

MINUTES
Oneida County Board of Supervisors
Tuesday, May 19th, 2026 – 9:30 a.m.
County Board Meeting Room - 2nd Floor Oneida County Courthouse

CALL TO ORDER:

Vice Chairman Fisher called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. in the County Board Meeting Room of the Oneida County Courthouse. There was a brief moment of silence for our troops, law enforcement officers and emergency responders, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Prayer was offered by Supervisor Condado.

Members Present: Robert Briggs, Debbie Condado, Dan Hess, Lenore Lopez, Greg Oettinger, Russ Fisher, Billy Fried, Ted Cushing, Robb Jensen, Michael Tautges, Chris Schultz, Bob Almekinder, Sandy Hamburg, Andrea Sheppard, Mary Roth Burns, Kyle Kilbourn, and Linnaea Newman.

Absent: Holewinski, Sorgel, Timmons

Vacant: District 1

Members Present: 17

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY CHAIR, CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATIONS:

- Please use a microphone when speaking.

ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 21, 2026 MEETING:

Motion/Second: Cushing/Briggs to accept the Minutes of the April 21, 2026 meeting. All “Aye”; Motion carried.

REPORTS/PRESENTATIONS:

- Broadband Report – Ken Korten Hof explained that a priority for the County was hooking up all of the county buildings. Korten Hof reported that this is being worked on, and they are moving ahead. Tony Pharo, Executive Director of the Oneida County Economic Development Corporation gave an update on the Bead Bob Grant, reporting that Oneida County is receiving \$34 Million dollars with the grant and the match. Pharo presented a brief overview.
- Forestry 2025 Annual Report – Forestry Director Jill Nemec presented her annual Report, noting that a copy is in the packet. Nemec went over highlights of the report. Nemec reported that Timber Stumpage came in under budget for 2025. Nemec presented some of the culvert projects. Nemec noted that there were only 24 days of a snowmobile season for the 2025 season. Nemec reported that the retaining wall at Buck Lake was removed last year with the help of the Highway Department. Nemec explained that Oneida County was audited for 2024 and it was a completely clean audit.

PUBLIC COMMENT (time limit of three minutes):

- Sign attendance form at the podium. Ed Duda of Minocqua spoke in favor of the purchase of land in the Town of Minocqua by the DNR. Garret Price of Harshaw spoke in support of the land purchase in the Town of Minocqua.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Resolution # 33 – 2026: Offered by the Supervisors of the Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) Committee to accept a donation from St. Theresa of Avila.

Resolution to accept Donation from St. Theresa of Avila.

Resolution approved for presentation to the Oneida County Board by the Supervisors of the

Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) Committee.

Resolved by the Board of Supervisors of Oneida County, Wisconsin:

WHEREAS, Wisconsin State Statutes 59.52(19) requires that the County Board approves all donations to the county; and

WHEREAS, Oneida County Resolution #37-2019 adopted the Oneida County Acceptance of Monetary, Non-Monetary and In-Kind Donation Policy; and

WHEREAS, The ADRC was notified on April 2nd, 2026 that a donation totaling \$1,000 will be made to the ADRC of Oneida County by St. Theresa of Avila; and

WHEREAS, The donation requires the specific use of funds provided is for the ADRC Senior Nutrition Program Three Lakes Meal Site; and

WHEREAS, The ADRC provides essential nutrition services to the adult, aging and disabled citizens of Oneida County and the donation would benefit the citizens of Oneida County; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Oneida County Board of Supervisors that Oneida County accepts the generous donation from St. Theresa of Avila; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Oneida County Board of Supervisors that the Oneida County ADRC Committee will approve use of any and all funds provided through this donation for use in the ADRC Senior Nutrition Program.

Approved for presentation to the County Board by the ADRC Committee this 27th day of April, 2026.

Offered and passage moved by: Joan Hauer, Melanie Fralick, Debbie Condado, Linnaea Newman, James Unger

Resolution # 34 – 2026: Offered by the Supervisors of the Land Records Committee to Convey Excess County Lands, parts of PL-299-2, to Joseph R. Klass and Holly C. Klass.

