



Onondaga County Legislature

JAMIE McNAMARA
Clerk

TIMOTHY T. BURTIS
Chairman

TAMMY BARBER
Deputy Clerk

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COUNTY FACILITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES – NOVEMBER 12, 2024 DEBRA J. CODY, CHAIR

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Knapp, Dr. Kelly, Mr. Brown, Ms. Hernandez

ALSO ATTENDING: Chairman Burtis, Mr. Garland; also see attached list

Chair Cody called the meeting to order at 11:42 a.m. and the previous meeting's minutes were approved.

1. FACILITIES MANAGEMENT: Archie Wixson, Commissioner **a. 2024 Transfer Resolution**

PURPOSE:

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

OBJECTIVE/WORK PLAN:

The shortfall in Supplies is due to higher costs of materials needed for skilled trades and HVAC staff to complete repairs; shortfall in All Other Expenses is due to higher cost of postage.

The accounts that have a surplus to cover the deficits are Maintenance, Utilities & Rents; specifically Utilities where project utility costs are coming in lower than adopted budget.

FUNDING SOURCE:

Operating Budget

BUDGET:

The funding will come from accounts within Facilities Management budget.

- Requesting to transfer \$150k:
 - \$115k from Utilities to All Other Expenses
 - \$35k from Utilities to Supplies
- All Other Expenses deficit due to:
 - Substantial increases in trash and janitorial renewal contracts
 - 2 increases in postage in this budget year
- Supplies deficit due to:
 - Increased material cost for repairs in HVAC building systems
- Utilities
 - Savings are due to mild winter/spring temperatures

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

2. ONONDAGA COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY: Dawn Marmor, Executive Director; Rebecca Gilbert, Library Operations Administrator; Rene Battelle, Administrator for Public Service **a. INFORMATIONAL: Update**

The following was presented by Dawn Marmor

- Onondaga County Library System is part of 4 Federated systems in NYS
 - Buffalo/Erie

- Clinton/Essex/Franklin
- Monroe
- Onondaga
- Federated Systems were created by an action of the County Board of Supervisors or Legislature
- Rebecca Gilbert handles infrastructure of the buildings within the library system
- Rene Battelle handles programs and services within the branches
- The NY Library Association held their annual conference in Syracuse this year
 - Draws Librarians from all across the state
 - Less fortunate Libraries appreciated Onondaga County’s spectacular library system
 - The experience made Onondaga County Librarians look differently about their own library
 - Thank you for the support

The following was presented by Rebecca Gilbert

Libraries as Infrastructure

How our local library buildings support our communities

Onondaga County Public
*Libraries
Learn * Explore * Create

A Library for Everyone in Onondaga County

- ▶ There is a branch library within walking distance of every resident of the City of Syracuse.
- ▶ Onondaga County Public Libraries is a *system* of libraries.
 - ▶ That includes every library in the county
 - ▶ Our Central Library is a hub for the entire County’s library system
- ▶ Investment in the appearance and functionality of these facilities and their staff is a unique way to impact the lives of every resident of Onondaga County.

Impact of Public Libraries on Quality of Life

- ▶ According to a Pew Research study, 94% of Americans say that having a public library improves the quality of life in a community.
- ▶ 81% say that public libraries provide many services people would have a hard time finding elsewhere.
- ▶ 91% of Americans say they know where the closest public library is to where they currently live.
- ▶ Other studies have shown that people prefer to live next to a public library if they have a choice.

“Local officials expect the county population to grow by 125,000 or more.” -Syracuse.com article on the effects of Micron Technologies coming to Onondaga County

As our population grows, our community will look to their local public libraries as an indicator of our government’s commitment to investing in their future.

Services and Spaces

Libraries are often thought of in terms of the services they provide:

- ▶ Story times for children
- ▶ Classes and special programs
- ▶ Assistance with resumes and job searches
- ▶ Tax help
- ▶ One of the most essential functions of a library is often overlooked – and that is the role of the building itself.

