EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
SEPTEMBER 30, 2026
MINUTES

Committee members present: Chairman Billy Fried; Debbie Condado; Michael Tautges; Russ Fisher; Dan Hess, Scott Holewinski, Ted Cushing.

Call to order: Chairman Fried called the meeting to order at 9:30 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.

Capital Improvement Projects (over $50,000):

Highway Department – Fried noted that the first five projects were reviewed at a prior meeting, the additional projects presented are proposed to be funded through the General Fund. Highway Commissioner Ben Rich presented projects for the Highway Department.

- 2027 One Ton Pickup Truck Purchase – Review was completed at a previous meeting.
- 2027 Baby Dump Truck Purchase – Review was completed at a previous meeting.
- 2027 Highway Facility Fire Suppression – Review was completed at a previous meeting.
- 2027 Highway Facility Roof Re- Seal and Chimney Removal – Review was completed at a previous meeting.
- 2027 Rhinelander Shop Drainage Upgrade – Review was completed at a previous meeting.
- 2027 Tuckpointing – Rich reported that this repair is structural, replacing the grout and the bricks on the main building. Rich explained that the estimated cost is $475,000. Rich stated that this seals the bricks and creates better structural integrity for the building, noting that there are almost 2 inch gaps in some of the bricks.
- 2027 Overhead and Exterior Door Replacement – Rich explained that these are the current overhead and service doors, noting that they keep needing repairs. Rich reported that this is for three 16 x14 service doors and six exterior service doors with a proposed cost of $105,000.
- 2027 Window Replacements – Rich stated that the windows in the main shop and the office are single pane windows. Rich reported that heat just flows through them and this would be a savings on heating cost.
- 2027 Parking Lot Paving – Rich reported that this project ranks last on the list. Fried noted that in his opinion there are a lot of potholes. Fried acknowledged that this may not be a priority and may be one of the last steps in the upgrade. Rich explained that there may be some elevation changes determined when decisions are made on other projects, so it may be best to delay. Fried reported that this will be delayed to a future date.
- 2028 Repair Shop Heavy Renovation – Discussion that these will be future projects.

- 2028 Electrical Upgrade Phase 2 – Discussion that these will be future projects.
- 2029 Lighting Upgrade – Discussion that these will be a future project.
- 2029 Second Floor Renovation – Discussion that these will be future projects.
- 2029 Security Cameras – Discussion that these will be future projects.
- 2029 Wash Bay – Discussion that these will be future projects.
- 2029 Mastic Kettle – Discussion that these will be future projects.
- 2027/2028/2029 Patrol Truck Purchase – Holewinski stated that there were 10 brand new trucks purchased in 2025/2026. Holewinski proposed that there not be trucks purchased in 2027. Holewinski reported that he would rather put the money into the building. Fried noted that this should remain on the list and possibly remove it at budget time if determined.

Capital Outlay (under $50,000):

- 2027 Flagger Trucks – Discussion that this is funded through the department's budget.
- 2027 Compactor Attachment for the Excavator – Discussion that this is funded through the department's budget.
- 2027 Condenser/Furnace Upgrade – Discussion that this is funded through the department's budget.
- 2027 Grapple Attachment for a Loader – Discussion that this is funded through the department's budget.
- 2027 Highway Facility Metal Painting – Discussion that this is funded through the department's budget.
- 2027 Snow Pusher – Discussion that this is funded through the department's budget.

Public comment: Patty Forester of Hazelhurst spoke, concerned that she received communication that Frontier will discontinue phone/internet service. Forester reported that she was told that copper line services will be ending in several towns, including Rhinelander, Minocqua and Three Lakes. Forester noted that for her there is not an alternative.

Frontier Service Update and Possible Action: Fried stated that it is concerning that services are being cut in rural areas and there is not an alternative option. Discussion regarding what is being done and options to address the issue. Cushing that stated this is a serious safety issue if they cannot use 911 services. Cushing noted that this is not just Hazelhurst, this affects multiple municipalities. Cushing proposed that this should be a Resolution passed at the County Board level. Sheriff Hartman reported that he has been writing letters to State Representatives, noting that there are concerns with this affecting peoples ability to use the 911 service. Discussion regarding inviting the Representatives to the County Board Meeting.