Resolution to convey excess county lands to Joseph & Holly Klaas

Resolution approved for presentation to the Oneida County Board by the Supervisors of the Land Records Committee.

Resolved by the Board of Supervisors of Oneida County, Wisconsin:

WHEREAS, Oneida County retained a 100 foot strip of land on each side of the center line of existing roads crossing the SW ¼ - SW ¼ of Section 9, Township 37 North, Range 9 East, as recorded in the Register of Deeds, Volume 64 of Deeds on Page 271, Document # 109755, recorded on April 3rd, 1941; and,

WHEREAS, a request has been made to Oneida County from the adjoining landowner(s) listed in Exhibit A requesting that a portion of said strip(s) of land described above and adjacent to Pine Lake Rd be conveyed to them as they are the present adjoining owner(s) of the land, and they have paid the \$250.00 administrative fee to process this request; and,

WHEREAS, the Town of Pine Lake has been notified of this request and the Land Records Committee recommends that the parcel(s) described in Exhibit A be conveyed to the adjoining landowner(s), provided the Town of Pine Lake does not have any objection to said conveyance; and,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Oneida County Board of Supervisors hereby approves conveying the parcel(s) described in Exhibit A to the adjoining landowner(s), and authorizes the County Clerk, upon receipt of the \$30 deed recording fee(s), to issue a quit claim deed conveying any interest the County has in the description(s) noted below in Exhibit A.

Approved for presentation to the County Board by the Land Records Committee this 5th day of May, 2026.

Offered and passage moved by: Robert Briggs, Chris Schultz, Lenore Lopez, Kyle Timmons

Resolution # 35 – 2026: Offered by the Supervisors of the Land Records Committee to Convey Excess County Lands, Part of LT-143-1 and LT-154-1, to the State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the Town of Lake Tomahawk.

Resolution to convey excess county lands to State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and Town of Lake Tomahawk.

Resolution approved for presentation to the Oneida County Board by the Supervisors of the Land Records Committee.

Resolved by the Board of Supervisors of Oneida County, Wisconsin:

WHEREAS, Oneida County retained a 100 foot strip of land on each side of the center line of existing roads crossing the SW ¼ - NE ¼ and the NW ¼ - SE ¼ of Section 12, Township 38 North, Range 7 East, as recorded in the Register of Deeds, Volume 42 of Deeds on Page 556, Document # 100835, recorded on September 8th, 1937; and,

WHEREAS, a request has been made to Oneida County from the adjoining landowner State of Wisconsin Department Natural Resources requesting that a portion of said strip of land described above adjacent to River Rd. be conveyed to them as they're the present adjoining owner(s) of the land, and has paid the \$250.00 administrative fee to process this request; and,

WHEREAS, the Town of Lake Tomahawk has been notified of such request, and if the Town has no objection to accepting a conveyance for a part of River Rd. right-of-way, the Land Records Committee recommends that the parcel(s) described in Exhibit A be conveyed to the adjoining landowner(s) and the Town; and,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Oneida County Board of Supervisors hereby approves conveying the parcel(s) described in Exhibit A to the adjoining landowner(s) and the Town as listed in Exhibit A, and the Board authorizes the County Clerk, upon receipt of the \$30 deed recording fee(s), to issue a quit claim deed conveying any interest the County has in the description(s) described in Exhibit A.

Approved for presentation to the County Board by the Land Records Committee this 5th day of May, 2026.

Offered and passage moved by: Robert Briggs, Chris Schultz, Lenore Lopez, Kyle Timmons

Resolution # 36 – 2026: Offered by the Supervisors of the Executive Committee to Close Certain Projects Using Opioid Settlement Funds Allocated to Oneida County in Accordance with Wisconsin Act 57 of 2021 and Oneida County Resolution # 58 – 2022.

Resolution to Close Certain Projects Using Opioid Settlement Funds allocated to Oneida County in Accordance with Wisconsin Act 57 of 2021 and Oneida County Resolution #58-2022.

Resolution approved for presentation to the Oneida County Board by the Supervisors of the Executive Committee.