Onondaga County Public
***Libraries**
Learn • Explore • Create

City Branch Libraries - Our Historical Commitment to the People of Syracuse

Our Central Library, located downtown in the Galleries, is an integral part of drawing families and businesses into this growing part of the city.



Fully renovated
 in 2016!

- System services are handled through the Central Library in the Galleries
 - Countywide delivery system has 2 day turnaround for getting books from one library to another
 - IT, Technical Services, and Communications departments provide services to all libraries



New doors,
lighting and
floors!

Beauchamp Branch Library

Beauchamp Branch has been viewed as a hub of the Southside community since it first opened in 1929. One of Syracuse's architectural treasures at almost 100 years old, it's been thoughtfully updated to continue to provide top notch library services in a changing world while preserving its historic character.

Recent Upgrades to Beauchamp Branch Library



In total, 94 bookcases were refinished. Old Peg, the restorers who won the bid, also did a beautiful job restoring tables and chairs. We also restored the fireplace and the interior front door.

Other projects happening or recently completed at Beauchamp Branch Library:

- Accessible front doors (NYS Construction Aid)
- Badge Access Reader (NYS Construction Aid)
- New lighting (SAM grant supplemented by County funds)
- New security cameras
- Boiler repair in 2022 (County Facilities)
- Basement repainted
- Replacing steam valves on radiators to ensure even heating
- New water fountain

About Beauchamp Branch

Located approximately one-and-a-half miles from the downtown area, Beauchamp Branch has served the Southside community since it first opened in 1929. Viewed as the hub of the Southside community by many, Beauchamp has been the home of several community wide, annual programs, including Beauchamp's Black History Month Celebration.

In 2022, the following work was done at Beauchamp Branch Library as part of a New York State SAM grant:

- New painting
- New flooring
- Exterior clean
- Refinishing bookcases
- Refinishing furniture
- New window treatments
- New electrical coring in floors

2111 S. Salina Street

315-435-3395

www.onlib.org



Fully renovated in 2017!

Betts Branch Library

Located in the Valley neighborhood of Syracuse, Betts Branch moved to its current building in 1963. The new library was the third home for our southernmost city branch, which opened in 1927 and was renamed in 1949 for Dr. Betts, a noted local minister and longtime library trustee.



New Parking Lot!

Hazard Branch Library

Hazard Branch Library has been serving the West Side of Syracuse for over 100 years along the West Genesee Street corridor. In 1968, Hazard moved to its current location at 1620 West Genesee Street, into a building that is a classic example of the mid century modern style.



New Landscaping!

Mundy Branch Library

Mundy Branch is located in the Near Westside community, serving the neighborhoods of the Westside, Southwest and Strathmore area. The library opened its doors in 1917, as a station in Salt City Store. It has changed locations numerous times over the years, moving to its current location in 1988.



Updated Staff Room!

Paine Branch Library

Paine Branch was originally the Eastwood Library, and it became a part of the Syracuse Public Library system when Eastwood was annexed in 1926. The present facility opened in 1958 and was named for Dr. Paul Mayo Paine, who served as the Director of the Syracuse Public Library from 1915-1942.



New badge access!

Petit Branch Library

Petit Branch Library is located on Victoria Place, off Westcott Street. This branch is on the near east side of Syracuse in an eclectic area known as the University Neighborhood and the Westcott Nation. The current location on Victoria Place was dedicated on May 10, 1961.



New limestone panels!

Soule Branch Library

Soule Branch Library, located in the Salt Springs area of the city, has been serving the community since 1965. The building is a beautiful and unique example of mid-twentieth-century architecture featuring exterior limestone paneling. The branch is also located across the street from Le Moyne College and is adjacent to the LeMoyne Plaza.



New craft clean up space!

White Branch Library

White Branch library is the city’s oldest branch. Designed by architect Melvin S. King in the colonial style on the site of the original Franklin School, it opened to the public on July 1st, 1925, and has been serving the residents of the Northside ever since.

