



# Onondaga County Legislature

**JAMIE McNAMARA**  
Clerk

**JAMES J. ROWLEY**  
Chairman

**TAMMY BARBER**  
Deputy Clerk

401 Montgomery Street • Court House • Room 407 • Syracuse, New York 13202  
Phone: 315.435.2070 • Fax: 315.435.8434 • [www.ongov.net/legislature](http://www.ongov.net/legislature)

## **WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE MINUTES – NOVEMBER 22, 2022** **BRIAN F. MAY, CHAIRMAN**

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

Chair May called the meeting to order at 11:41 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. APPOINTMENTS:**

- a. **Confirming Reappointments to the Cornell Cooperative Extension Association of Onondaga County Board of Directors (Debra J. Cody, Charles Garland) (Sponsored by Mr. Rowley)**
- b. **Confirming Reappointments to the Onondaga County Soil and Water Conservation Board (Ken Bush, Jr., Julie Abbott) (Sponsored by Mr. Rowley)**
- c. **Appointing Two Directors to the Onondaga County Tobacco Asset Securitization Corporation (Tim Burtis, Brian May) (Sponsored by Mr. Rowley)**

*A motion was made by Mr. Olson, seconded by Mrs. Ervin, to approve items 1a – 1c. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.*

### **2. ONONDAGA COUNTY RESOURCE RECOVERY AGENCY:**

- a. **Authorizing the Onondaga County Resource Recovery Agency to Acquire Property (Sponsored by Mr. Rowley)**

*A motion was made by Mr. Kinne, seconded by Mr. Olson, to approve this item.*

- Chairman Rowley met with OCRRA and Ben Yaus (Law Department) – this will expand Ley Creek Transfer Station to make it a full service transfer station
- County required to approve; received letter of support from town of Salina; negative declaration SEQR

*Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.*

### **3. OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENT: Chairman Brian May**

- a. **Amending the 2022 County Budget to Accept Grant Funds from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation for the Mitigation and Eradication of the Water Chestnuts along the Seneca River (\$100,000) (Sponsored by Ms. Abbott)**

- Accepting \$100,000 from NYS - Senator Mannion's office

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

- Thank you to NYS for supporting this; been tough 2 years
- Mr. Burger from SWCD introduced Megan Vandewarker, Conservation District Technician

- Great that there is funding, but it is not enough; other state entities like the DEC need to get more involved; will continue to be a problem; cannot only throw money at it

Ms. Abbott stated for the record, “Much more needs to be done.”

### **3a. WATER ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION: Shannon Harty, Commissioner**

#### **a. Personnel Resolution (WEP Deputy Commissioner)**

- Included in 2023 budget – created 3<sup>rd</sup> Deputy position overseeing capital programs; this is for an advanced step
- WEP secured a highly qualified person with experience working in chip fab
- Seeking advance – Grade 37, Step 21 (in line with other 2 deputies); included and funded at this level in 2023 budget
  - Missed in Personnel Resolution
- Further evidence of rounding out and executing WEP plan
- 22 steps on the pay scale, and this advances to Step 21 (exact same pay scale as the other 2 deputies)

#### **Questions and comments from Committee Members:**

- Will the person in mind go through committee? It is a \$30,490 step increase; Do they know who the person will be and what their qualifications are?
  - Have person and resume, which was reviewed by Personnel; WEP ready to hire them and start in December
  - Can pass along their resume; gentleman’s name is Eric Schuler, who was previously Director of Capital Programs at the Mohawk Valley Water Authority
- In regard to WEP and recruiting candidates, feel there should be more reciprocity with starting people in advance steps; recently brought someone in at Step 21, as well as other advance steps; rationale to do so
- Going from Step 1 to 21, equating to ~\$31,000 raise when short-staffed is a little too far; will take resume
- Will this help with capital projects?
  - WEP working on reestablishing a structure for last year and half, so there is management leading and guiding staff
  - Without proper program and leader in charge, those programs tumble
  - Started with Deputy overseeing operations – core functions, boots on the ground, Dave Snyder
    - Reestablishing organizational chart, putting superintendents in place who can guide and build workforce underneath; start at top and push down to bring in new people
  - Lauren Livermore, Deputy of Regulatory Programs
    - Keeps WEP in line with policies, procedures and regulations – doing things right and doing them well
    - Starting to hire younger staff and Director
  - Capital Program - do not have project management staff or engineers
    - Do not have someone at the top to organize; currently doing group management in zone defense
    - At a point where WEP needs to hire Deputy to manage capital programs
    - Continue to deal with failing assets and taking on more consolidation
    - Adding infrastructure and expansion for White Pine; issues to deal with growth in community
    - Need strong and seasoned engineer to run program management; need municipal engineer
    - \$750M a lot in capital investment
    - Without a strong leader, will not advance projects in timely and organized fashion
    - Critical and vital position to make sure WEP is ready to build out and make repairs; deal with what community needs to serve them
- Workforce issues everywhere; How difficult or common to have someone with chip plant experience?
  - Not common; WEP was looking for something not sure able to find
  - Finding someone with experience in managing projects, planning review, and construction oversight pretty common in consulting world; finding someone with that and municipal experience in running capital projects not common
  - This person has that experience, as well as working on serving chip fab
  - WEP has someone who will hit ground running; without this Deputy, Commissioner cannot get into other challenges
- Do not seem to have problem getting people to work for the county for \$130,000; understand WEP’s top down plan, but from bottom up have short staff to consider; suggest possible reciprocity and step increases for those
  - WEP has hired almost 60 people this year; it is not that they cannot hire, but that they have a lot of positions