Motion/Second: Fried/Tautges to instruct the Administrative Coordinator to send a letter to both State and Federal Representatives to invite them to the October County Board meeting to address this issue and create a Resolution that would incorporate a letter to bring to the County Board. All "Aye"; Motion passes

Past CIP Project Updates: Fried stated that we need to know if there were any CIP projects that may not be completed for 2026. Fried noted that we will also discuss this at Budget Hearings. IT

Director Jason Rhodes reported that the Jail Door Access Project may have some left over funds. Jill Nemec stated that for 2026 there were three projects; tractor, work truck and the repair to Shingle Mill Rd. Nemec reported that they came under budget for all three projects in the amount of approximately $100,000. Nemec reported a need for a grapple attachment. Discussion regarding the remaining funds for those three projects. Assistant Facilities Director Lindsey Kennedy gave an update on the 2026 projects, going over some of the remaining funds with an estimated total of $31,337.

Capital Improvement Projects (over $50,000) –

Buildings and Grounds Department

- 2027/2028 Fire Panel Upgrades – Multiple Facilities – Discussed on September 2nd meeting.
- 2027 Courthouse Plaster Repair– Discussed on September 2nd meeting.
- 2027 LEC Bobcat – Kennedy stated that they received quotes for a Kobota for approximately $42,000 or potentially purchasing a used one for $25,900. Kennedy explained that the used one needs a new windshield, so they are looking at about a $30,000 cost. Discussion regarding the process of purchasing privately. Kennedy stated this would exhaust the equipment fund, so they are still looking to keep this as a CIP with $10,000 coming from the Equipment Fund and $20,000 requested from the General Fund.
- 2027 Timber Drive Facility Parking Lot Reconstruction – Kennedy reported that this could be pushed back another year if needed, but does think this is a project that needs to be completed.
- 2027 LEC Walk-in Refrigeration Mechanical Update – Discussed on September 2nd meeting.
- 2028 Law Enforcement Center Parking Lots Reconstruction – Future potential project.
- 2028 Courthouse Parking Lot Reconstruction – Future potential project.
- 2028 River Street Facility Parking Lot Reconstruction – Future potential project.
- 2028 Timber Drive Security Cameras Installation – Future potential project.
- 2029 Courthouse Liebert Replacement – Future potential project.
- 2029 Law Enforcement Center Access Card Reader Replacement – Future potential project.
- 2029 Courthouse Elevator Updates – Future potential project.
- 2029 Law Enforcement Modine Heaters Replacement – Future potential project.

Capital Outlay (under $50,000)

Buildings and Grounds

- 2027 Register of Deeds Security Upgrades – Kennedy stated that there are funds in the Courthouse Security Continuing Appropriation Account in the amount of $22,858. Kennedy stated that there is an old quote of $13,000 from 2024 and they are working on better numbers. Kennedy noted that at that point they will need to determine if this can be funded through their Continuing Appropriation Account.

Capital Improvement Projects (over $50,000) –

- Forestry – Project Loan Request - Discussion regarding a loan through the DNR for Forestry projects, to be paid off by using 20% of the stumpage revenue. Fried explained that this was discussed as an option for funding some of the larger

projects, such as Rozell Road construction. Nemec reported that there are many future road projects noting that there is no timeline to pay this back. Nemec stated that it is zero percent interest but repayment is approximately 20% of stumpage revenue. Nemec explained that the repairs are needed, the current plan is to spread the repairs out but noted that if they are done at one time it may be a bit cheaper. Fried stated that they should bring this back to their committee. Discussion regarding the benefits and costs of bundling the project and funding it through the loan process. Fried reported that this should be brought back at budget hearings with a cost, payment amounts and projects the committee wants to bundle.

- 2027/2028 Rozell Road Rehabilitation – Ongoing project discussed on September 2nd.
- 2027 Forestry Work Truck – 4x4 Extended Cab – Nemec reported that the old vehicle was a 2017 and is 10 years old. Fried asked if there was a reason not to purchase a used, expressing concern that the truck gets such hard use. Nemec explained that there needs to be a certain size bed, winch attachment and tow package; they did start some brief research on a used truck. Discussion regarding the process of purchasing a used vehicle and benefits of purchasing new. Fried stated that this will remain as requested but possibly revisited at the end of day.
- 2027 Boom Mower Attachment – Nemec stated that they looked into a used attachment. Nemec explained that typically when the attachments are sold as used, they are attached to existing equipment and are sold together as a package. Nemec looked into renting a Boom Mower, noting that there is a long wait list. Nemec explained that if this is not purchased, they would get on a list to rent one. Fried stated that this would remain on the list.
- 2028 Forestry Shop Repair – Future potential project.
- 2029 Cruiser's Road Rehabilitation – Future potential project.
- 2029 Zimmer Road Rehabilitation – Future potential project.

Break called at 11:03 a.m.
Return from break 11:07 a.m.

