EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
SEPTEMBER 2, 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: Cushing/Hess to approve today's Agenda with the order of items at the Chair's discretion. All "Aye"; Motion passes.

Public comment: None

Discuss Funding Options:
Short term borrowing – Fried explained the process for evaluating CIP projects and funding options, noting that there are challenges each year. Fried reported that some of the funding options are General Fund, designated Department Fund and Opioid Funding. Fried explained that as challenges put more stress on the General Fund, we may look into other funding options. Holewinski stated that short-term borrowing can be a mechanism to work around levy limits. Fried noted that this option adds it to the tax levy but can make it more affordable to the County. Nemec noted that there is an option of a Project Loan through the DNR for capital projects specifically for Forestry, explaining that the loan is paid back out of stumpage revenue.

Capital Improvement Projects (over $50,000):
Buildings and Grounds Department – Buildings and Grounds Director Troy Huber presented the proposed CIP projects.

- 2027/2028 Fire Panel Upgrades – Multiple Facilities – Huber explained that they are doing a 3 year project to upgrade all of the Fire Panels in all of the facilities. Huber reported that this year they are doing theTimber Drive location, year two is the Law Enforcement Center and year three will be the Courthouse. Huber stated that Year one was budgeted for $50,000 and year two is budgeted for $250,000. Huber explained that the County Facilities Committee rated this as a high priority. This was rated high by the Executive Committee.
- 2027 Courthouse Plaster Repair – Huber explained that due to prior issues with the roof there has been some issues with the plaster. Huber reported that the cost is $50,000. Assistant Facilities Director Lindsey Kennedy presented the department's Continuing Appropriation Accounts. The Executive Committee rated the project as high.
- 2027 LEC Bobcat – Huber stated that the old Kubota at the Law Enforcement Center is 30 years old and they are looking to upgrade. Discussion regarding the costs and functionality of a Bobcat versus a Kubota. Discussion regarding the existing equipment. Huber explained that $20,000 would be coming from the department's equipment fund, with a request of $70,000 from the General Fund for a total of $90,000. Discussion regarding different concerns from the Committee. Hess stated that if the Kubota is almost half the cost and lasted 30 years, maybe we should stick with the Kubota. Fisher explained that the existing Bobcat at the Courthouse is used primarily for the Courthouse and the ADRC/Public Health. Huber reported that with

time constraints, they would not be able to use the same Bobcat to do the Sheriff's Office also. Huber noted that the bigger Bobcat would move more snow. Discussion regarding speaking with the Sheriff. Discussion that the Kubota seemed more cost-efficient and long-lasting; Huber noted that he would get pricing on Kubota options. It was determined that this should be discussed with the Sheriff's Office, and this project will need to be determined after more information is obtained.

- 2027 Timber Drive Facility Parking Lot Reconstruction – Huber stated that they have been using gravel in the Timber Drive Parking lot as there is a lot of breakup in the blacktop. Huber noted that there is gravel in place of blacktop and with the gravel they cannot paint lines. Huber reported that this could be pushed off and is a cost of $115,000. Huber noted that if this is pushed off, the cost will probably increase. It was determined that this should be set aside, and a decision will be made after all of the CIP projects have been determined.
- 2027 LEC Walk-in Refrigeration Mechanical Update – Huber stated that they need to replace this, it is 25 years old. Huber reported that this has broken down in the past and food was lost. Huber noted that this was discussed with the Sheriff. Kennedy explained that the project proposal is just the electrical/mechanical components, not the actual freezer. The proposed cost was $85,000. Huber reported that this estimate was from Tweet Garrot, but this would need to go out to bid. Discussion regarding funding options for the project. Kennedy noted that Buildings and Grounds gets 4% of prisoner revenue, but this is to offset the cost of paper products/soaps and other costs for the prisoners. It was determined that this was rated high priority.
- 2028 Law Enforcement Center Parking Lots Reconstruction - Discussion regarding potentially bidding the paving projects all together as one bid.
- 2028 Courthouse Parking Lot Reconstruction – Future project; information was submitted.
- 2028 River Street Facility Parking Lot Reconstruction – Future project; information was submitted.
- 2028 Timber Drive Security Cameras Installation – Future project; information was submitted.
- 2029 Courthouse Liebert Replacement – Future project; information was submitted.
- 2029 Law Enforcement Center Access Card Reader Replacement – Future project information was submitted.
- 2029 Courthouse Elevator Updates – Future project; information was submitted.
- 2029 Law Enforcement Modine Heaters Replacement – Future project information was submitted.

