

MINUTES
Oneida County Board of Supervisors
Tuesday, September 26th, 2023 – 9:30 a.m.
County Board Meeting Room - 2nd Floor Oneida County Courthouse

CALL TO ORDER.

Chairman Holewinski 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 prayer and Pledge of Allegiance.

Members Present: Bob Almekinder, Robert Briggs, Diana Harris, Ted Cushing, Collette Sorgel, Debbie Condado, Chris Schultz, Robb Jensen, Tom Kelly, Billy Fried, Jim Winkler, Mike Timmons, Linnaea Newman, Tommy Ryden, Russ Fisher, Scott Holewinski, Anthony Rio, Mike Roach, Steven Schreier, Connor Showalter and Greg Oettinger.

Members Present: 21

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY CHAIR, CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATIONS.

- Please use a microphone when speaking.

ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 15, 2023 MEETING:

Motion/Second: Winkler/Cushing to accept the minutes of the August 15, 2023 meeting. All "Aye", Motion carried.

Ryden entered at 9:33 a.m.

REPORTS/PRESENTATIONS:

- Oneida County Economic Development Corporation – Executive Director of the Economic Development Corporation Jeff Verdoorn gave an overview of what Economic Development does. Verdoorn stated they are a non-profit organization and are not a government entity. Verdoorn explained that the majority of their funding comes from government entities. Verdoorn went over some of the projects that they have assisted with.

Rio entered at 9:36 a.m.

Roach entered at 9:38 a.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT (time limit of three minutes):

- Sign attendance form at the podium. -

Bill Korrer of Minocqua spoke against Resolution # 85 – 2023. Paul Millan of Armstrong Creek chairman of the Human Service Center spoke against Resolution # 85 – 2023. Dan Rondello of Rhinelander spoke against Resolution # 85 – 2023 and stated he was grateful for the services provided by the Human Service Center. Executive Director of the Human Service Center Tamara Feest spoke against Resolution # 85 – 2023. Angela Swenson read a letter of support for the Human Service Center and shared a personal experience. Keith Hazelton Finance Director of the Human Service Center spoke. Ryan Schuppler spoke in support of the Human Service Center. Trinice Price of Rhinelander spoke in support of the Human Service Center. Maggie Peterson spoke against Resolution # 85 – 2023. Tim Johnson of the Oneida County Sheriff's Office spoke in favor of Resolution # 85 – 2023. Terry Loduha employee of the Human Service Center spoke in support of the Human Service Center. Holly Rose of Rhinelander spoke regarding the Human Service Center. Pearl Fessenden of Rhinelander spoke. Tyler Young of the Oneida County Sheriff's Office spoke. Chelsea Payant Corp Counsel of Forest County spoke in favor of dissolving the contract with Human Service Center. Dave Jaeger Chief of Police of the Town of Minocqua spoke in favor of Resolution # 85 – 2023. Gerard Ritter of Vilas County Sheriff's Office spoke stating that Vilas County supports Resolution # 85 – 2023. Correspondence regarding Resolution # 85-2023 submitted prior to the meeting is held in the Oneida County Clerk's Office.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Resolution # 82 – 2023: Resolution offered by the Supervisors of the Land Records Committee to convey part of CA-839-2 to Russell Babicky.

Resolution to convey excess county lands to Babicky.

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 Government Lot 1 of Section 23, Township 37 North, Range 7 East, as recorded in the Register of Deeds, Volume 64 of Deeds on Page 150, Document # 106417, recorded on December 21st, 1939; and,

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

WHEREAS, the Town of Cassian has been notified of this request and the Land Records Committee recommends that the parcel described in Exhibit A be conveyed to the adjoining landowner, provided the Town of Cassian 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 described in Exhibit A to the adjoining landowner, and authorizes the County Clerk, upon receipt of the \$30 deed recording fee, to issue a quit claim deed conveying any interest the County has in the description noted below in Exhibit A.

Approved for presentation to the County Board by the Land Records Committee this 12th day of September, 2023.

Offered and passage moved by: Mike Timmons, Chris Schultz, Greg Oettinger

Resolution # 83 – 2023: Resolution offered by the Supervisors of the Public Works Committee to authorize the purchase of a new Skid Steer for the price not to exceed One Hundred Eighteen Thousand, Six Hundred Ten Dollars (\$118,610.00).

