

**MINUTES OF THE ONEIDA COUNTY
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING
August 14, 2025**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Debbie Condado, Diana Harris, Steven Schreier

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Billy Fried, Russ Fisher (both excused)

OTHERS PRESENT: Cambrya Hurlburt (ME Office), Heidi Ihn (Branch II), Jillian Pfeifer (DA Office), Patti Finlan (Branch I), Mary Sowinski (Judge – Branch II), Beth Hoerchler (Human Services), Jenny Chiamulera (Health Department), Brenda Berhle (Clerk of Courts), Tracy Hartman (County Clerk), Grady Hartman (Sheriff's Office)

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman 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/Schreier, PASSED 3-0).

APPROVE PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: To approve the July 10, 2025, Public Safety Committee Meeting Minutes (Condado/Harris, PASSED 3-0).

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

SCHEDULE COMMITTEE MEETING DATE(S)

The next meeting was scheduled for September 11, 2025, at 9:30 a.m.

BILLS, VOUCHERS AND LINE ITEM TRANSFERS FOR PUBLIC SAFETY DEPARTMENTS

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

DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Proposed 2026 Budget

Pfeiffer noted there was no staffing noted in the budget. Handed out and updated sheet (Exhibit #1). Well within budget this year, no significant changes for next year, but there are two homicide trials next year so a couple thousand dollars for expert witnesses. The health insurance is a more accurate reflection of what the cost will be, as Tracy Hartman created a worksheet for department to use to create more accurate number for budget.

Discussion regarding the \$8,000.00 allocation for DOJ assistance for trial and if it would be needed.

T Hartman advised no concerns, requests were reasonable, and nothing alarming within the budget.

MOTION: To approve the District Attorney's Proposed 2026 Budget and forward to the executive committee (Condado/Harris, PASSED 3-0)

Circuit Court Branch I

Staffing request – Law Clerk (LTE – June 1 through May 31)

Patti Finlan advised there have been no applicants and the search was made throughout the Midwest (Madison, Milwaukee, Minnesota, and Illinois). The law clerk assists the judges and court commissioners with research on cases. Generally, this is a recent law graduate or someone with maybe one or two years' experience. Finlan advised they do not want to lose the position, as it has been in place since 1993. Bar exams were in July, so those finding out if they passed may still apply. Finlan advised the position is split 50/50 with Vilas County, but Oneida takes on the hiring process.

There was discussion on who could apply for this position.

MOTION: To approve to keep the Staffing Request for a Law Clerk (LTE – June 1 through May 31) in the 2026 budget (Condado/Harris, PASSED 3-0)

Proposed 20206 Budget

Finlan advised no changes, nothing increased except wages. Guardian ad litem fees, medical for guardianship/mental are statutorily required.

Another anomaly is that the Clerk of Courts on behalf of the court branches (I & II) is received \$65,000.00 per year for two years, but it is unclear what that money is for. There was discussion regarding this money, where it was to be used, where it was coming from, etc. Brenda Berhle stated there was no formal letter from the director of court operations as of yet. Further discussion regarding the \$65,000.000 and what/where it was to be used.

Berhle advised she spoke with Finance and discussed where the money should be deposited. Berhle advised she was waiting for more guidance on this. Schreier advised he was worried the county would get the money and then it would be pulled back.

There was discussion about the money offsetting the tax levy.

Schreier asked for a recommendation as to what to send to the executive committee. There was discussion. Schreier proposed to bring this back next month, as they would still be under the deadline for budgets.

No motion taken. Resubmit for further discussion at September meeting.

CIRCUIT COURT BRANCH II

Proposed 2026 Budget

No motion taken, resubmit for further discussion at September meeting.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE COORDINATING COMMITTEE

Executive Summary & Funding Worksheet

Beth Hoerchler & Jenny Chiamulera presented the overall plan for the next six years, noting that each year builds on the previous year. Some of these items have been through the Human Service Committee for their approval.

There was discussion regarding Telehealth, peer support, grants, use of opioid settlement dollars. Schreier noted that it needed to be understood that the positions created with grant funding would go away if the funding goes away. Schreier noted it would be a very hard sell if the funding dries up to continue the program (levy). It was noted that this is not for budget approval, and informational only.

Sowinski spoke about the matrix in the packet for what the community suggested the opioid money be used for. Discussion on use of opioid settlement money within the county to use it correctly/most efficiently.

Chiamulera asked how this could be brought to the executive committee (Exhibit #3). There was discussion regarding how a county department could tie the funding to their department (ie: can a snowplow fit in?) Biggest need is to address substance abuse issues, and that is where the matrix plays a big role. Koinonia building is a good example, with known purpose, known condition. But where does it fit into matrix. Further discussion regarding the matrix.

Schreier agreed with Sowinski to forward to the executive committee for them to see what is proposed and potentially use as a guideline as needed. T Hartman suggested they bring this to the September executive committee as a "Here's what we are proposing and what's going on for the next six years."

No motion taken. Suggested to incorporate to the September 10 executive committee meeting.

Vital Strategies Match Memorandum

Vital Strategies grant written for match approved by executive committee. Need to send back that agree opioid money can be spent. Executive committee already approved Telehealth fees, but not peer support specialist.

