

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
JANUARY 14, 2026
MINUTES**

Committee members present: Chairman Billy Fried; Scott Holewinski; Russ Fisher; Robb Jensen; Dan Hess; Steven Schreier.

Absent: Showalter

Student Representative: Parker Lee

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: Schreier/Fisher to approve today's Agenda with the order of items at the Chair's discretion.

Vote on Motion: 6 Aye; 1 Absent, Showalter

Motion: Passes

Approve the Minutes of December 17, 2025:

Motion/Second: Holewinski/Schreier to approve the Minutes of December 17, 2025.

Vote on Motion: 6 Aye; 1 Absent, Showalter

Motion: Passes

Public comment: None

Create Public Health LTE Epidemiologist Position:

Conlon stated that this proposal is to create an LTE epidemiologist. Conlon reported that the position is fully grant-funded and is a regional position. Conlon explained that there were grants available for five regions and in each region a county was selected to house those grant dollars. Conlon reported that Oneida County was selected to house the grant dollars for the Northern Region. Conlon explained that this is a short-term grant with a timeframe of under two years. Conlon noted that a discussion was had and it was determined to create this as an LTE position. Conlon explained the duties of the position and stated that it is grant-funded, noting that there is no cost to the County. Discussion regarding the position ending when the funding ends. Conlon stated that the duties that would be completed by this position are not duties that are currently being done, clarifying that this is not a duplication of services. Schreier stated this is a regional-level position and benefits all of the counties involved.

Parker Lee entered at 8:36 a.m.

Motion/Second: Jensen/Hess to create the Health LTE Epidemiologist Position as presented. All "Aye"; Student Aye; Motion passes.

Resolution to Authorize the Expenditure of Opioid Settlement Funds allocated to Oneida County in accordance with Wisconsin Act 57 of 2021 and Oneida County Resolution # 58 – 2022 for the purpose of Treatment Alternative and Diversion (TAD) grant writing: Human Service Department Director Beth Hoerchler explained that the CJCC committee did a 5 year strategic action plan to provide guidance on how the Opioid Funding could be spent. Hoerchler noted

that a number of those initiatives could be funded by the Treatment Alternative and Diversion Grant. Hoerchler explained that currently, this grant is being received and it will be a competitive grant for 2027. Hoerchler noted that there will be a significant amount of grant writing to secure it for 2027. Hoerchler explained that the proposal is to hire a grant writer using Opioid Settlement Funds, noting that the person that they intend to use is the previous Human Service Department Director Mary Rideout. Jensen noted that the expertise of the Grant writer makes a difference and the committee was very much in favor of this. Schreier reported that in the future a Grant Writing position would be something that would benefit the County, this would potentially pay for itself, and the cost may be able to be allocated to the Grant itself. Schreier noted that in this case, this is the person that has written for this grant before and has the experience. Rideout explained that the program being proposed is the establishment of a Treatment Court dealing with people with substance abuse addiction. Rideout reported that part of the grant writing is to establish what does the program look like and what Oneida County wants. Rideout noted that there may also be a coordinator position that would coordinate the Treatment Courts written into the grant, the funding brought in by this grant is estimated to be about \$350,000 to \$400,000 per year to support those initiatives. Discussion regarding funding and what would happen if the funding was no longer available. Rideout noted that if you get the initial competitive grant, you are pretty much guaranteed to get it for five years. Rideout noted that the reapplication is not as intense as the initial application which is more of a determining factor.

Motion/Second: Schreier/Holewinski to approve the Expenditure of Opioid Settlement Funds allocated to Oneida County in accordance with Wisconsin Act 57 of 2021 and Oneida County Resolution # 58 – 2022 for the purpose of Treatment Alternative and Diversion (TAD) grant writing.

Vote on Motion: 5 Aye; 1 Nay, Fried; 1 Absent, Showalter; 1 Student Aye

Motion: Passes

UW-EX Office Restructure Proposal: UW Extension Director Amber Rehburg explained that during the budget process, it was determined that the full-time Administrative Support position may have some capacity to complete other work. Rehburg explained that this proposal is still fluid and in the works. Rehburg explained the proposed process. Rehburg reported that there is a google form that Department Heads can fill out and request the UW Extension Administrative Support position to work on projects. Discussion regarding the structure, barriers and benefits of implementing this. Fried noted that approval of the committee is needed.

Motion/Second: Holewinski/ Schreier to approve the UW-Extension Office Restructure proposal as presented. All “Aye”; 1 Student Aye; Motion passes.