Resolution offered by the Supervisors of the Public Works Committee.

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

WHEREAS, the Oneida County Public Works Committee and the Highway Department seek to purchase one (1) Skid Steer; and

WHEREAS, the Highway Department has an account designated for the purchase of "Machinery" with funds available for 2023; and

WHEREAS, Oneida County Code sec. 3.09(2) requires County Board approval of purchases over \$100,000; an

WHEREAS, the Highway Department and Public Works Committee believe that a new Skid Steer can be purchased for no more than One Hundred Eighteen Thousand, Six Hundred Ten dollars (\$118,610.00); and

WHEREAS, the Public Works Committee and the Highway Department have assessed their needs and determined that the purchase of a new Skid Steer is in the best interest of the department; and

WHEREAS, the Public Works Committee and the Highway Department seek to use a portion of the available funds in the "Machinery" account to purchase the aforementioned new Skid Steer.

WHEREAS, the Highway Department will trade in an existing skid steer for the amount of Eighty Thousand (\$80,000.00); and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Public Works Committee and the Highway Department are authorized to purchase a new Skid Steer for the price not to exceed One Hundred Eighteen Thousand, Six Hundred Ten Dollars (\$118,610.00) and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Public Works Committee and the Highway Department are authorized use of the available funds in the "Machinery" account for the aforementioned purchase.

Approved by the Public Works Committee this 7th day of September, 2023.

Offered and passage moved by: Ted Cushing, Mike Timmons, Mike Roach, Billy Fried, Bob Almekinder

- Appointments to Committees, Commissions and other Organizations:
 - Appoint Steve Petersen to the Zoning Board of Adjustment as the second alternate for a 3-year term to expire in July 2026.

Motion/Second: Timmons/Jensen to approve the consent agenda as presented.

Roll Call Vote: 21 Aye

Motion: Adopted

CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTIONS & ORDINANCES:

Motion/Second: Fried/Cushing to suspend the rules and take Resolution 85 – 2023 out of order.

Roll Call Vote: 21 Aye

Motion: Passes

Resolution # 85 – 2023: Offered by the Supervisors of the Public Safety Committee and Social Services Committee to withdraw from the Tri-County Human Services Board.

Resolution to Withdrawal from Tri-County Human Services Board.

Resolution approved for presentation to the Oneida County Board by the Supervisors of the Public Safety Committee and Social Services Committee.

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

WHEREAS, Oneida County has been part of the Tri-County Human Services Board since November 13, 1984 by Oneida County Resolution 110-84.

WHEREAS, Oneida County signed the Joint County Human Services Agreement on December 21, 1984.

WHEREAS, F (9) of the Joint County Human Services Agreement - Withdrawal from the Tri-County Human Services Board: If any establishing county chooses to withdraw from the tri-county Human Services Board, it shall not withdraw prior to December 31st of the calendar/fiscal year. Further, it shall notify the Human Services Board and the other two counties by July 1st of the year preceding withdrawal, thus providing at least six (6) months advance notice.

WHEREAS, A group of County, Tribal and Elected officials from Forest, Oneida and Vilas Counties have met on several occasions and recommends a withdrawal from the current Human Service Agreement and to explore a change of structure in the Tri-County region, and,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Oneida County is hereby giving notice to withdraw from the current Tri-County Joint County Human Services Agreement indicated above, as of December 31, 2024 to the Human Service Center Board and to Forest and Vilas Counties. Notification of this withdraw will also be provided to the State Department of Health Services and Department of Children and Families.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Director of Oneida County Social Services, the Oneida County Sheriff, and the Oneida County Corporation Counsel will convene meetings with their counterparts in both Forest and Vilas Counties, including Forest and Oneida County Tribal Nations representation, to discuss the structure of Human Services in the Tri-County region and to bring a recommendation to the Oneida County Board of Supervisors no later than ~~April 30, 2024~~ March 31, 2024.