Community Center Satellite Libraries- Small size, large impact

Northeast

Syracuse Community
Connections



Funding Sources for Upgrades and Repair

- ▶ Two main sources of funding for library buildings
 - ▶ NYS Construction Aid
 - ▶ Funds “construction” projects only - “[NYS] will not approve projects that contain components which they perceive to be repairs or maintenance. For example, “fix cracks in parking lot,” would likely be perceived as a repair, whereas installing a new parking lot would qualify as construction.”
 - ▶ County Operating Budget
 - ▶ Main source of funds for maintenance/repair
 - ▶ Any funds invested in library upkeep will pay off for a very long time - as is seen by how long our branches have been around and serving the community!
 - ▶ Grants and funding awards (less frequent)

Questions/Comments from the Committee:

Law Department

- Is there a local match for the NYS Construction Aid?
 - State covers 90%, County covers 10%

Recent Projects

- ▶ Security Camera upgrades
- ▶ Badge access to branch libraries
- ▶ Parking lots at Hazard, White, Betts and Soule
- ▶ Water filling stations at Beauchamp, Soule and White
- ▶ Ergonomic staff furniture
- ▶ Landscaping
- ▶ Updated staff rooms at White and Paine

2025 Projects

- ▶ Central Library 1st Floor Staff Bathroom Renovation
- ▶ Central Maker Space Flooring
- ▶ White Branch Security Camera Replacement
- ▶ White Branch masonry work
- ▶ Betts Branch stone steps repair
- ▶ Soule Branch brick work repointing / replacing
- ▶ Petit Branch concrete steps repair
- ▶ Petit Branch flagstone walkway removal and replaced with concrete

Investment in Libraries pays off

- ▶ In 2018, there were 9,261 library systems across the United States with 15,427 branches.
- ▶ Libraries spent 12 billion dollars on operating costs and patrons checked out over 2 billion items.
- ▶ More than 50% of Americans visit public libraries each year.
- ▶ They serve as one of the few non-commercial indoor spaces available to the public.
- ▶ In 2018, children checked out more than 750 million library items and attended events more than 80 million times at libraries nationwide.

Conclusion

- ▶ Libraries last
 - ▶ We are approaching 100 years of use on two of our branches
 - ▶ Others are from the middle of the century
 - ▶ Newest one is Mundy in 1988
- ▶ Money spent on maintaining these buildings and services means they will last for another century!



The following was presented by Rene Battelle

2024 Programs & Services

René Battelle
Administrator for Public Services

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How do we use our facilities for maximum impact across the city?



Onondaga County Public
***Libraries**
Learn * Explore * Create

ACCESS

▶ ASL Initiatives

Play2Sign Tablets – Designed to teach young children American Sign Language

Syracuse University CODA Program – Book drive for Children of Deaf Adults



▶ Workforce Development

Le Moyne ERIE21 Program – Free courses and certification in Google Tech Support program



- Donation from a Professor Emeritus at SU helped purchase Play2Sign tablets for all branches

Shared Programs

▶ Memory Café

Monthly programs at Betts and Hazard Branches



▶ Kitchen Literacy

Workshops and hands-on demos at all branches

▶ Costume Swaps

Partnership with OCRRA at Betts and White Branches



- Kitchen Literacy - Received grant funds from CNY Library Resources Council to provide at least one class per branch

Community Partners

▶ Onondaga County Health Department

Early Intervention Program – Evaluation and therapy for children with developmental delays

Mental Health Backpacks – Special kits for loan with books and resources to support mental health for all ages

▶ Westcott Neighborhood Association

Westcott Street Cultural Fair & Halloween Dog Parade – Popular events for the Westcott area and Petit Branch Library

▶ City of Syracuse

Proud Places Project – Community tabling, refreshments, and neighborhood cleanup projects at White Branch Library

Open Data Day – Tech workshops and coding challenges that draw over 100 people to Central Library



- Mental Health Backpack program for children and adults will launch in Spring 2025

ONONDAGA COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARIES
ANNUAL REPORT 2023

OUR COMMUNITY

1,567,123
of library visitors in 2023

338,800
of library cardholders in 2023

14,407
new library cardholders

\$22,216,246 Total money saved by patrons who checked out book items in 2023 (not including eContent)

COLLECTION
2,736,750
items shared among all county public libraries

CIRCULATION
3,020,090
Print + Media + eContent

40,295
of group programs and 1-on-1 sessions held across county public libraries

Did you know you can visit the Rosamond Gifford Park Zoo for free with one of our county park passes?

