EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
AUGUST 26, 2026
MINUTES

Committee members present: Chairman Billy Fried; Debbie Condado; Michael Tautges; Russ Fisher; Scott Holewinski; Dan Hess, Ted Cushing.

Call to order: Chairman Fried called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. in the County Board Room of the Oneida County Courthouse. The meeting has been properly posted and mailed in accordance with the Wisconsin Open Meeting Law, and the facility is handicap accessible.

Approve Agenda:
Motion/Second: Tautges/Fisher to approve today's Agenda with the order of items at the Chair's discretion. All "Aye"; Motion passes.

Approve Minutes of July 29, 2026 and August 12, 2026:
Motion/Second: Hess/Holewinski to approve the Minutes of the July 29, 2026 and August 12, 2026 Meetings. All "Aye"; Motion passes.

Public comment: None

2027 Rhinelander-Oneida County Airport Budget:
Airport Director Matthew Leitner presented the Airport budget. Leitner noted that the expenses have increased in past years. Leitner explained that the request for funding of $197,081 is the same, even though the expenses have increased. Leitner noted that they have seen an increase in usage. Fried reported that they are in the process of working on updating an old agreement with the City of Rhinelander and County regarding the airport. Fried noted that the current agreement requires the County and the City of Rhinelander to have matching funding for the airport. Lietner explained the private side of the airport and how that works for private plane owners, noting that this does generate income for the Airport. Discussion regarding revenue opportunities and account fund balances. Holewinski explained that the intent is for the Airport to be self-sufficient. Holewinski stated that at Budget Hearings he wants Leitner to be able to explain the unrestricted fund balance, 2023 Audit report expenses of $2.6 Million and revenue of $5.1 Million, 2024 expenses of $2.8 Million and revenue of $11.3 Million. Discussion regarding the Operating Budget and Capital budget.
Motion/Second: Fried/Hess to forward the 2027 Rhinelander-Oneida County Airport request of $197,081 to the Budget Hearings in October. All "Aye"; Motion passes.

2027 Oneida County Economic Development Commission Budget:
Executive Director of Oneida County Economic Development Tony Pharo stated that the request is $146,500, the same as last year. Pharo presented current and past projects. Pharo explained that the funding request is what they need to operate in 2027. Fried noted that he has only received positive feedback regarding Tony and the job he does.
Motion/Second: Holewinski/Fried to approve the request of $146,500 from the Oneida County Economic Development Commission and forward it on to the Budget Hearings. All "Aye"; Motion passes.

2027 Oneida County Tourism Council Budget:
Jackie Sharp and Krystal Westfahl of Oneida County Tourism presented their budget request. Sharpe stated that they are asking for $92,800 to go back in line with what was received in the past,

noting that last year their budget was cut by 30%. Sharpe explained that due to last year's cuts had to cut meetings, newsletters and were not able to take on any new projects or take on any additional grants. Westfahl stressed the need to return to the prior years budgeted amount. Fried questioned if they have any other funding sources. Westfahl explained that they do not, noting that room tax is municipal and does not go to County Tourism. Fried explained that he feels there are other necessary costs that the County needs to fund. Westfahl explained the impact of funding and growth in tourism. Fried stated that he thinks this is duplication of services. Discussion regarding the request and proposed projects. Holewinski expressed concern in balancing the budget. Fried noted that if a specific project is presented with a dollar amount attached, he would prefer to determine those on a project basis.

Cushing and Condado left/no longer on Zoom at 9:21 a.m..

Motion/Second: Fried/No Second to deny the Oneida County Tourism Council Budget request.
Motion fails due to no second.

Motion/Second: Holewinski/Hess to approve the Oneida County Tourism Council Budget at $70,000 and forward it on to the Budget Hearings. All "Aye"; Motion passes.
Roll Call Vote: Tautges, Aye; Hess, Aye; Fisher, Aye; Holewinski, Aye; Fried, Nay; 2 Absent, Cushing, Condado; Motion Passes.