Highway Department Work Schedules: Highway Commissioner Alex Hegeman explained that there was a memo in the packet explaining the timeline of what has been happening over the last several weeks. Hegeman reported that in the fall of 2022 the work schedule changed to 4 days a week at 10 hour days year round. Hegeman noted that this was not brought to the Public Works Committee or Executive Committee, because of that they were told they were in violation of the County Code. Hegeman explained that to be in compliance with County Code they moved back to 5 days a week. Hegeman stated that the Public Works Committee met and recommended that they go back to the 4 days at 10 hours until the Committee makes a final decision. Jensen explained that this is temporary until there is more information and more of a decision is determined, this will then be brought back to the Executive Committee. Discussion regarding flexing hours by projecting the weather forecast.

Zoom ended at 9:28 a.m. break ensued.

Return from break 9:48 re-establishing zoom.

Highway Department Work Schedules: Fried noted that if this can be managed successfully in this interim, it would establish the effectiveness. Holewinski stated that the four ten-hour days is costing the County money, noting that revolving days during the week may work better. Holewinski stated we are not done looking at this. Schreier stated we need to be in compliance with our County Code. Fried stated that Corporation Counsel was consulted and if this was changed long-term it would need to go to the County Board. Fried noted that this temporary adjustment can be approved by the Committee of Jurisdiction and the Executive Committee. Discussion regarding what is allowed under County Code. Discussion regarding the Motion made at Public Works, it was determined that the Executive Committee could not amend that Motion based on feedback from Corporation Counsel. Motion made by Public Works as follows: Motion by Jensen/Almekinder to return to the four-day workweek, Monday through Thursday on a temporary basis for highway personnel other than the office and forward on to the executive committee for their consideration. Motion carried.

Motion/Second: Fried/Fisher to support the temporary work schedule as presented by the Public Works Committee listing the four-day work week as Monday through Thursday.

Discussion: Lueneburg requested clarification of the summer versus winter hours, noting that this position will be advertised and this information will be relayed to new employees. Hegeman stated that he would like to get this determined as soon as possible. Schreier noted that County Code states there needs to be a bonafied business reason for changing the hours, not just a poll of the employees. Schreier stated there needs to be a fiscal reason for this change, with proof, based on the language of the County Code.

Vote on Motion: Schreier, Aye; Fisher, Aye; Fried, Aye; Holewinski, Nay; Hess, Aye; Jensen, Aye
Motion: Passes

Jensen left the meeting at 10:23 a.m.

One Big Beautiful Bill Act – “No Tax on Overtime”: Smigielski reported that this bill was passed in July. Smigielski explained that normally the change would be effective for the following year, however this was retroactive for January 1, 2025. Smigielski clarified that this provision is actually a deduction. Smigielski reported this is not an exemption, just a tax deduction and only when overtime is mandated. Smigielski went over all of the different pay rates and what is considered overtime per FLSA. Smigielski noted that the County pays overtime in many other instances that is really not considered overtime per FLSA. Smigielski explained that this will probably be in the form of a memo as the W2’s formatting has not been adjusted to allow for the reporting of this.

Public comment: None

Dates and items for future agenda/meetings: The next meeting date was set for January 28th.

Closed Session - It is anticipated that a motion will be made, seconded, and approved by roll call vote to enter into closed session pursuant Section 19.85(1) (c), Wisconsin Stats., “considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which this body has jurisdiction or responsibility” (Topic: performance evaluation review for Human Resources Director). A roll call vote will be taken to go into closed session and it is anticipated that the Committee will return to open session by roll call vote to consider the remainder of the meeting agenda.

Announcement of action taken in closed session, or take action based on closed session (NOTE: If the announcement of action taken in closed session would compromise the need for the closed session, the action taken will not be announced. Any action taken in closed session may be announced when the need for the closed session has passed).

Motion/Second: Holewinski/Schreier to go into Closed Session at 10:38.m.

Roll Call Vote: Holewinski, Aye; Fried, Aye; Fisher, Aye; Hess, Aye; Schreier, Aye

Motion: Passes

Motion/Second: Holewinski/Schreier to return to Open Session at 12:15 p.m.

Roll Call Vote: Holewinski, Aye; Fried, Aye; Fisher, Aye; Hess, Aye; Schreier, Aye

Motion: Passes

Announcement: Chairman Fried announced that while in closed session no Motions were made and no action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT:

Chairman Fried adjourned the meeting at 12:16 p.m.