Resolved by the Board of Supervisors of Oneida County, Wisconsin:

WHEREAS, in 2021, a nationwide settlement agreement was reached by and between several pharmaceutical companies and a class containing most states, counties, and a number of cities and municipalities; and

WHEREAS, in 2021, the Governor signed legislation (2021 Wisconsin Act 57) which outlines the distribution and use of Wisconsin's share of settlement funds of over \$400 million, with 70% of the proceeds being allocated to Wisconsin counties; and

WHEREAS, in 2022, the Wisconsin Joint Committee on Finance approved a plan which earmarks counties' use of the funds toward abatement efforts; and

WHEREAS, in 2022, Oneida County adopted Resolution #58-2022 agreeing to the settlement terms with total settlement proceeds estimated to be \$1.48 million; and

WHEREAS, projects and programs benefiting from the funds must comply with the Settlement

Agreement restrictions of expenditures limited to defined categories of Treatment, Prevention, and Other Strategies; and

WHEREAS, Project #1 approved via Resolution #105-2024 for the purpose of 2025 Treatment Alternative and Diversion (TAD) Grant project is complete for a total of \$23,187.00, resulting in the return of \$0.00 to the Opioid Settlement Fund Balance; and,

WHEREAS, Project #5 approved via Resolution #80-2025 for the purpose of Hearing Room Improvements project is complete for a total of \$22,717.26, resulting in the return of \$7,282.74 to the Opioid Settlement Fund Balance; and,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Executive Committee is in agreement and recommends the projects described herein be closed and any unused funds returned to the Opioid Settlement Fund Balance; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Oneida County Board of Supervisors that by Adoption of this resolution authorizes the Finance Director to make any necessary transfers of funds.

Approved for presentation to the County Board by the Executive Committee this 6th day of May, 2026.

Offered and passage moved by: Billy Fried, Scott Holewinski, Russ Fisher, Dan Hess, Debbie Condado, Michael Tautges

- Appointments to Committees, Commissions and other Organizations:
 - Re-Appoint Dawn Winquist to the Oneida Vilas Transit Commission for a 3-year term to expire in April 2029.
 - Appoint Chris Schultz to the Bear Lake District
 - Appoint Robb Jensen to the Crescent Lake District.
 - Appoint Dan Hess to the Horsehead Lake District.
 - Appoint Dan Hess to the Mid Lake District.
 - Appoint Chris Schultz to the Lake Nokomis Lake District.
 - Appoint Linnaea Newman to the Squash Lake District.
 - Appoint Collette Sorgel to the Thunder Lake District.
 - Appoint Ann Huntoon to the Board of Health for a 3-year term from June 2026 to May 2029

Motion/Second: Cushing/Hess to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Roll Call Vote: 17 Aye; 3 Absent, Holewinski, Timmons, Sorgel; 1 Vacant, District 1

Motion: Adopted

CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTIONS & ORDINANCES

Resolution # 37 – 2026: Offered by the Supervisors of the Executive Committee to Support the DNR Land Acquisition of Land within the Town of Minocqua Using Funding from the Warren Knowles Gaylord Nelson Stewardship Program.

Resolution to Support the DNR Land Acquisition of Land within the Town of Minocqua Using Funding from the Warren Knowles Gaylord Nelson Stewardship Program.

Resolution approved for presentation to the Oneida County Board by the Supervisors of the Executive Committee.

Resolved by the Board of Supervisors of Oneida County, Wisconsin:

Whereas, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WiDNR) seeks to acquire land contiguous to other WiDNR property along the Upper Tomahawk River corridor; and

Whereas, the parcels proposed for acquisition are MI-1083 and MI-1086 in the Town of Minocqua, totaling approximately 77 acres; and

Whereas, the subject property is a continuous block of land with two-bank frontage along the

Tomahawk River; and

Whereas, the property has frontage along a town road enabling access for public recreation; and
Whereas, the property lies within the Upper Tomahawk River corridor which connects to the Willow Flowage, which has an Outstanding Resource Water designation, thereby enabling protection of such waters; and

Whereas, the acquisition is limited in scope and consistent with ownership of properties along the Tomahawk River corridor between Camp Nine Road and the Willow Flowage;

Now, Therefore Be It Resolved that Oneida County supports the proposed acquisition of subject property described above and the use of Knowles-Nelson Stewardship funds to acquire the property as per Wis. Stats. 23.0917(5t)(b); said support shall include WisDNR coordination with the Town of Minocqua for development of parking adjacent to the public roadway to enable safe public access to the property, working with the Town of Minocqua and local clubs as needed for continued use of motorized routes along the public roadway, and providing access for the Minocqua Fire Department to install a dry fire hydrant to improve firefighting resources in this rural area of the Town.