Offered and passage moved by: Steven Schreier, Russ Fisher, Robb Jensen, Jim Winkler, Diana Harris, Tom Kelly, Tony Rio

Discussion: Oneida County Sheriff Grady Hartman spoke stating that the decision today will determine how these services will be implemented in the future. Hartman noted that currently these services are provided through the Human Service Center. Hartman reported that our current system is antiquated, currently 64 of the 72 counties are providing these services in-house through Social Services. Hartman clarified that the Human Service Center is the vendor to provide these services. Hartman stated that all three of the counties are standing in solidarity that the services are not being provided in the manner that they should be. Hartman explained that they have tried to make changes in the past to meet in the middle and find a common ground without any resolution. Hartman stated that this Resolution is to end the contract and provide these services in a different manor. Hartman stated that there is a plan in place and Oneida County will need those employees. Hartman stated that the County Board will need to decide. Hartman noted that the three counties are in support of this Resolution. Oneida County Social Services Director Mary Rideout spoke regarding a packet that was emailed and also manually distributed, she noted that it is also on the Social Services website. Rideout explained the structure of Social Services throughout the state. Rideout stated that the discussion is restructuring and not eliminating services. Rideout stated that these services will still be provided, just done better with a different structure. Rideout reported that the agreement is old. Rideout stated that there is a misconception that the Human Service Center is a private organization, Rideout stated that this is actually in place by the three counties direction. Rideout stated that the Human Service Center is funded with Oneida, Vilas and Forest County dollars. Rideout explained the reasons for her support of this Resolution. Vilas County Social Service Director Kathryn Gardner stated that a lot of counties have gone through this same process and there are statutory structures already in place. Oneida County Clerk Tracy Hartman read a letter from the Forest County Social Services Director Tracy Shumacher in favor of withdrawing from the three county contract with the Human Service Center. Hartman read a letter from the Forest County Board Chair in support of withdrawing from the contract with the Human Service Center. Hartman read a letter signed by the Vilas County Board Chair, First Chair and Second Chair in support of withdrawing from the Tri-County contract with the Human Service Center. Tamara Feest stated that there is a lack of communication to the Human Service Center Board. Feest noted that there should be a plan in place if this change is to be implemented. Schreier explained that the Resolution speaks for itself. Schreier reported that historically this goes back to November of last year discussing the contract with the Human Service Center. Schreier stated that the Human Service Center has also indicated that they wanted to rewrite the contract. Schreier noted that after discussions with the other three counties it was determined that all three shared all of the same concerns. Schreier stated that there is a great deal of dysfunction and this goes back about 13 to 15 years. Schreier noted that this Resolution sets something in motion. Schreier clarified that this is not ending anyones job or services. Schreier stated these are mandatory services and we are just looking at a different structure. Showalter questioned if there were any services that would be eliminated, Rideout stated no. Showalter asked if there were any

grants that would no longer be available, Rideout stated no. Rideout stated that we need to manage and plan. Cushing stated that he was on the Human Service Center Board and County Board and feels that this was orchestrated. Newman stated that her complaint was how this happened. Holewinski questioned a situation in which the Human Service Center would not let the Sheriff's Office speak in meetings at the Human Service Center meeting. Discussion ensued regarding that meeting. Schreier stated how do you discuss the issues if you cannot discuss the issues. Winkler spoke in support of this Resolution and stated this is just a change in structure.

Motion/Second Winkler/Jensen to amend Resolution # 85 – 2023 on lines 32 and 33 to strike April 30, 2024 and change to March 31, 2024.

Roll Call Vote on Amendment to Resolution # 85 – 2023: 21 Aye

Amendment to Resolution # 85 – 2023: Adopted

Discussion: Rio stated that people are seeking out help and the phone-in screeners are not helping. Rio stated that he understands that the Human Service Center also does good things but what is happening now is not working. Holewinski explained that the current structure will continue through 2024 and services will not change. Holewinski stated that the service will still exist.

Motion/Second: Cushing/Newman to amend line 31 to add after "Nations Representation", and the executive director of the Human Service Center.

Discussion: Schreier stated that the Human Service Center does not play any part in formulating its composition or existence, it is created by the three counties. Schreier questioned why would we include the Human Service Center as the provider in this process. Schreier noted that we want to make the decisions. Jensen clarified that they can attend the meetings as it is a public meeting.

