NOTICE OF MEETING

COMMITTEE: **ONEIDA COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS**
PLACE: **ONEIDA COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT**
730 W. KEMP STREET, RHINELANDER, WI
DATE: **THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2026 TIME: 8:00 AM**

The Public Works Committee consists of a quorum of County Board Supervisors that also sit on the Executive Committee and the Planning and Development Committee; however, those committees will not take any formal action at this meeting. It is possible that a quorum of county board members will be at this meeting to gather information about a subject over which they have decision-making responsibility. This constitutes a meeting of the county board pursuant to State ex rel Badke v. Greendale Village Board, 173 Wis 2d 553, 494 n.w.2d 408 (1993), and must be noticed as such, although the county board will not take any formal actions at this meeting. There may be quorums of other County Board Committees present, although those committees will not take any formal action at this meeting.

ALL AGENDA ITEMS ASSUMED TO BE DISCUSSION/DECISION ITEMS

AGENDA:

1. Call to order
2. Approve agenda
3. Approve minutes of the Public Works Committee meeting held August 28, 2026
4. Public comments
5. Future meeting dates
6. Approve Vendor Vouchers
7. 2027 Traffic Safety Budget
8. 2027 Highway Department Budget
9. CIP hearing results
10. Four day versus five day work week (review additional information)
11. Public comments
12. Adjourn

NOTICE OF POSTING
TIME: 11:30 AM DATE: 9/8/2026 PLACE: COURTHOUSE & HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

TED CUSHING, CHAIRMAN
Notice posted by Chris McDonald, Highway Department. Information on a specific agenda item may be obtained by contacting the highway department at 715-369-6184.

NEWS MEDIA NOTIFIED BY FAX/EMAIL/MAIL		**DATE: 9/8/2026**	**TIME: 11:30 AM**
Northwoods River News	Lakeland Times	North Star Journal	Tomahawk Leader
WHDG Radio Station	WJFW Channel 12	WXPR Radio Station	WRJO Radio Station
Vilas County News Review	WHDG Radio	WCYE Radio	WSAW Channel 7

Notice is hereby further given that pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act reasonable accommodations will be provided for qualified individuals with disabilities upon request. Please call Chris McDonald 715-369-6184 with specific information on your request allowing adequate time to respond to your request.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS:

1. **Must be held in a location which is reasonably accessible to the public.**
2. **Must be open to all members of the public unless the law specifically provides otherwise.**

NOTICE REQUIREMENTS:

1. **In addition to any requirements set forth below, notice must also be in compliance with any other specific statute.**
2. **Chief presiding officer or his/her designee must give notice to the official newspaper and to any members of the news media likely to give notice to the public.**

MANNER OF NOTICE:

Date, time, place and subject matter, including subject matter to be considered in a closed session, must be provided in a manner and form reasonably likely to apprise members of the public and news media.

TIME FOR NOTICE:

1. **Normally, a minimum of 24 hours prior to the commencement of the meeting.**
2. **No less than 2 hours prior to the meeting if the presiding officer establishes there is good cause that such notice is impossible or impractical.**
3. **Separate notice for each meeting of the governmental body must be given.**

EXEMPTIONS FOR COMMITTEES & SUBUNITS

Legally constituted sub-units of a parent governmental body may conduct a meeting during the recess or immediately after the lawful setting to act or deliberate upon the subject which was the subject of the meeting, provided the presiding officer publicly announces the time, place and subject matter of the sub-unit meeting in advance of the meeting of the parent governmental body.

