

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
JULY 30, 2025  
MINUTES**

**Committee members present:** Chairman Billy Fried; Robb Jensen; Scott Holewinski, Steven Schreier and Diana Harris

**Absent:** Russ Fisher, Connor Showalter

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

**Approve minutes of July 9, 2025:**

**Motion/Second: Schreier/Holewinski** to approve the Minutes of July 9, 2025. All "Aye"; Motion carried.

**Public comment:** None

**Bug Tussel Agreement Updates from project Manager and Legal Counsel:**

Legal Counsel David Schultz and Project Manager John Sweeney appeared via Zoom and presented a report to the Committee. Smigielski reported that she was contacted by Sweeney asking if they could give the Committee an update. Smigielski explained that in February, the Committee authorized keeping Schultz as legal counsel to work on the Promissory Note Agreement, Facility Use Agreement and Tower Lease Agreement. Schultz explained that there is not much of an update to provide. Schultz reported that requests were made to Bug Tussel to provide additional information on their financial position and the general status regarding the projects within the County. Schultz clarified that the laterals specifically were requested to be addressed in the response. Schultz noted that the requests were made in writing and that there were minimal responses and information received. Schultz stated that he has tried several times to schedule a meeting and they are not responding. Fried presented that if any of this needs to be done in closed session we can do that. Fried questioned if the County should be worried. Schultz advised that we should continue to request information and see if there is a reason to be concerned. Fried questioned if we should hold the money until we get responses. Schultz explained that the county has the authority to do that. Schultz stated there is unspent bond proceeds of about \$4 or \$5 Million that can be leveraged to get the information we are asking for. Discussion regarding the loan. Fried reported that a representative from Bug Tussel was at a County Board meeting about 6 months ago and this was to be worked out. Sweeney stated that we have not proceeded with the \$1.5 Million dollar loan as the laterals are not completed and we are not even having discussions at this point. Schreier asked if we have reached out to other counties to determine if they have issues also. Schultz explained that it would be appropriate to approach and discuss with other counties the status of their projects and if they have concerns. Sweeney stated that each county is set up different, the concern is that Bug Tussel is non-responsive. Schreier expressed concern and that he is leaning to withhold any future payments until discussions are had. Schreier noted that this is bad business practice and he does not know why they would want to bring work to a halt. Smigielski reported that she just authorized the release of \$400,000 in payments last week. Fried stated that we should discuss steps for the strategy in closed session.

**Motion/Second: Holewinski/Harris** to suspend the rules and enter into closed session early.

**Roll Call Vote:** Jensen, Aye; Holewinski, Aye; Fried, Aye; Schreier, Aye; Harris, Aye

**Motion:** 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) (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 (Topics: Fourth of July Overtime and Bug Tussel Agreement) and 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 – Corporation Counsel and Outpatient Manager 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: Schreier/Harris** to go into Closed Session at 8:59 a.m.

**Roll Call Vote:** Jensen, Aye; Holewinski, Aye; Fried, Aye; Schreier, Aye; Harris, Aye

**Motion:** Passes

**Motion/Second: Schreier/Harris** to return to Open Session at 9:33 a.m.

**Roll Call Vote:** Jensen, Aye; Holewinski, Aye; Fried, Aye; Schreier, Aye; Harris, Aye

**Motion:** Passes

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

**Update on Highway Department Space Needs Study and Possible CIP Projects:**

Highway Commissioner Alex Hegeman presented a report summary of the last Public Works meeting. Hegeman stated that they are reviewing CIP projects for the 2026 year. Hegeman stated that the total combined cost looks to be \$6.6 Million in requests from the General Fund. Fried explained that the specifics for the CIPs will be presented at a later time. Hegeman reported that discussion included the potential of a Space Needs Study. Fried explained that there was discussion of a Space Needs Study or possibly updating the Bariantos study from 2015. Jensen stated that the concern is that there is not a long term view of where we want to be. Jensen explained that it would be nice to see the costs and options. Hegeman presented some of the CIP projects. Hegeman stated that they are looking at an RFP for a consultant to do the design of electrical and drainage systems. Hegeman went over some of the proposed numbers. Discussion held regarding the direction of the facility. Schreier stated that he does not understand why this keeps coming to the Executive committee, whether there should be a new facility or updating the existing. Schreier stated that this needs to be determined by the Public Works Committee as they are the Committee of Jurisdiction. Schreier stated that the committee needs to determine a direction. Discussion regarding the history of the Highway Department. Jensen stated that we need the information to determine if the current site is adequate and we have enough space. Discussion ensued. Holewinski questioned if this is coming to Executive because the Committee of Jurisdiction cannot come to a consensus. Jensen stated that a committee of 5 does not make the decision of the full County Board. Hegeman