Resolution approved for presentation to the Oneida County Board by the Supervisors of the Executive Committee.

Approved for presentation to the County Board by the Executive Committee this 6th day of May, 2026.

Offered and passage moved by: Billy Fried, Scott Holewinski, Russ Fisher, Dan Hess, Debbie Condado, Michael Tautges

Discussion: Fried reported that he was a representative of the Town of Minocqua, and the Executive Committee supported this Resolution. Fried discussed the Monico purchase, noting that he did not support that purchase as the Town was not in favor of it. Fried explained that in the Monico purchase, there was not a lot of input and collaboration with the county and town. Fried reported that the Town of Monico also did not support that purchase. Fried explained that the Town of Minocqua supports this purchase. Fried expressed his encouragement for the County Board to support this. Fried stated that Minocqua is one of the biggest Towns in not only the State but of the Country. Fried stated that this purchase allows for public access to the Tomahawk River. Fried also explained that if this is done, they want to make sure that this is not limited to only silent sports usage. Fried went over the potential for a dry hydrant for firetrucks. Administrative Coordinator/County Clerk Tracy Hartman read portions of the Resolution that County Board Chair Scott Holewinski had presented to the Executive Committee. Hartman presented the three main points: in 2025 the Oneida County Comprehensive Plan was adopted with the intent to minimize any purchase of land or easement using any federal, state or local tax dollars; the purchase would impact the tax base; the property is currently zoned as rural residential property at this time, which is specifically intended for residential development.

Motion/Second: Fried/Tautges to Amend Resolution # 37 – 2026 to insert after the (.) on line 33, add the following wording: said support shall include WisDNR coordination with the Town of Minocqua for development of parking adjacent to the public roadway to enable safe public access to the property, working with the Town of Minocqua and local clubs as needed for continued use of motorized routes along the public roadway, and providing access for the Minocqua Fire Department to install a dry fire hydrant to improve firefighting resources in this rural area of the Town.

Roll Call Vote on Amendment to Resolution # 37 – 2026: 17 Aye; 3 Absent, Holewinski, Sorgel, Timmons; 1 Vacant, District 1

Amendment to Resolution # 37 – 2026: Passes

Discussion: Jensen questioned what type of land surrounds this purchase. Tautges stated there are thousands of acres that are state owned and this purchase would give them an access point. Jensen stated that there is growth potential in that area and we either support using tax dollars for

purchasing land or we do not. Tautges noted that this parcel is way out in the forest and a considerable distance from downtown Minocqua. Jensen noted that this Resolution is totally advisory in nature. Tautges explained that this will make this a safer access point. Discussion regarding the buildability of the land.

Roll Call Vote on Amended Resolution # 37 – 2026: 15 Aye; 2 Nay, Oettinger, Briggs; 3 Vacant, Holewinski, Timmons, Sorgel; 1 Vacant District 1

Amended Resolution # 37 – 2026: Passes

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 (1)(e) Deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session. (Topic: Winnebago St. Building Offer to Purchase). It is anticipated that the County Board 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: Jensen/Hess to go into Closed Session at 10:10 a.m.

Roll Call Vote: 17 Aye; 3 Absent, Holewinski, Sorgel, Timmons; 1 Vacant, District 1

Motion: Adopted

Motion/Second: Cushing /Newman to return to Open Session at 10:34 a.m.

Roll Call Vote: 17 Aye; 3 Absent, Holewinski, Sorgel, Timmons; 1 Vacant, District 1

Motion: Adopted

Announcement: Vice Chairman Fisher announced that when in closed session, there was no action taken.

NEXT MEETING DATE AND TIME June 16th, 2026 @ 9:30 a.m.

Unless a motion is made to change the starting time.

ADJOURNMENT:

Vice Chairman Fisher adjourned the meeting at 10:36 a.m.