PROCEDURE FOR GOING INTO CLOSED SESSION:

1. **Motion must be made, seconded and carried by roll call majority vote and recorded in the minutes.**
2. **If motion is carried, chief presiding officer must advise those attending the meeting of the nature of the business to be conducted in the closed session, and the specific statutory exemption under which the closed session is authorized.**

SYNOPSIS OF STATUTORY EXEMPTIONS UNDER WHICH CLOSED SESSIONS ARE PERMITTED:

1. **Concerning a case which was the subject of Judicial or quasi- judicial trial before this governmental body Sec. 19.85(1)(a)**
2. **Considering dismissal, demotion or discipline of any public employee or the investigation of charges against such person and the taking of formal action on any such matter; provided that the person is given actual notice of any evidentiary hearing which may be held prior to final action being taken and of any meeting at which final action is taken. The person under consideration must be advised of his/her right that the evidentiary hearing be held in open session and the notice of the meeting must state the same. Sec. 19.85(1)(b).**
3. **Considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which this body has jurisdiction or responsibility. Sec. 19.85(1)(c).**
4. **Considering strategy for crime detection or prevention. ec. 19.85(1)(d).**
5. **Deliberating or negotiating the purchase of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session. Sec. 19.85(1)(e).**
6. **Considering financial, medical, social or personal histories or disciplinary data of specific person, preliminary consideration of specific personnel problems or the investigation of specific charges, which, if discussed in public, would likely have a substantial adverse effect on the reputation of the person referred to in such data. Sec. 19.85(1)(f), except where paragraph 2 applies.**
7. **Conferring with legal counsel concerning strategy to be adopted by the governmental body with respect to litigation in which it is or is likely to become involved. Sec. 19.85(1)(g).**
8. **Considering a request for advice from any applicable ethics board. Sec. 19.85(1)(h).**

PLEASE REFER TO CURRENT STATUTE SECTION 19.85 FOR FULL TEXT

CLOSED SESSION RESTRICTIONS:

1. **Must convene in open session before going into closed session.**
2. **May not convene in open session, then convene in closed session and thereafter reconvene in open session within twelve hours <u>unless</u> proper notice of this sequence was given at the same time and in the same manner as the original open meeting.**
3. **Final approval or ratification of a collective bargaining agreement may not be given in closed session.**
4. **No business may be taken up at any closed session except that which relates to matters contained in the chief presiding officer's announcement of the closed session.**
5. **In order for a meeting to be closed under Section 19.85(1)(f) at least one committee member would have to have actual knowledge of information which he or she reasonably believes would be likely to have a substantial adverse effect upon the reputation involved and there must be a probability that such information would be divulged. Thereafter, only that portion of the meeting where such information would be discussed can be closed. The balance of that agenda item must be held in open session.**

BALLOTS, VOTES AND RECORDS:

1. **Secret ballot is not permitted except for the election of officers of the body or unless otherwise permitted by specific statutes.**
2. **Except as permitted above, any member may require that the vote of each member be ascertained and recorded.**
3. **Motions and roll call votes must be preserved in the record and be available for public inspection.**

USE OF RECORDING EQUIPMENT:

The meeting may be recorded, filmed, or photographed, provided that it does not interfere with the conduct of the meeting or the rights of the participants.

LEGAL INTERPRETATION:

1. **The Wisconsin Attorney General will give advice concerning the applicability or clarification of the Open Meeting Law upon request.**
2. **The municipal attorney will give advice concerning the applicability or clarification of the Open Meeting Law upon request.**

PENALTY:

Upon conviction, any member of a governmental body who knowingly attends a meeting held in violation of Subchapter IV, Chapter 19, Wisconsin Statutes, or who otherwise violates the said law shall be subject to forfeiture of not less than $25.00 nor more than $300.00 for each violation.

Prepared by Oneida County Corporation Counsel Office – 5/16/96

ONEIDA COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Oneida County Highway Department Conference Room
Thursday, August 28, 2026 – 9:30 a.m.

Committee Members	Present	Excused	Absent
Ted Cushing	X		
Bob Almekinder	X		
Billy Fried	X		
Dan Hess	X		
Greg Oettinger	X		

Also Present: Ben Rich/Highway Commissioner and Chris McDonald/Highway Finance

1. Call to Order

Chair Ted Cushing called the Oneida County Public Works Committee meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. The meeting location was noted as handicap accessible.

