mr. Knapp, to adjourn the meeting; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

C. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:32 p.m.



Respectfully submitted,

SPENCER D. BERG, Deputy Clerk
Onondaga County Legislature

ATTENDANCE

COMMITTEE: PUBLIC SAFETY

DATE: AUGUST 18, 2026

NAME (Please Print)	DEPT/AGENCY/ORGANIZATION
Rebecca Morgan	Audit
Don Wears	EM