



# Onondaga County Legislature

JAMIE McNAMARA  
Clerk

DAVID H. KNAPP  
Chairman

MELANIE VILARDI  
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 23, 2021 TIM BURTIS, CHAIRMAN

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mr. May, Mr. Rowley, Mr. Ryan, \*Mrs. Ervin

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Mr. McBride, Mr. Williams

**ALSO ATTENDING:** Chairman Knapp, Ms. Kuhn, Mr. Bush; also see attached

Chairman Burtis called the meeting to order at 9:37 a.m. *A motion was made by Mr. Ryan, seconded by Mr. Rowley to waive the reading and approve the minutes of the previous committee meeting. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.*

1. **TRANSPORTATION:** Martin Voss, Commissioner

a. **Authorizing the Sale of Surplus County Property Consisting of a Portion of Managers Place, C.R. NO. 221, in the Town of Geddes to 1200 State Fair Blvd, LLC and the Concomitant Discontinuance and Removal thereof from the County Road System (\$20,000) (Sponsored by Ms. Cody)**

- Authorize sale of Managers Place – dedicated to county in 70's when 690 was completed, county maintained since
- Law Department was approached by owner of adjacent development, sole user of the road
- Virtually a driveway since railroad closed their crossing; no access and no purpose for access for public (5 years)
- Attorney contacted and wants to buy it; no objection to it; followed process including Law Department having appraisal done; value of \$20,000 agreed to by both parties; this resolution authorizes the transfer

\*Mrs. Ervin arrived at the meeting.

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

2. **HEALTH:** Michelle Mignano, Deputy Commissioner

a. **A Local Law Relating to Certain Fees Collected by the Onondaga County Health Department and the Center for Forensic Sciences for Medical Examiner and Forensic Laboratory Services, and Further Amending Local Law No. 5-2019 (Sponsored by Ms. Abbott)**

- Commissioner Gupta apologizes for not being here
- Updating fees predominantly for the Center for Forensic Sciences; done every 2 years to keep up with cost of staff and supplies; gone up 3% (traditionally done 3%); all of MEO done at 3%; removed fee for private autopsies
- Never done a private autopsy in approximately 20+ years
- Office handles all unnatural deaths; if someone had a natural death and wanted a second opinion, the county presupposed that a previous 1990's MEO would offer assistance to the hospital or family to do a private autopsy
- The MEO does not do that; if someone had a question, the Forensic Investigators will work with family and hospital, but there are plenty of other agencies that do that
- If someone wants a private autopsy for a determined natural death, then there could be something to it (i.e. heredity issue they are concerned about)
- Given current staffing and loads, and serving Onondaga and Oneida County, the capacity is not there
- A second opinion requested from another county would be negotiated with the Medical Examiner; part of regular fees

- Other fees are for BDC (Bureau of Disease Control) - set fee schedule to the largest insurer, which is Excellus
- Mr. Smorol checks to make sure the rate for visits (amount charged to insurance companies) are set at Excellus rates for max reimbursement; not entire fee schedule, but the fees that were lower than Excellus
- Fee schedule predisposed in 2022 budget

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

**3. SYRACUSE/ONONDAGA COUNTY PLANNING AGENCY: Dan Kwasnowski, Director**  
**a. Calling for Publication of the Notice of Eight-Year Review of Agricultural District No. 3, Towns of Camillus, Cicero, Clay, Elbridge, Lysander, Manlius, and Van Buren in Onondaga County (Sponsored by Mr. Holmquist)**

- District 3 renewal for ag district - can both add and remove in district 3; can also add to any district
- Covers Camillus, Cicero, Clay, Elbridge, Lysander, Manlius, and Van Buren
- Allows SOCPA to mail out to all landowners in the district; will see Legislature next year with submissions
- This is a NYS Ag District; county administers program
- i.e. Farmer or own home adjacent to farmer, can be added to ag district; requests are then reviewed
- Ag district - affords certain benefits to land owner; one is overreach of local government (i.e. farmer feels zoning is affecting their ag operation, then NYS will go to bat for them)
- This does not protect land; does not preclude from selling or developing the property

Chairman Knapp commented that there are no tax implications; separate program.

Mr. May requested to be added as a cosponsor.

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

**4. COUNTY CLERK: Chris Plochocki, Deputy County Clerk**  
**a. Mortgage Tax Apportionment**

- Report covers from April – September 2021
- Total to apportionment to cities, towns, and villages: \$7,374,891.76 – up 20% from previous period, which was record setting, and up 49% over the same period last year

Chairman Knapp stated that Onondaga County is one of few counties that distributes this to the towns, villages, city, and Centro. Mr. Plochocki commented that this portion does not go to Centro, but there is a portion of the mortgage tax that does.

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

**5. FINANCE: Donald Weber, Real Property Tax Director**  
**a. Approving and Directing the Correction of Certain Errors on Tax Bills**

- Application to correct tax bill for subsidized housing; Real Property Tax Law requires assessor to value it a certain way using actual income, which they did not; this will correct the bill; total is about \$2,400 county and \$3,300 town

**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. 2022 City Drainage District Abstract
- j. Authorizing General Apportionment of Harbor Brook Drainage District Tax
- k. Harbor Brook Drainage District Tax Town of Geddes
- l. Meadowbrook Drainage District Tax General Apportionment
- m. Meadowbrook Drainage District Tax Town of Dewitt Apportionment
- n. Onondaga County Sanitary District, 2022 City Abstract
- o. Onondaga County Sanitary District General Apportionment
- p. Onondaga County Water District, 2022 City Abstract
- q. Calling a Public Hearing on the Assessment Roll for Southwood-Jamesville Water District
- r. Calling a Public Hearing on the Assessment Roll for Warners Water District
- s. Allocation of 2022 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

Chairman Burtis stated that they can take all the items together, and he pointed out that items q and r are calling for public hearings on the assessment rolls for Southwood-Jamesville and Warners water districts.

*A motion was made by Mr. Ryan, seconded by Mr. Rowley, to approve items 5a through 5s. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.*

Mr. Ryan said the Reapportionment Commission maps may come back to the Legislature, and he asked if now would be the time or place. Chairman Knapp interjected that he does not see what this has to do with the Ways and Means Committee. Chairman Burtis said they can talk about it offline. Mr. Ryan said he thought the Ways and Means Committee okayed the Reapportionment Commission, and Chairman Knapp stated it is a local law with no funds attached to it.

*A motion was made by Mr. Rowley, seconded by Mr. May, to adjourn the meeting. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.*

The meeting was adjourned at 9:54 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



JAMIE McNAMARA, Clerk  
Onondaga County Legislature

ATTENDANCE

COMMITTEE: WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE

DATE: NOVEMBER 23, 2021

NAME (Please Print)	DEPARTMENT/AGENCY
yvette Velasco	Law
Don Weber	TAX
Marty VOSS	DOT
Michelle Mignao	CCUP
Steve Smoral	Fin Ops
Chris Plochowski	County Clerk
Dan Kuasnowski	SOCRA
Tenasha Murphy	CE Office
Darcie Lesniak	LEG