

ONEIDA COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Oneida County Highway Department Conference Room
Thursday, July 23, 2026 8:00 a.m.

Committee members:	Present	Excused	Absent
Ted Cushing	X		
Bob Almekinder	X		
Billy Fried	X		
Dan Hess	X		
Greg Oettinger	X		

Also Present: Ben Rich/Highway Commissioner, Dan Gleason/Highway and Heather Marheine/Finance Director

1. Call to order and Chairperson's announcements

Chair Ted Cushing called the Public Works Committee meeting to order at 8:00 am noting the meeting was posted according to Wisconsin Open Meeting Laws and ADA accessible.

2. Approve agenda

Motion by Hess/Almekinder to approve the agenda as presented and posted. Motion carried.

3. Approve minutes of the Public Works Committee meeting held July 9, 2026

Motion by Fried/Almekinder to approve the minutes as presented for July 9, 2026. Motion carried.

4. Public comments

None.

5. Future Meeting Dates:

- August 6, 2026
- August 20, 2026

6. June Budget to Actual and Invoices Paid Reports

Rich reported there was improvement but they were still projecting to be over on both County and State because of the increased winter maintenance costs.

7. Approve Vendor Vouchers

Motion by Hess/Oettinger to approve the vendor vouchers. Motion carried.

8. 2027 Full Time Staffing Request

Rich explained he was making the request for two full time positions in anticipation of the potential jurisdictional transfer of Willow Road.

Fried suggested the request should be part of a package presented for consideration of the jurisdictional transfer.

9. Approve 2027 Town Bridge Aid Requests

Rich reported there were five requests received.

Gleason explained because towns have decided to postpone some approved requests for projects from previous years there was enough in the account to fund the requests for 2027, the Town of Pelicans request for 2026 and an adequate contingency without additional funding.

Hess commented the committee passed a motion increasing the contingency funding from \$50,000 to \$100,000.

Fried questioned why a town could not afford a planned project if they are able to levy for the towns portion of the cost.

Cushing explained estimated project costs suddenly increased from \$1 million to \$2 million. Motion by Hess/Almekinder to approve the five requests as presented. Motion carried.

10. Approve Maintenance Contract for Town of Woodboro

Rich reported corporation counsel reviewed and made some minor changes to the contract prior to returning it to the Town's attorney.

11. Approve Sand Lake Boat Landing Launch Ordinance

Rich reported they received the parts for the drop box, researched options for payment envelopes and a dispenser to hold the envelopes.

12. Request for Jurisdictional Transfer of Willow Road, Town of Lynne and Pine Lake Road and Squirrel Lake Road, Town of Minocqua to the Oneida County Highway System update

Almekinder provided the finance director with the history of the request and the challenges currently faced by the Town and potentially to the County.

Marheine questioned what would happen if the County did not take the road.

Fried commented the Town could impose weight limits that could affect access to County forestlands questioning at what point they should forward the request to the County.

Marheine questioned if there was something that could be done to help the Town bring the road up to spec.

Almekinder noted he was reaching out to the State's elected officials and the DOT to explore potential funding.

Hess commented he would contact Tammy Baldwin.

Almekinder suggested after exploring the options the committee put together a package with the anticipated costs to present to the county board.

Fried commented he was not in support of the transfer even if they found funding to reconstruct the road because of the cost of two additional employees and equipment questioning if they should request someone from the town attend a meeting.

Almekinder noted he was keeping in touch Town Supervisor Brown.

13. Equipment Updates

Rich reported there were no major breakdowns and a new patrol truck should be delivered within two weeks noting there were two trucks remaining truck on order.

14. Complaint Status Report

Rich commented they were addressing safety concerns first.

15. Commissioner's Report

Rich reported:

- The department received a DMA for \$24,000 to pour concrete over a failing culvert.
 - The crew was continuing to perform work on the State system.
 - Lincoln County started painting the previous Monday.
 - There were currently twenty-five CIP projects for the building totaling almost \$9 million.
- Fried suggested Rich bring back his recommendations for future building projects.

16. Future Agenda Items

- Jurisdictional Transfer of Willow Road, Town of Lynne and Pine Lake Road and Squirrel Lake Road, Town of Minocqua to the Oneida County Highway System
- Boat Landing Launch Fee Ordinance
- Town Bridge Aid Policy
- CIP Project Requests
- Town of Woodboro Maintenance Contract

17. Public comments

None

18. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 am

Committee Chairman

Committee Secretary