



# Onondaga County Legislature

**JAMIE McNAMARA**  
Clerk

**JAMES J. ROWLEY**  
Chairman

**TAMMY BARBER**  
Deputy Clerk

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## WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE MINUTES – OCTOBER 24, 2023 BRIAN F. MAY, CHAIR

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mr. Ryan, Mr. Burtis, Ms. Abbott, Mr. Knapp, Mr. Kinne, Mrs. Ervin  
**ALSO ATTENDING:** Chairman Rowley, Ms. Kuhn, Mr. Bush; also see attached

Chair May called the meeting to order at 11:40 a.m. *The minutes of the previous meeting had been distributed, and there were no objections to waiving the reading. There were no corrections to the minutes, and the minutes were approved.*

### 1. HEALTH DEPARTMENT:

#### a. **2023 Transfer Resolution (\$250,000)** (Sponsored by Ms. Gunnip)

##### PURPOSE:

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Due to a pathologist vacancy that was budgeted to be filled in the 2023 personnel (101) line, the Medical Examiner’s Office (MEO) is requesting approval to transfer funds to support contract forensic pathology services.

##### OBJECTIVES:

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##### Forensic Pathology Contract Services:

The MEO’s office has always relied on contracted pathologists to provide necessary coverage for the County’s medical examiner services. The 2023 budget included both pathologists employed on contract as well as three full-time county employed pathologists on the personnel/101 line. However, in late 2022 and since the beginning of this year, there have only been two pathologists on staff.

A budget transfer of \$250,000 from MEO salary line will ensure adequate coverage throughout 2023. On average, the cost per day for a contracted pathologist is \$3,600. Coverage is typically provided for weekends and scheduled or out-of-office periods. Contracts include a base amount for coverage on call and fees per pathological service (autopsy, external examination, scene visit callout, death certificate only review, case review/report completion where there is no exam).

##### A694080 BUDGET INCREASE: \$250,000

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##### **2023 Budget**

##### A641010 Total Salaries

Regular Employee Salaries \$250,000

##### A694080 Professional Services

Contracted Pathologists \$250,000

*A motion was made by Mr. Knapp, seconded by Mr. Ryan, to approve this item. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.*

**2. FACILITIES MANAGEMENT:** Archie Wixson, Commissioner**a. Amending the 2023 Budget Regarding Postage (\$250,000)** (*Sponsored by Ms. Cody*)**PURPOSE:**

*Appropriate and transfer funds to cover expenditures incurred beyond Budget balance*

**OBJECTIVE/ WORK PLAN:**

*The shortfall in All Other Expenses is due to higher cost of postage. The account that has a surplus to cover the deficits are Maintenance, Util & Rents, specifically Utilities where projected utility costs are coming in lower than adopted budget.*

**FUNDING SOURCE:**

*Operating budget*

**BUDGET:**

*The funding will come from accounts within Facilities Management budget and revenue from the City of Syracuse*

- Increase in postage rates since last budget
- City of Syracuse incurred more postage than previous year; revenue is increased – balancing \$120K for city usage
- County departments experienced increase in rates and some have used more for mailings, programs (i.e. Health Dept.)
- Asking to transfer \$130K from Maintenance, Utilities & Rents due to utilities being less from mild winter

***Mr. Knapp made a motion to approve this item.***

- Revenue is what is charged to city abstract

***Ms. Abbott seconded the motion.***

- Generally all postage goes through Facilities, but cannot confirm if departments go to a post office
  - Includes city of Syracuse, OCC, county, as well as a couple towns and villages

***Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.***

**3. PLANNING DEPARTMENT:** Dan Kwasnowski, Director**a. Calling for Publication of the Notice of Eight-Year Review of Agricultural District No. 4, Towns of DeWitt, Fabius, LaFayette, Onondaga, Pompey, and Tully in Onondaga County**  
(*Sponsored by Mr. Burtis*)

- Process laid out by Ag and Markets
- 8 yr review allows people to add/subtract; notify all ag owners in the district, who in turn respond to Planning
- Usually there are some small parcels to come out; adds are more normal

**Questions/Comments from the committee:**

- Ag and Farmland Protection Board does due diligence with all the recommendations to the Legislature
- Board is a great representation of ag community and those who influence it

***A motion was made by Ms. Abbott, seconded by Mr. Knapp, to approve this item.***

- Thank you to staff, as they have hundreds of letters to stuff, seal and post
- Also, Ms. Barber who did 3 hours of nonstop minute taking (at the last AFPB meeting)

***Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.***

**b. 2023 Transfer Resolution (\$2,410,000) (Sponsored by Mr. Burtis)**

## Greenway and Blueway Strategy

Contingency Budget \$2.41M

Planning Projects: \$285,000

1. Onondaga County Greenway Plan: \$110,000
2. CNY Regional Market Strategic Revitalization Plan: \$175,000

Implementation Projects: \$1,700,000

3. Greenways: \$500,000
4. Blueway Plan and Projects: \$600,000
5. Inner Harbor: \$350,000
6. Otisco Lake Drinking Water Source Protection Plan Implementation: \$250,000

Project Feasibility Studies: \$360,000

7. West Shore Onondaga Lake Park and Amphitheater Bypass Trail: \$110,000
8. Split Rock Recreation Area and Onondaga Greenway Multi-Use Trail (Kasson to Onondaga Road along former Trolley Line to City of Syracuse along Onondaga Road): \$100,000
9. Skytop Recreation Area and Solar Commercial Park: \$50,000
10. Skaneateles/Jordan/Elbridge Trail: \$50,000
11. Salina Bear Trap Creek Trail Extension to Park Street: \$50,000

Direct Grants: \$65,000

12. Bike Park Flow Trail Grant: \$45,000
13. Bear Trap Creek Trail Pavement Repair Grant: \$20,000

## Descriptions:

1. Onondaga County Greenway Plan The funding will provide consulting assistance with plan development, resource inventories, stakeholder engagement, and document/website development.
2. CNY Regional Market Strategic Revitalization Plan A strategic plan for revitalization of the facility, which is an important resource within the Ley Creek and Onondaga Lake greenway systems and supporting rural greenspaces.
3. Greenway Implementation Projects To provide match for grants and support projects identified in the Onondaga County Greenway Plan.
4. Blueway Plan and Projects To provide funding for the plan and match for grants and support projects identified in the Onondaga County Blueway Plan.
5. Inner Harbor Implementation Projects To fund projects consistent with the Lakefront Local Waterfront Revitalization Program plan.
6. Otisco Lake Drinking Water Source Protection Plan Implementation This funding will be used to support the plan, and efforts to protect Otisco Lake.
7. West Shore Onondaga Lake Park and Amphitheater Bypass Trail This study will examine and create an actionable plan for improvements to the west shore of Onondaga Lake including among other things a multi-use Amphitheater Bypass Trail to be used during amphitheater events.
8. Split Rock Recreation Area and Onondaga Greenway Multi-Use Trail (Kasson to Onondaga Road along former Trolley Line to City of Syracuse along Onondaga Road) This study will create a comprehensive approach to recreation and conservation in the area around Split Rock, an immensely popular recreation resource in the Town of Onondaga and Camillus. This includes the feasibility of necessary improvements to formalize a trail to create the Onondaga Greenway Multi-Use Trail.
9. Skytop Recreation Area and Solar Commercial Park This project will study the feasibility of uniting various interests and formalizing this recreation hotspot in the towns of Onondaga and Dewitt. At the same time the study will examine the feasibility of a solar installation and commercial development where feasible on the site to recoup costs of providing and formalizing recreational resources.
10. Skaneateles/Jordan/Elbridge Trail This feasibility study will examine the extension of the Charlie Major Trail in Skaneateles and the unofficial Valley Road trail in Elbridge to create a multi-use trail connecting Skaneateles, Elbridge, Jordan and the Empire State Trail.

11. Salina Bear Trap Creek Trail Extension to Park Street This study will examine the feasibility of extending the Bear Trap Creek Trail in Salina south from 7<sup>th</sup> North Street to Park Street in Syracuse. The study will also consider extending the trail north toward Airport Boulevard and East Taft Road in the Town of Cicero.
12. Bike Park Flow Trail Grant These funds are to provide funding to locate, design and build a mountain bike flow trail within Onondaga County.
13. Bear Trap Creek Trail Pavement Repair Grant These funds will provide assistance in repairing the pavement on Bear Trap Creek Trail in the Town of Salina. The trail has been damaged by tree roots which is not uncommon.

#### Questions/Comments from the committee:

- Working with Jamesville Reservoir Preservation Association – during COVID the park was closed due to lack of lifeguards, now problem is with algae blooms and other issues
- Jamesville Reservoir has serious sedimentation problem – depth was 60’, now deepest part is 29’ in north area by dam; in a lot of places it is down to only a few feet
- There is a study by Army Corps of Engineers that is good, but out of date
- Association met with Sen. Rachel May and Assemblywoman Pam Hunter concerning a \$4B NYS fund involving water; they have committed to putting Jamesville Reservoir on the list, but need a price for the cost
- Spoke with County Executive, who agreed to add Jamesville Reservoir to the list of projects for study, not remediation
- Logical move to add it and memorialize this as a priority; may need to amend to increase funding if there is not enough
  - Law:
    - Is the intent to change the funding amount, or to add James Reservoir to the total allocation?
  - Planning:
    - Numbers do add up
    - Blueways is typically infrastructure on the shoreline, but because of the recreational use, it is a good example of item #4 Blueway Plan and Projects
    - Water quality will be discussed with the plan, as well as maintaining water bodies at level conducive to use
    - \$600K would be the place to add this in
- Looking to update the study
- Does money have to be moved or added? How much would it cost?
- \$600K may support it
  - Finance:
    - This is the plan right now, so numbers are not firm, work in progress
    - When moving through projects, will determine if the project moves forward
    - Will see if there is funding; if not, will come back to ask for more