explained that he was tasked with making a long-range plan for the facility updates. Hegeman reported that he wants to be efficient with future projects and create a long-range plan so that things are planned out. Hegeman noted that ideally, this plan would be set before the new board is in place in April. Schreier stated that that is the responsibility of the Committee of Jurisdiction to make a determination, then that is brought forward to us. Schreier stated that if the members on that Committee can't do it, then put different people on that Committee. Schreier expressed concern that the determination of the direction should not be put on the shoulders of Hegeman, this is the responsibility of the Committee. Schreier explained that these delays are just a waste of time. Fried stated that the message is clear, Public Works needs to present a plan.

#### **Resolution to Provide a General Wage Increase for General Municipal Employees:**

Fried stated that in the packet is a Resolution for a General Wage increase. Lueneburg stated that the Resolution proposes a 2.64% for General Municipal employees to be placed in the 2026 budget. Lueneburg explained that this is based off of the CPI report. Fried questioned if by passing this, are we committed to this number. Charbarneau stated that this is a placeholder so Finance can prepare her information. Discussion regarding the language. Smigielski went over past practices. Fried stated that he is fine with this being budgeted.

**Motion/Second: Schreier/Harris** to direct the Finance Director and HR Director to include a COLA Increase of 2.64% in the staffing worksheet to be shared with department heads. All "Aye"; Motion passes.

#### **Resolution to Support the Potential Designation of the Apostle Islands as a National Park:**

Hartman stated that this was brought forward at County Board by a Representative of Tom Tiffany. Hartman explained that Supervisors Showalter and Holewinski requested that it be discussed at Executive Committee to consider. Hartman stated that she will provide the Fact Sheet that was submitted by the Representative. Schreier stated that there are news articles stating that Bayfield County passed Resolutions opposing this. Schreier stated he does not know why this is being proposed and why Oneida County would want to have a say. Schreier stated there is probably more information behind this. Jensen stated that he agrees, it looks that we are trying to influence and dictate what other Counties are doing. Fried stated that we are not taking action on this Resolution today. Hartman noted that this was brought forward to get the thoughts of this Committee. Hartman explained that if the Committee is not in support there is no reason that it needs to come back to this Committee. Fried stated that if a single supervisor wants to bring it to the full County Board they can.

#### **Resolution to Restructure and Reclassify Positions and Wages for the Solid Waste Department:**

Solid Waste Director Lisa Bauknecht stated that she has been working with Lueneburg on these proposed adjustments as they have been understaffed since April. Bauknecht explained that they are down several employees. Lueneburg reported that this has not been to the Committee of Jurisdiction, but they are proposing these changes as they have had a difficult time recruiting. Lueneburg reported that a supervisor position was created about a year ago, this is now vacant. Lueneburg explained that they are proposing eliminating this vacant position and creating a Scale Operator position. Lueneburg went over all of the proposed changes. Fried questioned if other employees from other departments could be utilized. Lueneburg explained that the Highway Department is struggling to fill positions also. Lueneburg stated that she feels these changes would be a cost-neutral effect. Discussion held regarding reclassing positions. Holewinski noted that revenues are more this year than anticipated. Discussion regarding the proposed changes. Lueneburg stated that this has been something that has been looked at and she wanted to bring this to the County Board for the August meeting. Holewinski expressed support for the changes and stated that the reason this was presented this way was that two employees left. Schreier questioned why this

did not go to the Committee of Jurisdiction. Lueneburg stated that she would like to see this go to the August County Board and the Committee of Jurisdiction does not meet until August 7<sup>th</sup>, the Motion should then be contingent on the Committee of Jurisdiction passing it at that meeting. Schreier stated this should not become standard process. Bauknecht stated that the Public Works Committee is aware of this coming forward to their meeting on the 7th.