Condado returns to zoom at 9:25 a.m.

2027 Oneida County Humane Society Budget:
Sue Otis, Treasurer and Bria Wright, Executive Director of the Humane Society presented the budget for the Humane Society. Otis stated that there was an increase requested last year that was approved. Otis noted that there are increased costs. Fried went over revenues and asked if there was a funding reserve that could be utilized. Wright stated that there are more intakes this year than last and costs associated with that. Holewinski stated that the Human Society provides a service to the County, this covers all of the towns and the city at a cost savings. Holewinski stated that he is in support of this. Discussion regarding the request and how dog license revenue is calculated. Karen Matchulat stated that the contract is $53,900.
Motion/Second: Hess/Fisher to forward the 2027 Oneida County Humane Society Budget request of $53,900 on to the Budget Hearings. All "Aye"; Motion passes.

Break called at 9:53 a.m.
Return from break 10:00 a.m.

2027 Oneida County Library Board Budget:
President, Amanda Zoellner presented the Library Directors; Rhinelander, Virginia Roberts; Three Lakes, Jill Roth; Minocqua, Kelly Raddatz. Holewinski questioned how the funding is determined. Hartman explained how the funding works, noting that the County is statutorily required to reimburse at 70% of the cost. Historically the County has reimbursed higher than the 70% required amount. Fried questioned the difference in circulation cost. Roberts stated that it calculates cost of operations per library and amount of circulations. Fried questioned why they are asking above the required 70% and also the differences in the circulation costs. Roth explained that a 4th library, that was a mobile library, was discontinued. Discussion regarding the discontinued library that provided outreach to homebound individuals. Roberts stated that if there was not the additional funding above the 70%, there would be no outreach. Fried noted that he needs to be able to rationalize why this needs to be at this level. Discussion regarding staffing levels. Holewinski requested that the libraries show the number of card holders from each town and the number of circulations from each town. Fried questioned why the libraries have such varied budget requests (103%, 128%, 182%). Zoellner stated

that each library has different operational needs and the board looks at those needs and approved the requests. Discussion regarding the amount above 70%. Holewinski stated that prior to the October budget hearings he would like to see a breakdown of the number of library cards issued for each municipality, number of circulation for each municipality and number of outreach / room use. **Motion/Second: Fried/Hess** to approve the 2027 Oneida County Library Board Budget of $504,559 and forward it on to the Budget Hearings. All "Aye"; Motion passes.

10:48 a.m. – Condado leaves the meeting and does not return.

Resolution to reclass the Sheriff's Office Dispatch Lieutenant Position and Resolution to reclass the Sheriff's Office Evidence Technician Position:

Sheriff Hartman stated that he is looking to re-class two positions. This is part of a larger plan to attempt to balance the 2027 budget. Hartman stated that both of the positions are currently vacant and he is waiting to fill the position until these Resolutions are approved. Hartman stated that there will be a savings for both positions. Discussion regarding the positions. Hartman explained that there will be an increase to the tower maintenance agreements by $68,000 in 2027. In an effort to help offset the cost the Sheriff's Office is looking at other areas in the office where savings can be found. **Motion/Second: Hess/Fisher** to approve the Sheriff's Office Dispatch Lieutenant Position and Evidence Technician Positon and forward them on to County Board as consent agenda items. All "Aye"; Motion passes.

2027 Staffing Requests – New Position Requests and Recurring LTE Position Requests:

Lueneburg explained that this is a yearly process for LTE and new positions and presented a spreadsheet outlining all of the LTE and new position requests. Discussion regarding the different LTE requests. Lueneburg stated that the majority of the positions are annual requests and are not new requests. Committee reviewed the annual requests. Huber, Buildings and Grounds, stated that they are requesting a new LTE Cleaning Tech to help when there are time-off requests. This will assist with reducing the overtime budget needs. Holewinski asked if this could be covered by the two new positions that were approved when the County took over Koinonia. Huber stated that those two positions do not have the additional time to take on cleaning duties at other buildings. Jennrich reported that he would like to add lead responsibilities to one of the Zoning Tech or Land Use Specialist positions in the Minocqua Office. This will allow for assistance with training new staff in the Minocqua office. Discussion regarding the Veteran's Service LTE request. Young stated that they continue to see the increase in numbers. Hess would like this looked at further down the road again. **Motion/Second: Fried/Tautges** to approve the staffing requests as presented and forward it on to the Budget Hearings. All "Aye"; Motion passes.