Forestry – Forestry Director Jill Nemec presented the proposed Forestry CIP projects.

- 2027/2028 Rozell Road Rehabilitation – Nemec stated that this is not the same project as last year, but is a similar project. Nemec reported that this road is in rough shape. Nemec explained that this is a 5.5 mile road and there is not much gravel left, culverts are older and failing. The proposed cost is $125,000 for 2027 from the General Fund and $125,000 for 2028. Nemec reported that they do try to pursue grant funding for these projects. Discussion regarding funding options.
- 2027 Boom Mower Attachment – Nemec reported that vegetation encroaches into the road and they really need equipment that works better to clear it. Nemec presented issues with the current equipment they are using. Nemec stated that they have looked into leasing or contracting, but they have determined that it would be the most economical to purchase. The quote to purchase was about $85,000; Nemec explained that the cost to rent would be approximately $11,000 to $20,000

for each summer. It was determined that the Committee would hold making a decision until the end.

- 2027 Forestry Work Truck – 4x4 Extended Cab – Nemec stated that this truck is used almost every day; the current one is a 2017. Nemec explained that there were about $6000 in repairs put into this vehicle just this year. Nemec stated that this is a hard-used vehicle, being used off-road most of the time. Fried questioned the cost. The CIP request is $45,000 with a potential trade-in value of $10,000 for the existing truck and the full cost of $55,000. Discussion regarding the Forestry Equipment fund. It was determined to keep this as a project.
- 2028 Forestry Shop Repair – Future project; information was submitted.
- 2029 Cruiser's Road Rehabilitation – Future project; information was submitted.
- 2029 Zimmer Road Rehabilitation – Future project; information was submitted.

Recess at 9:38 a.m.
Return from Recess 9:46 a.m.

Information Technology Systems Department – IT Director Jason Rhodes presented proposed the IT CIP projects.

- 2027/2028/2029/2030 Countywide Network Infrastructure Upgrade – Rhodes explained that the 2027 Countywide Network upgrade was funded through their Continuing Appropriation Fund; going forward, they are requesting funding. Rhodes stated that this expense is not built into their budget, but the intent is to cover any overages using the department's Continuing Appropriation Fund going forward. Discussion regarding the price increase in hardware of about 15-20%. The request from the General Fund is $280,000, Rhodes noted that any overages would be covered through the Continuing Appropriation Account. Rhodes reported that $586,000 is in the Continuing Appropriations at this time, with $105,000 being committed to phase 1 of this project. Rhodes stated that if the Continuing Appropriations were depleted, any unexpected projects would not be able to be funded. This was rated by the Committee as a high priority.

Solid Waste – Solid Waste Director Lisa Bauknecht presented the proposed CIP projects for Solid Waste. Bauknecht explained that these requests have gone through the committee of jurisdiction and are funded through the Department's budget/funds. Bauknecht reported that they are not asking for General Fund money. Bauknecht went over her available funds. Fried reminded the committee that Solid Waste funds these requests from their own business unit and not General Fund money.

- 2027 544K Wheel Loader – Department-funded project; information was submitted.
- 2027 Pickup Truck with Plow – Department-funded project; information was submitted.
- 2027 Used Hook Truck – Department-funded project; information was submitted.
- 2028 Crack Seal Pavement – Future project; information was submitted.
- 2028 Used Spotter Truck – Future project; information was submitted.
- 2029 Demo Compactor – Future project; information was submitted.
- 3 HP Blower and Solar Spark Flare – Bauknecht explained this was approved as a 2026 project that is not completed yet.