**Motion/Second: Fried/Jensen** to forward the Resolution to Restructure and Reclassify Positions and Wages for the Solid Waste Department to the County Board contingent on approval of the Committee of Jurisdiction. All "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 Telehealth Services Expansion:**

Hoerchler stated that there are two telehealth rooms over at the Timber Drive location, this request is for technology and furniture for the second room. Hoerchler reported that this is a one-time expenditure. Schreier stated that this provides service for people younger than 18 years of age, which was not available in the past. Fried questioned the funding. Hoerchler explained that there is already a contract in place and there will be no additional Tax Levy needed.

**Motion/Second: Jensen/Schreier** to approve the 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 Telehealth Services Expansion and forward it on to the full County Board as a Consent Agenda item. All "Aye"; Motion passes.

**Resolution to Reclassify the Employee Services Manager Position:**

Hartman explained that this came about when the Human Resource Director position was filled and the Manager position was vacated. Charbarneau presented background on the position, explaining that this position is the assistant to the department head. Charbarneau stated that this position is critical to the department and does not feel that it should be changed. Harris questioned the reason for the change. Hartman stated that there was a concern when it was adjusted it may not have been appropriate at that time and this would be the time to change it. Holewinski explained that this position was rated higher than some department heads. Fried noted that Charbarneau was the Administrative Coordinator and the responsibilities are no longer in that office. Harris stated she has a hard time with this adjustment unless the duties or requirements are being changed. Discussion held regarding the duties of the Manager position.

**Motion/Second: Holewinski/Fried** to approve the Resolution to Reclassify the Employee Services Manager Position and forward it to the County Board.

**Roll Call Vote:** Fried, Aye; Holewinski, Aye; Jensen, Aye; Harris, No; Schreier, No

**Motion:** Passes

**Vouchers, reports (including invoices paid, budget to actual) purchase orders, line item transfers and updates:**

- LRES – Lueneburg reported that the budget to actual is in the packet. Lueneburg stated that everything is within budget and nothing is out of the ordinary. Lueneburg presented the Workers Compensation Report.
- b. Finance – Smigielski noted that the budget to actual is in the packet.
  - Investment Report – Smigielski explained that May and June reports are included in the packet. Smigielski presented updates on the different investments.

- Sales Tax by Month Report – Smigielski stated that sales tax year to date is just under \$3 Million. Smigielski stated that we are tracking as expected and she feels that we should be on budget. Smigielski reported that the state has made some changes and some retailers are remitting monthly versus quarterly, this could be why the numbers are looking different than in the past.
  - Audit Update Report – Smigielski stated that she has the draft final financial report with the anticipation of having it ready for the August County Board meeting. Smigielski reported that the Human Service Center report is in process and looks to be completed in September.
- c. ITS
- IT Planning update – Hartman explained that IT had a conflict with the time and presented a written report. Fried stated that this would be reviewed after closed session.

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**Motion/Second: Holewinski/Harris** to go into Closed Session at 10:55 a.m.

**Roll Call Vote:** Jensen, Aye; Holewinski, Aye; Fried, Aye; Schreier, Aye; Harris, Aye;

**Motion:** Passes

*12:33 p.m. Jensen excused from the Closed Session*

**Motion/Second: Fried/Schreier** to return to Open Session at 12:36 p.m.

**Roll Call Vote:** Holewinski, Aye; Fried, Aye; Schreier, Aye; Harris, Aye

**Motion:** Passes

**Announcement:** Chairman Fried announced that while in closed session no Motions were made and no was action taken. Fried announced that due to a quorum of supervisors unable to stay, the remainder items of the agenda will be taken up at the next meeting.

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

The next meeting date was set for August 5, 2025.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Chairman Fried adjourned the meeting at 12:36 p.m.