2027 Treasurer Budget:

Ostermann reported that the largest increase is due to personnel costs. Ostermann reported that there is a small increase in revenue from bounced check fees.

Motion/Second: Hess/Holewinski to approve the 2027 Treasurer Budget and forward it on to the Budget Hearings. All "Aye"; Motion passes.

2027 Health Insurance Plan Renewal Update:

Lueneburg stated that this has been bid out to four different companies in addition to the renewal quote from Aspirus. Lueneburg reported that two of the four declined to bid. Lueneburg stated that one bid was received and it showed a 18% increase.

2027 LRES Budget:

Lueneburg presented the LRES Budget and reviewed a few changes that are being proposed. Overall the budget showed a decrease of $9000.
Motion/Second: Fried/Holewinski to approve the 2027 LRES Budget and forward it on to the Budget Hearings. All "Aye"; Motion passes.

2027 County Clerk Budget and County Board Budget:
Hartman presented the County Clerk and County Board budget. Increases were largely due to personnel costs. The insurance budget was not included in the budget as that will come during the budget hearings.
Motion/Second: Fisher/Hess to approve the 2027 County Clerk and County Board Budget and forward it on to the Budget Hearings. All "Aye"; Motion passes.

2027 Finance Budget and Centralized Business Units:
Marheine presented the 2027 Finance budget which included a decrease of approximately $3500.
Motion/Second: Fried/Hess to approve the 2027 Finance Budget of $297,050 and Centralized Business Units Budgets and forward it on to the Budget Hearings. All "Aye"; Motion passes.

Recess at 11:55 a.m.

Return to session at 11:59 a.m.

ITS Capital Improvement Projects:

a. Update on Current Projects – Rhodes presented the ITS CIP Updates for 2026. Discussion regarding using google instead of Microsoft Office. Rhodes stated that Microsoft Office is HIPPA and CJIS Compliant, however, he is looking at differentiating those licenses so that the County isn't paying the higher license fee where it isn't needed. Rhodes stated that he doesn't anticipate returning any funds from the 2026 CIP projects.
b. 2027 – 2030 Funding for County Wide Network Infrastructure Upgrade – Rhodes presented a CIP for a County Wide Network Infrastructure Upgrade for 2027 through 2030. Discussion regarding continuing appropriations accounts. Discussion regarding possible grants. Discussion regarding the proposed amount for 2027 and future years. Rhodes reported that he feels confident that the 2027 number is accurate.

Motion by Fried/Tautges to move the 2027 – 2030 CIP as presented to the CIP hearings. All "Aye'; Motion passes.

Vouchers, reports (including invoices paid, budget to actual) purchase orders, line item transfers and updates:

c. LRES – Reports were provided to the committee.
d. Finance – Reports were provided to the committee.
   - Investment Report
   - Sales Tax by Month Report
   - Checking Account Report
   - Opioid Funds Report
e. ITS -
   - IT Planning update – Rhodes presented the IT Planning update.
f. Treasurer - Reports were provided to the committee.
g. County Clerk - Reports were provided to the committee.

Public comment: None

Dates and items for future agenda/meetings:

The next meeting date was set for September 9th, 2026. CIP meetings are scheduled for September 2nd and 3rd. Committee members expressed a desire to work through the 2nd and not reconvene on the 3rd.

ADJOURNMENT:

Chairman Fried adjourned the meeting at 12:25 p.m.