2. Approve Amended Agenda

Motion by Hess, second by Fried, to approve the amended agenda. Motion carried.

3. Approve Minutes of the Public Works Committee Meeting Held August 20, 2026

Motion by Fried, second by Almekinder, to approve the August 20, 2026 Public Works Committee meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

4. Public Comments

None.

5. Review and Rank 2027-2029 CIP Requests

The committee reviewed the proposed 2027-2029 CIP requests and separated the requests by funding source, including equipment fund, facility, general fund, and highway construction requests. The committee noted that requests of $50,000 or more would require consideration through the Executive Committee and County Board process, while department-funded requests below the applicable threshold could be approved through the committee of jurisdiction.

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The committee discussed the need to confirm the available Highway Department equipment fund balance before final funding decisions are made. The most recent working estimate referenced was approximately $375,000; however, the current balance had not been confirmed. Hess was to work with Finance Director Heather to obtain the current equipment fund balance before the Executive Committee hearings.

The committee reviewed the Highway Department's equipment replacement strategy, including the need to replace aging vehicles while maintaining sufficient equipment fund reserves for major repairs. Members also discussed the potential for certain equipment to improve operating efficiency, generate additional revenue, or be shared with other County departments.

The committee ranked the proposed department-funded equipment requests as follows:

1. **One-ton pickup truck** – Replacement of a 1999 truck. The existing truck recently experienced a transmission failure, and the estimated cost of a used replacement transmission exceeded $4,000.
2. **Baby dump truck** – Replacement of a 1998 truck.
3. **Loader grapple attachment** – Identified as a safety priority for handling brush and potentially suitable for shared use with other County departments.
4. **Snow pusher** – Intended primarily for removing accumulated snow around roundabouts and potentially generating additional state maintenance revenue.
5. **Compactor attachment for excavator** – Intended to improve project efficiency and expand the Department's ability to perform work including sheet piling.
6. **Flagger truck** – Replacement of an approximately 10-year-old truck while it retains greater resale value. Proceeds from the sale would return to the equipment fund.

The committee noted that the ranking would establish which equipment should be deferred first if available funding is insufficient to purchase all requested items.

Motion by Fried, second by Hess, to forward the department-funded equipment requests, as ranked by the committee and Highway Commissioner, to the upcoming hearings. Motion carried.

The committee also reviewed the proposed $390,000 patrol truck funded through the general fund. Rich explained the Department's goal is to maintain approximately a 20-year replacement cycle by purchasing one patrol truck annually. Members discussed the age of the existing fleet, the Department's existing equipment-related debt, potential alternative financing methods, and the need to demonstrate the long-term replacement strategy during the upcoming hearings. The committee supported maintaining the planned replacement schedule.

The committee then reviewed facility improvement priorities. Fire suppression and shop drainage remained the highest priorities, followed by improvements intended to preserve the existing Highway Department facility. The committee ranked the principal facility projects as follows:

1. **Fire suppression**
2. **Shop drainage**
3. **Roof improvements**
4. **Exterior tuck-pointing**
5. **Overhead and exterior doors**
6. **Window replacement**
7. **Parking lot paving**

Cost estimates for the roof and tuck-pointing were based on the existing facility assessment, with the tuck-pointing estimate identified at approximately $300,000 for the entire building. Members also discussed

improving the appearance and condition of the facility exterior and grounds; however, no specific direction was issued regarding cosmetic improvements.

Motion by Hess, second by Almekinder, to forward the facility CIP requests funded through department and general funds to the Executive Committee as prioritized by the committee. Motion carried.

The committee separately reviewed the highway construction request, including the previously discussed additional approximately $450,000 associated with construction needs.

Motion by Fried, second by Oettinger, to forward the $2,100,000 highway construction request to the Executive Committee as presented. Motion carried.

6. Future Agenda Items

The committee identified the results of the upcoming CIP hearings as a potential future agenda item.

7. Public Comments

None.

8. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 10:05 a.m.

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Committee Chairman **Committee Secretary**