

**MINUTES OF THE ONEIDA COUNTY
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING
April 9, 2026**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairperson Steven Schreier, Billy Fried, Debbie Condado and Michael Tautges.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Russ Fisher excused.

OTHERS PRESENT: Rondele Ranch (Vonda Backhaus, Robert Heyman), Hodag Country Fest (Gerry VanHarpen, Karilyne Roberts), Saluting Heroes Balloon Rally (Nancy Woller), Karrin Farrenkopf/Health Department, Jake Simkins/Sheriff's Office, Tracy Hartman/County Clerk-Administrative Coordinator.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Schreier called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. at the Oneida County Courthouse, Committee Room #2, stated the meeting notice had been posted and mailed in accordance with the Wisconsin Open Meeting Law and noted accommodations would be made for handicap accessibility.

APPROVE AGENDA

MOTION: To approve the Agenda (Condado/Fried, PASSED 4-0).

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

APPROVE PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: To approve the March 12, 2026 Committee Meeting Minutes (Fried/Condado PASSED 4-0).

SCHEDULE COMMITTEE MEETING DATE(S)

The next meeting was scheduled for May 14, 2026 at 9:30 a.m.

BILLS, VOUCHERS AND LINE ITEM TRANSFERS FOR PUBLIC SAFETY DEPARTMENTS

Chairperson Schreier noted all vouchers and line item transfers are received and within budget. No vote taken.

Supervisor Fried suggested staggering Public Safety Department attendance at committee meetings.

Chairperson Schreier mentioned there were a few department budget pages with percentages listed and was unsure of information. The County Clerk-Administrative Coordinator will reach out to departments.

COUNTY CLERK

Approval of Large Assembly Applications

Red, White and Boom Large Assembly – Rondele Ranch, LLC

The County Clerk stated all information has been submitted, the event has Certificate of Insurance and there are no changes and has no concerns.

No other concerns were mentioned.

MOTION: To approve Red, White and Boom Large Assembly Application (Schreier/Condado, PASSED 4-0).

Hodag Country Festival Large Assembly – Hodag '50' Inc.

The County Clerk stated all information has been submitted and there are no changes, no concerns.

The Health Department reminded event organizers to submit water test results. Van Harpen explained testing and the timing of submitting water test results.

No other concerns were mentioned.

MOTION: To approve Hodag Country Festival Large Assembly Application contingent to submitting water test results (Schreier/Fried, PASSED 4-0).

Saluting Heroes Balloon Rally Large Assembly – We Love Ballooning, Inc.

Woller explained last year was the first event, went well, and the grounds layout will be revised.

Supervisor Fried asked what was last year's attendance was. Woller indicated attendance was approximately 10,000 over two-days and mentioned there were 20-campers onsite.

There was discussion regarding marketing and tourism. Woller explained the event will be promoted at a national level. Supervisor Condado mentioned the event is on the same weekend as the County Fair.

Chairperson Schreier asked Country Festival Officials if there were any concerns. VanHarpen mentioned the event exceeded expectations, no backup on the road, smooth in and out of the grounds. VanHarpen mentioned discussion may be needed regarding campfires not being allowed due to electrical being underground.

No other concerns were mentioned.

MOTION: To approve Saluting Heroes Balloon Rally Large Assembly Application (Schreier/Tautges, PASSED 4-0).

Bubba's Big Party Large Assembly – BBP, LLC

The County Clerk stated Keith Troutman was planning on attending but is absent. Chairperson Schreier asked if Troutman needed to be present. The Clerk affirmed the Committee can proceed without Troutman present. The Clerk indicated this event

requires an application and mentioned Troutman's other event, Bubba's Bash, does not meet the minimum to apply for a large assembly permit.

The County Clerk stated there are no concerns and shared there are no concerns from the Town of Nokomis.

Supervisor Fried referred to Planning and Zoning Department Conditional Use Permit applications and suggested sending a letter to Towns for the future events. The County Clerk noted the suggestion.

There were discussions regarding pop-up stores during events, city-town ordinances regulating what is allowed, what may be offensive and obtaining permits.

Captain Simkins explained the departments' involvement with Hodag Country Festival and Bubba's Big Party events severe weather plans and explained the process for sharing information with event officials to determine if an event should proceed or cancel an event. Captain Simkins informed the Committee, the Rhinelander Fire Department works with Fair Officials for their plan due to it being located in the City of Rhinelander.

Supervisor Fried noticed the County is listed as an addition to Insurance. The County Clerk confirmed all large assembly events list the County as an addition to Insurance.

Supervisor Fried inquired about the dollar amount of insurance listed and asked if it should be reviewed. The County Clerk will follow up with the information.

No other concerns were mentioned.

MOTION: To approve Bubba's Big Party Large Assembly Application (Fried/Schreier, PASSED 4-0).

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

Public Safety Departments presence at committee meetings.

ADJOURN

10:01 a.m.

Steven Schreier, Chairperson

Dawn Robinson, Committee Secretary

Michael Tautges, Vice-Chairperson