

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
DECEMBER 17, 2025  
MINUTES**

**Committee members present:** Chairman Billy Fried; Scott Holewinski; Russ Fisher; Robb Jensen; Dan Hess; Steven Schreier; Connor 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. Fried welcomed Supervisor Dan Hess as the replacement for the vacancy created by Supervisor Harris no longer being on the County Board. Fried expressed sorrow at the passing of John Sweeney.

**Approve Agenda:**

**Motion/Second: Jensen/Showalter** to approve today's Agenda with the order of items at the Chair's discretion. All "Aye"; Motion carried.

**Approve the Minutes of November 19, 2025:**

**Motion/Second: Holewinski/Schreier** to approve the Minutes of November 19, 2025.

**Vote on Motion:** 6 Aye; 1 Abstain, Hess

**Motion:** Passes

**Public comment:** None

**Bug Tussel Update – Consultant Vacancy and Work Plan:** Fried explained that with the loss of Mr. John Sweeney who was the Oneida County Consultant working with Bug Tussel, a plan needs to be developed. Fried stated that we need to identify what was being worked on or pending and asked the department heads to attend this meeting to make sure that nothing gets missed in this transition. Discussion with Forestry and Tony Pharo regarding a tower that was in the works with Bug Tussel. Administrative Coordinator Tracy Hartman noted that there is a meeting set up with Bug Tussel and the tower can be added to the list to discuss with them. Forestry Director Jill Nemec explained that the tower was to be on a parcel that was withdrawn from County Forest Law; if this project does not happen the parcel will need to be reenrolled into County Forest Law. Fried noted that this should be worked on with Corporation Counsel, the Administrative Coordinator, Finance and Forestry to work on a direction. Nemec explained that Sweeney was working on an additional tower. Fried directed Nemec to work on the details and the additional tower will be discussed at the next meeting. Land Information Director Sara Chiamulera stated that her office was involved in planning the routes and connecting the buildings, this is something that is ongoing. Fried noted that the discussion regarding the laterals will be discussed with Bond Counsel in Closed Session. Finance Director Tina Smigielski reported that she had a discussion with Bug Tussel that she will share in closed session. Smigielski explained that there were five outstanding items that Sweeney was working on; monitoring completion of the project using Bond Funds, completing the facility use agreement, the laterals, the potential tower site, and a potential loan with Bug Tussel in lieu of ARPA funds. Smigielski noted that there was a Resolution some time ago that Oneida County would be willing to enter a loan with Bug Tussel as the project was delayed, however Bug Tussel has not approached us to pursue a loan. Schreier questioned what was happening with the vacancy and expressed concern that there is no longer a consultant for the project. Fried noted that this would need to be considered. Discussion regarding the need for Closed Session. Discussion regarding access to Sweeneys' emails. Hartman stated that part of the goal today is to determine how we want to fill this role. Discussion regarding

some of the questions that were being worked on with Bug Tussel. Smigielski reported that there is a meeting scheduled for January 21<sup>st</sup> to go over these with Bug Tussel. Discussion regarding options of filling the role. Hess reported that Sweeney, Ken Kortenhoff and himself initially did the radio infrastructure for the County in the past. Hess stated that Kortenhoff would be interested in filling this void. Holewinski stated that this is an option, but would like to discuss more after Closed Session.

**Closed Session** - It is anticipated that a motion will be made, seconded, and approved by roll call vote to enter into closed session pursuant to Section 19.85(10) (g) "conferring with legal counsel for the governmental body who is rendering oral or written advice concerning strategy to be adopted by the body with respect to litigation in which it is or is likely to become involved" (Topic: Bug Tussel / Bond Counsel Update) and pursuant to 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: Judicial Assistant Compensation). 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 /Hess** to go into Closed Session at 8:55 a.m.

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

**Motion:** Passes

**Motion/Second: Hess/Holewinski** to return to Open Session at 10:03 a.m.

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

**Motion:** Passes

*Student did not return from Closed Session.*

*Break called at 10:35 a.m.*

*Return from break at 10:43 a.m.*

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

**Motion/Second: Jensen/Hess** to approve the Judicial Assistant Patti Finlan grade level H to step 9, effective December 6<sup>th</sup> with a move to a step 10 effective February 2, 2026 contingent upon a satisfactory January 30, 2026 performance review. All "Aye"; Motion passes.

**Resolution to reclassify a full-time Finance Specialist to a full-time Accountant, and a part-time Finance Specialist to a part-time Finance Technician:** Smigielski stated that this change was discussed in past meetings, the position that is being vacated is going from full-time to a 60 % position. Smigielski explained that she is intending on upgrading her existing full-time employee to an Accountant position in addition to the change in the part-time position.

**Motion/Second: Schreier/Fisher** to approve the reclassification of a full-time Finance Specialist to a full-time Accountant, and a part time Finance Specialist to a part-time Finance Technician as a consent agenda item. All "Aye"; Motion passes.

**Bug Tussel Update – Consultant Vacancy and Work Plan:** Discussion regarding a person reaching out to former Oneida County employee Ken Kortenhoff regarding consulting. Fried directed Hartman to reach out to Kortenhoff.

**Motion/Second: Jensen/Fried** to direct Administrative Coordinator Tracy Hartman to discuss the Bug Tussel Consultant position vacancy with Ken Kortenhoff and if interested offer the position, funded through previously approved funding. All “Aye”; Motion passes.

**Medical Examiner Call Time Pay:** Lueneburg stated this was already discussed at the March 12<sup>th</sup> meeting, this is for Medical Examiner LTE workers. Lueneburg went over the proposed changes. Discussion regarding call pay. Hartman noted that the Medical Examiners on-call/LTE workers typically are not employees, full-time employees that are on call get additional benefits as a full-time employee. Hartman explained that it is harder to retain the Medical Examiner LTE workers as the only benefit is the pay.

**Motion/Second: Schreier/Holewinski** to accept the proposed change to the Employee Handbook regarding the Medical Examiner Call Time pay as proposed. All “Aye”; Motion passes.

**Resolution to Authorize the engagement of outside counsel on a contingency fee basis to initiate lawsuit(s) against companies that designed, manufactured, marketed, distributed, and/or sold Fluorosurfactant Products that contaminated the soil, groundwater and surface water of Oneida County with highly toxic compounds:** Lynch stated that this Resolution would authorize outside counsel to file lawsuits on our behalf. Lynch explained that they will not be compensated unless we receive a financial benefit. Lynch went over the details of the Resolution. Discussion regarding any adjustments.

**Motion/Second: Fried/Schreier** to approve the final Resolution and forward it on to the County Board for its consideration as a Consent Agenda item. All “Aye”; Motion passes.

**Monthly reports (including invoices paid, budget to actual) and department updates:**

- a. LRES – Reports were received.
- b. Finance – Reports were received.
- c. ITS – Reports were received.
- d. Treasurer – Reports were received.
- e. County Clerk – Reports were received.

**Public comment:** None

**Dates and items for future agenda/meetings:**

The next meeting date was set for January 14, 2026.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

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

DRAFT