Opioid Funding Requests

Human Services

- 2027 TAD Grant Match – Human Service Director Beth Hoerchler reported that a 90 day notice needs to be given if the contract with Justice Point is not renewed. Hoerchler noted that they can be granted a waiver for that timeline, explaining that the diversion program has been in place for approximately 3 years. Fried questioned the 2027 request of $45,136, if that would be committing this for the next three years as a contracted fund match. Hoerchler stated yes. Fried noted that he understands that for this program to move forward, it needs support from both the District Attorney's office as well as the Judges. Judge Sowinski stated that she does not know if that is a correct assumption. Sowinski gave some background of how this came about. Sowinski explained that in 2019 they were offered to receive grant money and training to start this program, at that time it was declined by the judges due to workload issues. Sowinski reported that there has been work for the last 7 years putting this together, noting that all of the involved departments have been part of this process. Sowinski questioned the reason for the objection at this time. Sowinski stated that the cost to the county is small and encouraged the committee to not stop this process. Sowinski noted that budget hearings are next week. Fried

explained that this committee is not interested in putting the breaks on but the concern is spending money on something that does not happen. Fried noted that if the judges and DA are not interested in participating, the program does not happen. Sowinski stated that there are three separate programs, the Diversion Program has had many participants and there has been four successful graduates. Sowinski noted that it can take up to a year to complete the program. Sowinski reported that the second program is the OWI/Treatment Court which is in operation and there are six participants. Sowinski explained that this is the program that they would like to expand using this TAD Grant match money. Discussion regarding concerns for support of the program. Sowinski noted that the DA has an important roll to play but this could move forward if the District Attorney's office does not want to participate. Sowinski explained that she does not know if that would be the case for the Diversion Program though but would like to try. Discussion regarding the timeline of the grant and contracting. Hartman explained that in the past when the initial grants were approved, this did not bind them to future grants. Hartman reported that when the diversion program started, it was with ARPA or Opioid funds and not tax levy. Hartman stated that if this moves forward, we are then committed to five years. Sowinski expressed concern regarding being able to meet before the October 26th deadline. Discussion regarding the involvement of the District Attorney's Office and the presiding Judge. Fried stated that this committee can meet again if need be, a decision does not need to happen today. Fried expressed concern that all required participants need buy in for the program to move forward and does not want to commit funds until everything is clear. Fried noted that there needs to be communication and this decision can be delayed. Fried reported that there will be a meeting coordinated by Supervisor Jensen.

Sheriff's Office

- 2030 Squad Car video Cameras – Sheriff Hartman stated that they wanted to put this on the radar as this is the life expectancy of the current cameras. Hartman stated that this cost may actually reduce.

Opioid Funding Requests

Sheriff's Office

- PSAP Phone/Recorder/911 Call Handling – Sheriff Hartman explained that this is an upgrade to the current antiquated system. Hartman stated that they applied for a grant for this upgraded system and it is a 90/10 grant. Sheriff Hartman reported that our portion is a 10% grant match in the amount estimated at $214,628 of Opioid Funds. Hess noted that this project should be done every 10 years and is definitely due. Administrative Coordinator Tracy Hartman explained that this was reviewed by Corporation Counsel and this was determined an approved use for Opioid Funds. Fried noted this would remain on the list.

Capital Improvement Projects (over $50,000) –

Information Technology Systems Department

- 2027/2028/2029/2030 County-wide Network Infrastructure Upgrade– Discussed on September 2nd meeting.

Solid Waste

- 2027 544K Wheel Loader – Discussed on September 2nd meeting.
- 2027 Pickup Truck with Plow – Discussed on September 2nd meeting.
- 2027 Used Hook Truck – Discussed on September 2nd meeting.
- 2028 Crack Seal Pavement – Future potential project.

- 2028 Used Spotter Truck – Future potential project.
- 2029 Demo Compactor – Future potential project.

Opioid Funding Requests

Medical Examiner

- 2027 Morgue Cooler and Equipment Request – Discussed on September 2nd meeting.

Capital Outlay (under $50,000)

Buildings and Grounds

- 2027 Register of Deeds Security Upgrades – Discussed on September 2nd meeting.

Solid Waste

- 3 HP Blower and Solar Spark Flare – Discussed on September 2nd meeting.

Human Services

- 2027 Program Participation Systems (PPS) Redesign Project – Discussed on September 2nd meeting.

CIP Project review and approval: Fried stated that the CIP and Opioid totals for 2027 will be reviewed on the last day of the budget hearings. Hartman explained that the final motion will be made during budget hearings.

Public Comment: None

Dates and items for future agenda/meetings:
The next meetings are scheduled as the Budget Hearings for October 5th, 6th and 7th.

ADJOURNMENT:
Chairman Fried adjourned the meeting at 12:03 p.m.