Chair May noted for the record, “that we support the addition of a study on Jamesville Reservoir to address the fact that it is filling in.”

- It is highly utilized park (especially by city residents) and asset to county; need to keep investing in assets

***A motion was made by Mr. Knapp, seconded by Mr. Burtis, to approve this item, which includes the discussion. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.***

4. **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**: Robert Petrovich, Director
  - a. **2023 Transfer Resolution (\$2,500,000)** (*Sponsored by Mr. Burtis*)
  - b. **2023 Transfer Resolution (\$500,000)** (*Sponsored by Mr. Burtis*)

#### **ITEM 4A PURPOSE:**

*Transfer \$2,500,000 to a grant project account to support workforce development initiatives regarding advanced manufacturing/semiconductor manufacturing.*

**OBJECTIVE/WORK PLAN:**

*The Onondaga County Office of Economic Development is partnering with the economic development ecosystem to support workforce development. A key area of focus is the advanced manufacturing/semiconductor manufacturing industry.*

*This funding will support transformational opportunities for residents of Onondaga County. The goals of these programs is to provide pathways to prosperity for residents of Onondaga County.*

*The Office of Economic Development is engaged with local organizations such as MACNY, OCC and Syracuse University to expand partnerships regarding workforce development. OCIDA routinely partners with organizations such as MACNY to address the critical workforce needs of local companies, particularly in the advanced manufacturing sector.*

*This investment will work in concert with ongoing efforts such as the Micron Cleanroom Simulation Lab at Onondaga Community College and provide career opportunities to residents of Onondaga County. An example of this would be development of training programs for technicians in the semiconductor and microelectronic manufacturing industries.*

**FUNDING SOURCE:**

*Funding approved in 2023 Budget.*

**BUDGET:**

*Transfer from contingent account to grant project account.*

**ITEM 4B PURPOSE:**

*Transfer \$500,000 to a grant project account to support workforce attraction initiatives regarding advanced manufacturing/semiconductor manufacturing.*

**OBJECTIVE/WORK PLAN:**

*The Onondaga County Office of Economic Development is partnering with the economic development ecosystem to support workforce development. A key area of focus is the advanced manufacturing/semiconductor manufacturing industry.*

*This funding will support the attraction of critical talent to Onondaga County, particularly from engineering universities in the United States. This initiative will target recent graduates via a focused marketing program regarding the quality of life benefits of the CNY area.*

**FUNDING SOURCE:**

*Funding approved in 2023 Budget.*

**BUDGET:**

*Transfer from contingent account to grant project account.*

- \$500K – workforce attraction (4b)
  - Actively pursue and attract new graduates to the area in support of semiconductor industry
  - Micron being front and center in the conversation
  - Attract recent graduates and have job fairs for computer science, electrical engineering, material science from Big 10 or Pack 12 schools (i.e. companies in tech space will go to Purdue or Stanford to hire an entire graduating class)
  - Want to enhance competitive advantage by marketing those schools in this area as part of workforce attraction
  - Money approved in contingency account in prior year's budget to be put into project account
- \$2.5M – workforce development training (4a)
  - Working with Syracuse University and their Veterans Center
  - Make sure people coming are properly trained and available for the semiconductor field for electrical engineering, material science, computer science, etc.
  - Work with Advocate Drum – Jefferson County organization for people out of the service, who want to stay in the area, and are looking for opportunities to get trained and work in semiconductor space
  - Working with MACNY (Manufacturers Association of CNY) and Advocate Drum for portable skills across the industry; applicable to Micron, as well as other opportunities in advanced manufacturing semiconductor industry

