

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
JULY 15, 2026
MINUTES**

Committee members present: Chairman Billy Fried; Debbie Condado; Michael Tautges; Dan Hess, Russ Fisher, Scott Holewinski, 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/Tautges to approve today's Agenda with the order of items at the Chair's discretion. All "Aye"; Motion passes.

Approve Minutes of June 17, 2026:

Motion/Second: Holewinski/Condado to approve the Minutes of the June 17, 2026 Meeting. All "Aye"; Motion passes.

Public comment: None

PFAS Point of Contact / Committee:

Fried explained that the County is involved in litigation at this time and he felt there should be a discussion regarding PFAS. Corporation Counsel Chad Lynch stated that the only issue that he is aware of is Solid Waste at this time. Lynch noted that other potential issues are going on with the towns. Fried reported that it is good that the County is aware of these issues. Jensen explained that you don't really want the committees repeating the same discussion topics. Hartman questioned what the point would be of an actual committee, as there are so many issues with PFAS that are separate issues. Hess stated that this is a DNR issue and they are in charge of water; people should be going to their website for information. Hess explained that Health, Conservation, and Solid Waste each have different issues. Lynch stated that down the road a committee may be a good idea, but the DNR is the lead on this at this point. Discussion regarding potential litigation issues.

2026 in Rem parcel summary:

Treasurer Tara Ostermann presented her list of delinquent taxpayers that are in the In-Rem process. Ostermann stated that she will be requesting the Sheriff's Office to visit any properties that have a structure on it. Ostermann reported that there is one with a public health judgment for non-inhabitable housing on it. Ostermann explained the process for delinquent properties.

Request to Create Two LTE WI Home Energy Assistance Program Assistant Positions:

Human Service Department Director Beth Hoerchler reported that their department administers the Fuel Program and in the past has been processed through their Economic Support Department. Hoerchler stated that a lot is going on in the Economic Support Department and they want to move who is in charge of the Fuel Program. Hoerchler stated that they are looking to add 2 LTE positions and move the program to the Timber Drive location to be administered under Financial Services Supervisor Heidi Chavez. Discussion ensued regarding funding, it was determined that the LTE positions would be funded through the state.

Motion/Second: Hess/Cushing to approve the two LTE WI Home Energy Assistance Positions as presented, with funding to come from the state. All "Aye"; Motion passes.

Human Services Out-Of-Home Placement Budget:

Jensen stated there are tables with the average out-of-home costs in the packet. Jensen reported that these reports break down the yearly cost to the County. Hoerchler presented the different types of placement, noting that this can cost up to \$750/day for a Correctional Placement. Hoerchler explained that there are currently no kids placed in a Corrections Placement at this time, Residential Treatment Care is for highly behavioral kids that need a lot of services, Group Home Placements are typically an 8-bed placement with in-house staff, Foster-care Placements are based on the needs of the kids and are more of a home living situation, and the least costly is the Kinship Care Placements that are family or "like" family placements. Discussion regarding budgeting for the increased costs. Hoerchler noted that Residential care costs have increased significantly. Discussion regarding future budgeting. Fried questioned how to minimize the increased cost or what strategies could be adopted. Discussion regarding cost and Foster Home availability.

Bug Tussel Update:

Hartman stated that one of the things that they have been trying to accomplish is the connectivity to all of the County buildings. Hartman explained that they have completed the connections to all of the County sites that we have requested. IT Director Jason Rhodes presented an update on Solid Waste. Rhodes reported that they now have connectivity and they are on the County System. Rhodes noted that they also have WIFI and they are currently working on adding them to the County phone system. Hartman stated that they should start seeing an increase in customers as portions of Minocqua and Three Lakes are now live.

State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program / Security Enhancement Grant Award:

Rhodes stated that they have obtained a grant for cybersecurity updates through Emergency Management. Rhodes explained that this will save some costs in the 2027 budget. Rhodes reported that this is in the amount of \$97,500. Rhodes noted that he will need approval and a signature from the County Board Chair.

Motion/Second: Hess/Fisher to approve the State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program / Security Enhancement Grant 2023-SLCGP-01-14690 in the amount of \$97,500. All "Aye"; Motion passes.

2027 Health Insurance Plan Update:

Lueneburg stated they are going out to bid for the Health Plan and should get those back in August. Lueneburg stated that the renewal is not ready for 2027 at this time but looks to be an increase of approximately 5% to 6%. Lueneburg noted that this would be a modest increase. Fried asked Lueneburg to look at other counties and school districts to see what the employees' share of Health Insurance is.

Paid Time Off Policies and allowable balances:

Fried stated that if a change is to be looked into, this would be something that would be implemented for new hires. Fried stated that some of these high PTO payout balances are a big financial liability to the County. Discussion regarding PTO payout balances and how PTO is earned. Lueneburg explained that employees can save up to 1000 hours of PTO. Hartman noted that for most of these employees who have larger balances, it would actually be a hardship to the department if these employees actually used it. Hess stated that 1000 hours banked is really not a lot for a longer-term employee. Lueneburg referenced the list presented, noting that there are not a lot of employees in this range. Fried stated that there are changes that can be made for future employees. Discussion regarding the amount of banked hours and the value. Holewinski stated that we are not talking about a lot of people; we should not look at cutting the employees.

Highway Finance Technician Overlap Training:

Lueneburg stated that at the Highway Department there is a changeover in office staff; the Finance Technician will be taking over the Finance Specialist position. Lueneburg stated that the Finance Technician position has been hired and it is an employee within the County. Lueneburg stated that overlap training of one week was requested for the person moving into the Finance Technician position. Discussion regarding the need for overlap training.

Motion/Second: Fried/Cushing to approve the Highway Finance Technician overlap training as presented for one week.

Vote on Motion: 6 Aye; 1 Nay, Holewinski

Motion: Passes

Department Head Vacancy Updates:

Lueneburg reported that the new Finance Director, Heather Marheine, is starting Monday, July 20th. Lueneburg explained that the Planning and Zoning Director is currently being recruited for. Lueneburg stated that the tentative date of retirement is August 31, 2026. Lueneburg went over options for posting the position and the difficulties they have had. Discussions regarding the options and challenges. Lueneburg was directed to pursue LinkedIn and to check with Planning and Zoning for funding.

Motion/Second: Fried/Cushing to authorize the Human Resource Director to pursue recruitment for the Planning and Zoning Director vacancy with funding to come from the Planning and Zoning Department; if that is not available, funding will be determined by this Committee. All "Aye"; Motion passes.

Public comment: None

Dates and items for future agenda/meetings:

The next date was set for July 29th.

ADJOURNMENT:

Chairman Fried adjourned the meeting at 10:32 a.m.