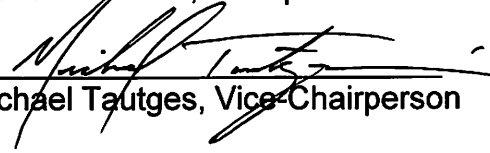


Steven Schreier, Chairperson



Dawn Robinson, Committee Secretary



Michael Tautges, Vice-Chairperson

**MINUTES OF THE ONEIDA COUNTY
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING
December 11, 2025**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairperson Steven Schreier, Russ Fisher, Billy Fried and Michael Tautges.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Debbie Condado excused.

OTHERS PRESENT: Beth Hoerchler (Human Services), Chad Lynch (Corporation Counsel), Sheriff Hartman, Patti Finlan (Circuit Court Branch I), Judge Schiek (Circuit Court Branch I), Judge Sowinski (Circuit Court Branch II) and Tracy Hartman (County Administrator).

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 (Fried/Tautges, PASSED 4-0).

APPROVE PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: To approve the November 13, 2025 Committee Meeting Minutes (Fried/Fisher, Tautges abstained, PASSED 3-0).

The Chairperson explained if a Committee Supervisor reviewed the minutes, the Supervisor can vote even though they were not present during the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

SCHEDULE COMMITTEE MEETING DATE(S)

The next meeting was scheduled for January 8, 2026 at 9:30 a.m.

NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR

The Chairperson called for nominations.

Supervisor Fisher made a motion to nominate Tautges for Vice Chairperson.

Second call for nominations, none was given.

Call for nominations was closed.

Chairperson Schreier seconded the motion.

MOTION: To approve nomination of Supervisor Michael Tautges as Vice Chair (Fisher/Schreier, PASSED 4-0).

BILLS, VOUCHERS AND LINE ITEM TRANSFERS FOR PUBLIC SAFETY DEPARTMENTS

Chairperson Schreier notes all vouchers and line item transfers are received and within budget and are accepted by the committee.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE COORDINATING COMMITTEE

Request for Opioid Funds for an LTE Grant Writer

The Human Services Director was present and explained the LTE position will write the grant for 2027. This is a new grant cycle and it is a competitive grant 75% with a 25% match. The department received the grant in 2023 and continues to work on initiatives.

Supervisor Fried asked who applied for the grant. The Human Services Director explained the former Director applied for the grant as the Department Director.

There were discussions regarding programs, grant writing, staffing, Treatment and Diversion Coordinator and opioid funding. The Human Service Director explained the LTE grant writer is for this grant only.

Chairperson Schreier stated the previous Director applied for the grant, has been involved through the process, grants should be maximized responsibly and mentioned this is a three-year grant cycle. The Chairperson supports the program.

The Director mentioned the LTE position would go through the LRES/Executive Committee process.

Deadline: the grant starts in April. The Director requested approval ahead of the start date.

MOTION: To send the Request for Opioid Funds for an LTE Grant Writer to the Executive Committee (Fisher/Schreier, 1 Nay Vote/Fried, PASSED 3-0). /

SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Request for Opioid Funds for Drug Investigations

Sheriff Hartman is requesting money for investigations, prioritize enforcement of smaller cases that could lead to larger cases. Strong law enforcement and strong prosecutions of drug dealers would have an impact and is the purpose for the request.

Chairperson Schreier asked if the language was reviewed to determine what can and cannot be done with it. The Sheriff informed the Committee the request qualifies and would forward information onto Corporation Counsel and the Finance Director.

Chairperson Schreier asked if this would be a one-time dollar amount over a long-term commitment. The Sheriff explained this would be a longer timeframe with a review.

Chairperson Schreier noted majority of positions have stipulated in resolutions, the positions be reviewed annually and if the funding goes away, the program goes away. The Sheriff agreed.

The Sheriff mentioned there could be another trained season staff member in place as a drug investigator to start immediately and explained the difficulty in hiring a qualified deputy right now. The Sheriff stated if the funding ran out for the position, the Sheriff could bring in staff during off-time to work on investigations quickly to make an impact.

Chairperson Schreier affirmed the Sheriff would make the determination specific to drug investigations and that he/Chairperson supports both options pulling in a person and supplementing overtime funding. The Chairperson asked the County Administrator if the interest on the opioid funding was the monies being spent, the County Administrator confirmed.

Supervisor Fried would like to receive more information on what to expect on what will be done, another investigator or help supplement overtime. Fried does not support supplementing overtime.

The Sheriff provided information on how the NORDEG Unit began, what they did, how they received funding, staffing levels, workload incredibly busy and priority cases. The Sheriff strongly believes law enforcement has a priority role.

Supervisor Fisher asked Judges, who are present, for their input.

Judge Sowinski suggested sitting down and plan/think out how to use the funds, monitor individuals (who have open cases) when they leave the Jail and hold them accountable when they are not in Jail. Judge Sowinski stated the County does not have defense attorneys that would aid in moving to solve the issue quicker.

The Sheriff agreed with Judge Sowinski regarding attorneys and informed the Committee the reason for the topic was to have open discussions, programs are expensive with little impact. As a community whole, it would cost a lot of money for each person you are helping versus having a strong arrest and prosecution process.

Chairperson Schreier agreed if there is no representation, the person either cannot be brought forward or the person is released and added, most people will reuse drugs. Chairperson Schreier stated, if the County can fund a program and achieve law enforcement and the social/human services side and work together collectively, that is a benefit and not just staying status quo.

The Sheriff will come back to the Committee with options and direction.
Supervisor Fried requested a worksheet of funding and what the funding is used for.

No action taken at this time.

CIRCUIT COURT BRANCH I

Discussion of Judicial Assistant Compensation

Judge Schiek and Judicial Assistant were present.

The agenda item is part of the Closed Session topic.

Chairperson Schreier asked if there was anything to be discussed publically before closed session, Judge Schiek noted there was nothing.

Chairperson Schreier confirmed compensation is addressed under Closed Session.

Judge Sowinski noted it is difficult to keep experienced clerks if there is no financial compensation.

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)(c) Considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility (Topic: Judicial Assistant Compensation). 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: To go into closed session pursuant to Section 19.85(1)(c) Considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility (Topic: Judicial Assistant Compensation). (Fisher/Fried, On a Roll Call Vote: Tautges 'aye', Fried 'aye', Fisher 'aye' and Schreier 'aye', PASSED 4-0).

The Committee entered into closed session at 10:26 a.m.

MOTION: To return to open session (Fisher/Tautges, On a Roll Call Vote: all 'ayes' no nays, PASSED 4-0).

The Committee returned to open session at 11:03 a.m.

MOTION: To forward Judicial Assistant Compensation request onto Executive Committee (Schreier/Tautges, On a Roll Call Vote: all 'ayes' no nays, PASSED 4-0).

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comment.

ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

No future agenda items.

ADJOURN

11:08 a.m.