MOTION: To approve Vital Strategies Match Memorandum and forward to Executive Committee (Schreier/Harris, PASSED 3-0)

Peer Recovery Worker Staff Request

This request is for two (2) .7 Peer Support Workers, likely hired through Nicolet who would be interns and start in 2025 through July 2026. Looking for additional funding during that time to continue with those or new interns. Human Service Committee has approved. This is informational for Public Safety Committee and can forward to Executive Committee.

MOTION: To approve Peer Recovery Worker staff request and forward to Executive Committee (Schreier/Condado, PASSED 3-0)

Jail Crisis Facilitator Staffing & Costing Worksheet

Currently filled by a .5 employee at the Timber Drive Location. They are able to crisis screen, work with inmates as they exit the jail to ensure they have services/support they need so they don't end up back in jail. Schreier asked if cost would be split? Hoerchler advised it would be a full-time position, half Human Services/half Oneida County Jail.

Sheriff Hartman reminded the committee that pre-Covid, the screeners would come to the jail and refused to continue again after Covid. The jail hired a screener and Sheriff Hartman fought with HSC to cover the \$100,000. Discussion on HSC/DOSS combining, they stopped doing the job but were still getting the funds, and shifting of money. Hoerchler advised to increase from half- to full-time her cost would be around \$54,000.00. There was discussion on the issue that transpired, the previous impact, funding and no services provided.

Schreier asked how the person would account for their allotted time at the jail. Sheriff Hartman advised he and Hoerchler had spoken, and he would know very quickly if the work was not being done at the jail.

MOTION: To approve the Jail Crisis Facilitator position and forward to Executive Committee (Harris/Condado, PASSED 3-0)

TAD Grant Budget Form

Requesting opioid money again in September meeting to continue the program. \$166,000.00, same as before. Schreier asked if there was indication regarding contact discussion. Hoerchler advised there was not.

No motion or vote taken.

Opioid Settlement Fund Matrix Example

Discussed under Executive Summary and Funding Worksheet section

Committee took a recess at 10:52 a.m. Back in session at 10:57 a.m.

MEDICAL EXAMINER

Creation of part-time Chief Deputy Medical Examiner Position

T. Hartman advised there was discussion at last month's meeting about eliminating the Chief Deputy Medical Examiner position, but that would leave the office in a bit of a

quandary when there were a large amount of deaths, vacations, etc. so the position needs to be created.

Schreier asked if the position would need to be posted. T. Hartman advised no, there is a person in mind, but a few things need to be checked into first. There was a type in the budget, but the annual budget cost will be \$6,000.00. The title will be Chief Deputy Medical Examiner, but part time.

MOTION: To approve moving the full-time Chief Deputy Medical Examiner position to a part-time Chief Deputy Medical Examiner (Harris/Condado, PASSED 3-0)

Proposed 2026 Medical Examiner Budget

Discussed the ME Goals (Exhibit #2). ME office is required by statute. T. Hartman suggested not to eliminate the non-mandated services to Vilas and Forest counties. There was discussion regarding the contract with Vilas and Forest counties and if they needed to be advised of the re-structuring of the ME office. T Hartman advised she has reached out to the various agencies receiving services and there have been no concerns regarding the ME office and the staffing. Response time has reduced drastically. T Hartman is recommending a 10% decrease in the contract cost to each county. T Hartman noted the training was increased from \$1,000.00 to \$2,000.00, as a number of the LTE's would like to get training.

MOTION: To approve the Proposed 2026 Medical Examiner Budget and send forward to the executive committee (Harris/Condado, PASSED 3-0)

Resolution to appoint Chief Medical Examiner

T Hartman advised fiscal is for what was budgeted vs what it will be and shows the former ME wage, showing that it went down.

T Hartman advised she reached out to funeral directors and counties. There were no calls, complaints, etc., other than how things went down.

There was discussion on the next evaluation period and what the official action date would be.

MOTION: To approve the resolution to appoint Cambrya Hurlburt as the Chief Medical Examiner (Harris/Condado, PASSED 3-0)

SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Emergency Management Performance Grant Budget

Sheriff Hartman advised there was \$40,000.00 budgeted from a grant that pays part of the Emergency Management Program Assistant and Emergency Management Directors wages. He advised those funds have not been received as of yet from the federal and state government. He advised there is movement and the money may be here in a week or so, but there is a hole in the budget right now. Brining this to the committee's attention before it becomes an issue. Discussion on where the money flows, what front

line agencies get. Sheriff Hartman advised it was almost too late to cover with general fund if funding does not come through, and typically jobs are on the line.

No motion, informational only.

Tomahawk Fall Ride Grant

Sheriff Hartman advised the Fall Ride Grant typically covers the overtime for the county during Fall Ride. The grant comes from the DOT through State Patrol, generally \$20,000-\$30,000. Usually settled by April or May, no guarantees at this time for the grant to our presence will be modified. Sheriff Hartman advised this was something for the committee's radar and that a grant problem will create another hole in the budget.

No motion, informational only.

LTE Staffing Requests

Sheriff Hartman advised the Dive Team, Corrections and Dispatch need to be approved yearly. Same as other years. There is no LTE in Dispatch at this time, one in the jail and the Dive Team

MOTION: To approve LTE staffing requests for the Sheriff's Office (Harris/Condado, PASSED 3-0)

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA(S)

None

ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 11:32 a.m.

Steven Schreier, Chairman

Andi Seidel, Committee Secretary

Diana Harris, Vice-Chairman