Highway Department – Highway Commissioner Ben Rich and Finance Specialist Dan Gleason presented the proposed Highway Department CIP projects. Fried noted that there were a couple of additional projects added to the 2027 request that did not get added to the agenda, these will be discussed at a later date. Discussion regarding the balances in the Equipment Fund.

- 2027 One Ton Pickup Truck Purchase – This proposed cost is $75,000 to come out of the equipment fund. Rich noted this is a standard truck that is used daily by a work crew, noting that the prior truck has been inoperable for the last year and a half.
- 2027 Baby Dump Truck Purchase – This is a request of $110,000 to come out of the equipment fund. Rich explained that the transmission went out this year; the repair costs for the existing unit exceed the replacement cost. Discussion regarding purchasing a used truck.
- 2027 Highway Facility Fire Suppression – Fried questioned Phase one of the facility upgrade being the electrical project, noting that this has not been done yet. Rich reported that this is to be done by the end of the year. Fried explained that there are multiple projects to upgrade the Highway Facility; these next projects are the next phase for 2027. Rich explained that the $325,000 for the Fire Suppression was the amount listed in the Carl Sanderson report. Discussion regarding the cost of the Fire Suppression project. Gleason explained that there are some funds in their accounts to cover overages. Marheine reported that investments into the buildings will increase the State funding amounts that the department receives from the state. Fried stated that this project is determined to be a high priority.
- 2027 Highway Facility Roof Re-Seal and Chimney Removal – Rich explained that the shop roof was resealed about 5 years ago. Rich noted that it was determined that removing the chimney and resealing it would be very beneficial, the cost is $50,000. Rich stated that the leaks are around the chimney and the chimney is no longer being used. This was determined to remain as a CIP.
- 2027 Rhinelander Shop Drainage Upgrade – Rich explained that this was rated second as a priority. Fried noted that this project had been presented as a 2026 project and was pushed out further. Rich stated that he feels this is a solid number of $675,000 for the shop drain. Gleason explained that after working with the engineering firm, the numbers should be more solid after they present the design. Discussion regarding costs and department fund balances.
- 2027/2028/2029 Patrol Truck Purchase – Fried noted that the $390,000 is projected for 2027 and each year after. Rich explained that this would keep them on a replacement schedule, with an 18-year replacement. Fried reported that this is a General Fund request and not a loan. Discussion regarding funding options and strategy. Rich reported that it takes approximately a year and a half to receive a truck after ordering it, they have two trucks pending delivery currently.

Highway – Discussion that these projects will be brought forward at a future date, these will be funded with department funds.

- 2027 Compactor Attachment for the Excavator – Discussion at a future date.
- 2027 Condenser/Furnace Upgrade – Discussion at a future date.
- 2027 Grapple Attachment for a Loader – Discussion at a future date.
- 2027 Highway Facility Metal Painting – Discussion at a future date.
- 2027 Snow Pusher – Discussion at a future date.

Opioid Funding Requests – Hartman stated that Opioid requests need to come through this Committee, they are handled similarly to a CIP project.

Medical Examiner – Medical Examiner Cambrya Hurlburt presented her project.

- 2027 Morgue Cooler and Equipment Request -
  Hurlburt stated she is requesting Opioid funds for this project in the amount of $100,000. Hartman reported that this was reviewed by both Corporation Council and the past Finance Director Smigielski before she left and it was determined that this would be eligible for the use of Opioid Funding. Hurlburt reported that autopsies