**Questions/Comments from the committee:**

- How will the county attract? Is it working with institutions and targeting?
  - Think the Big 10 is a great fit; schools like Michigan State and Purdue – engineering schools with similar demographic and climate experience as Central New York
  - Certain number of people generated locally, but want to go beyond that, due to the need
  - Part of marketing campaign to make students aware that the county is here, this is coming and they should consider coming here, as opposed to (i.e.) west coast, Arizona or Texas where other established manufacturing is available
- Will the county partner with or retain a marketing firm to do this work, or will it come through Economic Development?
  - Will work out of this office in concert with County Executive
  - May get ideas from a PR firm that can help with this
  - Have not been able to retain anyone yet, as Economic Development does not have the funding to make it happen
- Please expand on training, where the \$2.5M is going, and where the resources will go
  - Want to help stand up training programs for those looking for careers as technician in semiconductor space
  - Leveraging off announcement at OCC with cleanroom laboratory
  - Working with MACNY and other workforce providers to have direct conduit to train and provide people with appropriate certifications and potentially an Associate's Degree
  - How to get people started and in the pipeline of this ecosystem in order to work for Micron, SCR or anyone in community; everyone looking for positions to be filled by these types of technicians
  - Working with MACNY, Advocate Drum, Syracuse University to help develop training programs to get the skills on boarded for these companies
  - Continuation of K-12 STEM approach – when student is out of high school looking for additional training, ED would look at standing up program to help facilitate that
  - About connecting people with jobs in future
- Key piece is this is not only for Micron; thriving defense industry including SAB Census, SRC, Lockheed
  - Get calls every week about getting help finding people in these particular disciplines, as well as collaboration for getting people trained
  - This is leveraging opportunity for public and private partnerships
- Approximately how many jobs or people will be needed (including Micron)?
  - 100's or 1000's of jobs
  - Micron 1<sup>st</sup> phase of project with 2 fabs would be 3,000-4,000 Micron employees
  - Lot of people that can be trained locally, including those in high school that are looking to go into this field
- Is there talk about going into high schools, or helping to develop a curriculum for local high schools to get students now before they go to college?
  - Needs to get flushed out; nothing is off the table, and it will have to be more fully developed
  - Talking about training in areas of technical jobs, but will also need financial analysts, business people, welders, accountants, machine tool operations, etc.
  - Calls every week about finding people to do things; there is a need and this will help
- When would these kick off, and how will it be timed with jobs coming online in the community?
  - Have jobs now that need to be filled in the area
  - Talk to SRC or Lockheed Martin, everyone circulates in this environment; trading same talent
  - Expectation to advance initiative this coming year and put more “meat on the bones” with initiative
  - There are jobs today that need people and this will help attract; also have to be ready for Micron

***A motion was made by Mr. Knapp, seconded by Ms. Abbott, to approve item 4a. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.***

***A motion was made by Ms. Abbott, seconded by Mr. Ryan, to approve item 4b. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.***

**5. COUNTY LEGISLATURE:****a. Amending the Rules of the Onondaga County Legislature** (*Sponsored by Mr. Rowley*)**Rule 3 (2) & Rule 39a (1): Removing the word “Reading”**

The order of business does not have to include reading of the minutes prior to approval of minutes. If this change is approved, the Chair will only ask for corrections and approve the minutes moving forward. In regard to the committee meeting, the verbiage "of the proceedings" was removed because it is unnecessary.

**Rule 3 (4 &5): Adding “(if applicable)”**

Historically during session, the Legislature has not had reports of standing or special committees in a very long time. By adding this verbiage, it will only be added to a session agenda if in fact there are reports to be listed.

**Rule 3 (6): Adding verbiage regarding district order**

This is to reduce confusion and help administrative staff with the agenda for the session where there annual budget is considered. Historically, the Legislature always takes the budget resolution first, as most other resolutions voted on during that session are a result of the budget. Because of this, adding the verbiage below would allow for the budget session agenda to be in district order starting with the sponsor’s district (sponsor of the budget resolution).

- Will not report on standing or special committees unless exist for session
- During budget, modify roll call of districts to start with the district that is Ways and Means Chair presenting budget
- Confusion when passing budget and moving around on the agenda as items have to be listed a certain way; this allows Legislature to issue agenda that does what is needed

***A motion was made by Mr. Knapp, seconded by Mr. Burtis, to approve this item. Ayes: 6 Abstentions: 1 (Ervin); MOTION CARRIED.***

The meeting was adjourned at 12:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



JAMIE McNAMARA, Clerk  
Onondaga County Legislature

## ATTENDANCE

COMMITTEE: **WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE**

DATE: **OCTOBER 24, 2023**

NAME (Please Print)	DEPARTMENT/AGENCY
Bob Petruich	Econ Dev
Nate Stevens	Econ Dev
Michelle Mignao	Health
Dan Kwasnowski	OCDOP
Jose McMahon	Office of Environment
Briana KeKenny	Office of Env.
Don Romeo	
Darcie Jesnick	Leg.
John DeSantis	Leg
Jim Beebe	Leg
Tim Fatalechi	Leg
Ben Yaus	Law
Steve Morgan	CEO
Archie Dixon	Facilities