



Onondaga County Legislature

JAMIE McNAMARA
Clerk

JAMES J. ROWLEY
Chairman

TAMMY BARBER
Deputy Clerk

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PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING THE 2023 COUNTY BUDGET OCTOBER 6, 2022, 6:00 P.M.

Livestream available at www.facebook.com/OnondagaCountyLegislature

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. May, Mr. Ryan, Ms. Abbott, Mr. Olson, Mr. Kinne, Mrs. Ervin

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mr. Burtis

ALSO ATTENDING: Chairman Rowley, Ms. Gunnip, Ms. Kuhn, Dr. Chase, Mr. McBride, Mr. Bush, Mr. Kelly, Mr. Garland

Chair May called the 6:00 p.m. public hearing to order at 6:07 p.m. Chair May stated that the County Executive presented the 2023 Executive Budget to the Legislature including increased spending for children, lead abatement, and countywide infrastructure, as well as a lower tax rate and levy. The Ways and Means Committee reviewed the budget and infused important priorities of this body into their recommendations to the full Legislature.

Chair May called the following speakers to the podium:

Jill Hurst-Wahl, Onondaga Public Library Board of Trustees President – *Statement attached*

Mark Stanbro chose not speak

Alex Dunckle, Horseshoe Lane Homeowners Association, Chittenango, NY

Sharon Capers, Syracuse, NY

Yvonne Griffin, Syracuse, NY

Chair May asked if there were any other speakers wishing to be heard, and there were none.

Chair May thanked County department heads including Mr. Morgan and his team for their support and cooperation in the budget process, Legislators for their participation and attendance, and Legislative staff including Ms. Lesniak and Ms. McNamara for their help in the process.

The public hearing was adjourned at 6:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "JMcNamara", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

JAMIE McNAMARA, Clerk
Onondaga County Legislature

WAYS & MEANS

Chair: Brian May / Vice Chair: Chris Ryan
Tim Burtis, Julie Abbott, Mark Olson, Bill Kinne, Linda Ervin

My name is Jill Hurst-Wahl. I am president of the Onondaga County Public Library Board of Trustees. As the library system for Onondaga County, OCPL is one of 23 public library systems in New York State, and it serves all of the public libraries and their branches within the County. That's 20 public libraries with 32 library locations, and includes all of the branch libraries in the City of Syracuse. We provide system services to the public libraries in your communities from Jordan to Manlius and from Tully to Brewerton. Of the services we provide, the most visible to you is the ability for someone – let's say in East Syracuse - to use the library's integrated catalogue to find a book of interest and then borrow that book from the library that holds it, like Fairmount. While that is a service we all can relate to, I assure you that OCPL supports your community libraries behind the scenes in many ways that directly translate into world class services to your community.

Public libraries are part of the infrastructure of this County. I place their importance on the same level as our K-12 schools, the power grid, roads, sidewalks, and access to clean water. And like all of those, our libraries are worth your investment so their physical and digital collections, non-book resources, buildings, and staff are on par with our peers across New York State and the country.

So...thank you for including more funding for OCPL in the 2023 budget (13,422,767) **than in the 2022 (13,107,973) budget. I recognize that we are not yet back to the adopted budget levels of 2019 (13,956,958) or 2020 (14,621,943). I look forward to returning to and exceeding those budget levels soon as you continue to invest in the infrastructure that makes Onondaga County a preferred place to live and work.**