2,868
of times patrons borrowed OCPL's county & state park passes to go to places like Green Lakes, Highland Forest, Jamesville Beach, and Beaver Lake Nature Center, and more, for FREE!

e-books & more TOTAL CHECKOUTS
2022: 620,810
2023: 724,173
16% increase from 2022 - 2023

OCPL DATABASES
321,625 countywide database searches

COUNTY PASS Explore Outdoors
2022: 1,221
2023: 1,623

STATE PASS Empire Pass
2022: 749
2023: 1,245

6,363
of children, teens, and adults that registered for the **SUMMER READING PROGRAM**

74,331 books read by children
3,509 books read by teens
1,108,291 minutes read by children
471,911 minutes read by teens

TECH PACKS
(Chromebook + Hotspot)
175 tech packs in system
 Checked out **1,158 times**

649,339 # of website visits to onlib.org

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT
 A CNY Arts Statewide Community Regrant allowed OCPL to partner with the Neighbors of the Onondaga Nation & Haudenosaunee facilitators to host 5 programs at:
 Soule
 Fayetteville
 Onondaga Free
 Marcellus
 Central
 Including 4 'Witness to Injustice' interactive workshops.

2 NEW POLLING LOCATIONS
 The Board of Elections added **Beauchamp Branch & Central Library** as Election Day polling locations so people downtown and on the Southside had more voting options.

VOTED
1st Place
 OCPL & Central Library took first place in the 2023 Downtown Syracuse Window Wonderland contest for its "The Lion, The Witch, and the Wardrobe" Narnia-themed window display.

In 2023, OCPL partnered with a wide range of organizations throughout the county, such as:

Logos for: rh, CNY, Food Bank, SYR, WCN, PBS, OCCRRA.org, and others.

During Hunger Action Month, Syracuse Mets GM Jason Smorol read to kids at Soule Branch for Food Bank of Central New York Storytimes.

OCPL installed a pop-up library at the Redhouse so playgoers could borrow books.

Over 20 patrons signed up for library cards at Tillie's Touch backpack giveaway.

Questions/Comments from the Committee:

- Residents are able to borrow County and State park passes
- Nice to see kids are coming in for free math and science tutoring
- How does someone rent a telescope?
 - Stop into any branch or Central Library with a library card
 - Process is similar to checking out books
- Libraries have been a good resource for daycare; zoom
- Parents are able to work from home (in the library) while stories are being read to children
- Worked with County Executive on Tech Packs in Tully
- How is the program working?
 - People use them differently now than when they were initially rolled out; there was greater need for hotspots
 - Still well used, have redistributed them across libraries to better serve people
- Verizon FIOS partnership has helped with demand
- Tully does a nice job partnering with the school district
- Teachers communicate with library so they are prepared for kids looking for specific things
- Is it possible to do something similar in the city?
 - Teachers and librarians work closely together
 - Promoting summer reading
- School libraries are not part of the County system, so they are unable to transfer books between schools
- What is the effect of digital licensing as more and more people utilize Libby for e-books
 - Licensing is much different for public libraries than for individual consumers
 - Expense goes up as demand goes up
 - More expensive for the County to purchase a license than a print copy

- Is digital streaming available with a library card?
 - Yes, libraries deal with many different formats

The meeting was adjourned at 12:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



TAMMY BARBER, Deputy Clerk
Onondaga County Legislature

ATTENDANCE

COMMITTEE: COUNTY FACILITIES COMMITTEE
DATE: NOVEMBER 12, 2024

NAME (Please Print)	DEPARTMENT/AGENCY
Rene Battelle	OCPL
Becky Maguire	OCPL
Dawn Marmor	OCPL
Archie Wivson	OCFm
Karen Hajski	OCFm
Ben Yaus	Law Dept
Joe Fratocchi	Legal Counsel
John DeSantis	Leg
Jim Beube	Leg.