Roll Call Vote on Amendment to Resolution # 85 – 2023: 6 Aye, Rio, Newman, Timmons, Showalter, Cushing, Roach, 15 Nay.

Amendment Resolution # 85 – 2023: Fails

Roll Call Vote on Amended Resolution # 85 – 2023: 19 Aye, 2 Nay, Newman, Cushing

Amended Resolution # 85 – 2023: Adopted

Break called at 11:58 a.m.

Return from Recess at 12:01 p.m.

Resolution # 84 – 2023: Offered by the Supervisors of the Labor Relations Employee Services (LRES) Committee to make a market adjustment to the ITS Director position on the Exempt Wage Schedule.

Resolution to make a market adjustment to the ITS Director position on the Exempt Wage Schedule.

Resolution approved for presentation to the Oneida County Board by the Supervisors of the Labor Relations Employee Services (LRES) Committee

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

WHEREAS, during the performance evaluation of the ITS Director, a discussion regarding the correct placement of the ITS Director position on the Exempt Wage Schedule to put Oneida County into the best position possible when hiring the position in the future; and

WHEREAS, the Administration Committee Chair and County Board Chair instructed the ITS Director and Human Resources (HR) Director to work together to come up with a solution; and

WHEREAS, the ITS Director and HR Director researched both private and public sector wages and hierarchy of director positions for the ITS Director position; and

WHEREAS, a recommendation was made to the Administration Committee by the ITS Director and HR Director to move the ITS Director position from Grade Level R of the Exempt Wage Schedule to Grade Level S of the Exempt Wage Schedule; and

WHEREAS, the Administrative Committee approved and recommended that the ITS Director position be placed at Grade Level S of the Exempt Wage Schedule and forwarded to the LRES Committee for further review; and

WHEREAS, the LRES Committee reviewed the recommendation from the Administration Committee and agreed with the placement of the ITS Director position at Grade Level S of the Exempt Wage Schedule; and

WHEREAS, the LRES Committee does recommend to the Oneida County Board of Supervisors to place the ITS Director position at Grade Level S of the Exempt Wage Schedule

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Oneida County Board of Supervisors which authorizes and directs the following changes are implemented for the ITS Director position:

- ITS Director position be placed at Grade Level S of the Exempt Wage Schedule; and
- Incumbent employee shall be placed at Grade Level S, Step 8, effective the first day of the payroll period

following County Board approval; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Oneida County Board of Supervisors that funds to cover this change are coming from the current ITS Department 2023 budget.

A fiscal impact statement is attached hereto and made a part hereof.

Approved for presentation to the County Board by the Labor Relations Employee Services Committee this 13th day of September, 2023.

Offered and passage moved by: Ted Cushing, Diana Harris, Jim Winkler, Scott Holewinski, Robb Jensen

Discussion: Labor Relations Director Lisa Charbarneau stated that after the IT director's performance review a succession plan was discussed. Charbarneau stated the wage data from private and public sector was reviewed and they are paid differently. Charbarneau explained the proposed wage change. Holewinski stated that this is more for succession planning. Newman stated that this was put in place to make the position more favorable for an existing employee to be groomed into a replacement position.

Roll Call Vote on Resolution # 84 – 2023: 21 Aye

Resolution # 84 – 2023: Adopted

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 (Topic: Case: 3:23-cv-00578 THE MINOCQUA BREWING COMPANY LLC, and KIRK C. BANGSTAD v. THE COUNTY OF ONEIDA, SCOTT HOLEWINSKI, KARL JENNRICH, TODD TROSKEY, and ROES 1-10 et. Al.). 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: Cushing/Roach to go into Closed Session at 12:12 p.m.

Roll Call Vote: 21 Aye

Motion/Second: Kelly/Sorgel to return to Open Session at 1:18 p.m.

Roll Call Vote: 21 Aye

Announcement: Chairman Holewinski stated that in closed session there was no action taken.

NEXT MEETING DATE AND TIME: October 17th, 2023 @ 9:30 a.m.

Unless a motion is made to change the starting time.

ADJOURNMENT:

Chairman Holewinski adjourned the meeting at 1:20 p.m.