and deaths have increased. Hurlburt explained that currently they use Aspirus Rhinelander, Marshfield Medical or Howard Young, these morgues are free when available. Hurlburt stated that for security and chain of custody this option would be better. Currently, hospital staff having access can create issues; Hurlburt presented past issues. The two funeral homes do not have a cooler; they also use Aspirus if they need to utilize a cooler. Hurlburt stated that any criminal and overdose cases need to be held and do not go straight to the funeral home. Hurlburt explained that the requested funding amount has a built-in maintenance allotment for the cooler. Hurlburt noted that Oneida County is contracted as the Forest and Vilas county Medical Examiner, they were in favor of this due to the enhanced security. Hurlburt stated that the presented cooler would hold five bodies. Discussion regarding liability and security. Hurlburt stated that she reached out to Lincoln County and they run theirs 24/7, with the cost being very minimal. Hurlburt noted that the majority of their overdose deaths are opioid related. Jensen expressed concern regarding the use of Opioid Funding for this project. Hartman noted that this was researched and other counties have used their opioid funds for this type of purchase. Fried stated it was determined to move forward with this.

Human Services – Human Services Director Beth Hoerchler and past Director Mary Rideout presented the Human Services CIP request.

- 2027 TAD Grant Match – Hoerchler stated that a strategic plan was put in place related to infrastructure to implement a Drug Treatment Court. Rideout wrote for the Treatment and Diversion Grant and was awarded funding of approximately $220,000 with the requirement that there is a funding match for the next four years. Rideout stated that the Diversion Program has been running and that next year will be the implementation of the Drug Treatment Court. Rideout explained that the initial year request is approximately $20,000 of Local match and $45,136 annually thereafter. Discussion regarding using employee time as matching funds. It was determined that the numbers on the form are wrong and will need to be updated; it is a 25% funding match per Rideout. Hoerchler explained that Justice Point will be contracted to perform the services. Hoerchler stressed that programs like this reduce the out-of-home placement costs. Discussion regarding in-kind employee time as part of the match requirement. Rideout clarified that there is a 25% grant match, with a portion being an in-kind match and a cash match of $45,136. Hartman explained that both of the Opioid requests need to go to budget hearings and will also need to come forward as a Resolution.

Capital Outlay (under $50,000)

Human Services

- 2027 Program Participation Systems (PPS) Redesign Project – Hoerchler stated that the presented project is $40,000. Hoerchler explained that this is an update the current system to be in compliance with the State regarding the Electronic Health Records System changes. Hoerchler reported that the state is paying for a portion of this update, and they are requiring counties to pay for a portion of this update also. Hoerchler stated that the state has not given them all of the information and she is expecting that the quote will increase in cost. Hoerchler explained that they looked to see if Opioid Funds could be used to fund this project; Corporation Counsel did not think that it met the criteria. Hoerchler reported that they do not have a lot of details at this time. Discussion regarding funding: it was determined to place this project into contingency once there are more firm numbers.

Buildings and Grounds

- 2027 Register of Deeds Security Upgrades – Huber stated that this project would create a barrier between the employees and customers in the Register of Deeds

Office. Huber reported that the request is $25,000, noting that there is funding of $22,000 in their security account. Huber noted that they are looking for $10,000 to be placed into the security account for next year so they can fully fund this $25,000 project. Fried noted there is no action the committee needs to take.

Break called at 11:12 a.m.
Return from break 11:19 a.m.

CIP Project review and approval: Marheine presented each approved project funded by the General Fund, totaling each department: Buildings and Grounds, $385,000; Highway, $1,440,000; IT, $280,000; Forestry, $170,000. The total General Fund approved projects were $ 2,275,000. Discussion regarding the remaining projects that were undetermined: Buildings and Grounds Timber Drive parking lot $115,000; Forestry Boom Mower attachment $85,000. Fried stated that there will be some additional requests. Fried noted that the $2,275,000 will move forward and be finalized at the Budget Hearings, but he would like Forestry and Buildings and Grounds to come back with more information on the Bobcat and the Boom mower. Fried noted that the Sheriff's Office and Highway also have requests that need to be determined.

Public Comment: None

Dates and items for future agenda/meetings: Next meeting date is September 9, 2026. Discussion regarding another CIP date, it was set for September 30th at 9:30 a.m. There will not be an Executive on September 23, 2026. October 5th, 6th and 7th are budget hearings.

ADJOURNMENT:
Chairman Fried adjourned the meeting at 11:36 a.m.