- Other elements discussed are union negotiations
- *Suggestion:* Would be good for WEP to come back to Legislature in first few months of 2023 to show progress of plan
  - Have spent lots of time talking about the plan, but it would be good to talk about the wins
  - There are wins despite any issues; as well as what the future looks like
  - Conversation can be had at the Environmental Protection Committee

*A motion was made by Mr. Olson, seconded by Mr. Burtis, to approve this item. Ayes: 4 (May, Burtis, Abbott, Olson) Noes: 2 (Ryan, Ervin) Abstentions: 1 (Kinne); MOTION CARRIED.*

**4. SYRACUSE/ONONDAGA COUNTY PLANNING AGENCY:** Chairman Brian May  
**a. Calling for a Public Hearing on the Adoption of the Onondaga County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plan (December 20, 2022 at 12:50 p.m.)**

- Setting public hearing for new Ag & Farm Protection Plan; been 20 years since plan was updated and replaced
- Great process with stakeholders from all aspects of the community
- Final product takes into consideration all the county needs to think of with respect to agriculture, preserving good farmland and preserving one of the top industries in New York
- Ag & Farm Plan available for review at <https://agriculture.ongov.net/>
- Includes visionary elements for what the future could hold for the community
- It thinks strategically of agriculture and needs for food and generating wealth in the community

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

**5. INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY:** Chairman Brian May  
**a. Amending the 2022 County Budget and Authorizing Further Amendment to an Intermunicipal Agreement with the City of Syracuse Regarding the Provision of Services for PeopleSoft Financials, Hyperion and Kronos Software Systems (\$270,000) (Sponsored by Mr. Burtis)**

- Authorizing expansion of current IMA with city of Syracuse for IT services related to PeopleSoft
- Increment for next few years is \$90,000/year; county's costs which will be covered within city abstract
- Net neutral; need to authorize expansion of IMA

*A motion was made by Mrs. Ervin, seconded by Mr. Olson, to approve this item. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.*

**6. COUNTY CLERK:** Lisa Dell, County Clerk  
**a. Mortgage Tax Apportionment**

- Mortgage tax payments: Oct 1, 2021 – March 31, 2022
- From previous report of Oct 21<sup>st</sup> – March 22<sup>nd</sup>, April 22<sup>nd</sup> – Sept 22<sup>nd</sup>, there was an 8% decrease
- 12% decrease from same report last year; things slowing down on mortgages (i.e. interest rate increase; price increases)

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

**7. FINANCE:** Donald Weber, Real Property Tax Director  
**a. For Real Property within the Village of North Syracuse; Authorizing Acquisition of Tax Delinquent Property and the Subsequent Sale to the Village for Its Use (\$4,282.08)**

- Tax delinquent property; useless strip of land people dump on; divert from auction and sell to village to clean up property

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


- b. **Bloody Brook Drainage District Tax – General Apportionment**
- c. **Bloody Brook Drainage District Tax Town of Clay Apportionment**
- d. **Bloody Brook Drainage District Tax Town of Salina Apportionment**
- e. **Bear Trap – Ley Creek Drainage District Tax – General Apportionment**
- f. **Bear Trap – Ley Creek Drainage District Tax Town of Clay Apportionment**
- g. **Bear Trap – Ley Creek Drainage District Tax Town of DeWitt Apportionment**
- h. **Bear Trap – Ley Creek Drainage District Tax Town of Salina Apportionment**
- i. **Authorizing General Apportionment of Harbor Brook Drainage District Tax**
- j. **Harbor Brook Drainage District Tax Town of Geddes**
- k. **Meadowbrook Drainage District Tax General Apportionment**
- l. **Meadowbrook Drainage District Tax Town of DeWitt Apportionment**
- m. **2023 City Drainage District Abstract**
- n. **Onondaga County Sanitary District, 2023 City Abstract**
- o. **Onondaga County Sanitary District General Apportionment**
- p. **Onondaga County Water District 2023 City Abstract**
- q. **Calling for a Public Hearing on the Assessment Roll for Southwood-Jamesville Water District (December 20, 2022 at 12:55 p.m.)**
- r. **Calling for a Public Hearing on the Assessment Roll for Warners Water District (December 20, 2022 at 12:57 p.m.)**
- s. **Allocation of 2023 Onondaga County Water District Special Assessment Among Zones of Assessment and Fixing Composite Rates for the Several Towns and the City of Syracuse within said District**

- Routine post-budget follow through items; setting ability to set city abstract for districts
- Calling for public hearings mostly to do with the rates

*A motion was made by Mrs. Ervin, seconded by Mr. Burtis, to approve items 7b – 7s. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.*

The meeting was adjourned at 12:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
 JAMIE McNAMARA, Clerk  
 Onondaga County Legislature

ATTENDANCE

COMMITTEE: **WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE**

DATE: **NOVEMBER 22, 2022**

NAME (Please Print)	DEPARTMENT/AGENCY
Mark Binger	SWCD
Megan Vandewander	SWCD
Don Weber	Tax
Shannon Hartly	WEP
Dan Kwasnowski	SocPA
Mary Beth Hill	CE
Briana Kelly	//
Kevin Sexton	OC IT
LISA DELL	County Clerk
Tenesha Murphy	CE office