



Onondaga County Legislature

DEBORAH L. MATURO
Clerk

J. RYAN McMAHON, II
Chairman

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WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE MINUTES **June 22, 2018** **BRIAN MAY, CHAIRMAN**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Jordan, Mr. Knapp, Ms. Williams, Mr. Plochocki, *Mrs. Ervin

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mr. Ryan

ALSO PRESENT: Chairman McMahan, Mr. Bush, *see also attached list*

Chairman May called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m. *A motion was made by Mr. Knapp, seconded by Ms. Williams, to waive the reading of the minutes of the proceedings of the previous committee. MOTION CARRIED. A motion was made by Mr. Knapp, seconded by Mr. Plochocki, to approve the minutes of proceedings of the previous committee meeting. MOTION CARRIED.*

1. **COUNTY CLERK:** Chris Plochocki, Deputy County Clerk

a. Mortgage Tax Apportionment

- Period of Oct 1, 2017 – March 31, 2018; total apportionment: \$3,529,163
- Down 17% from previous report; down 13% from same period last year

Chairman May said that it is probably down because of rates moving up a little and market slowing down a little. Mr. Chris Plochocki said that there have also been a lot more subsidized loans – landbank, IDA's, Community Development – not paying that share of mortgage tax.

Chairman May requested that the report going forward include: a year-to-date number, a year-to-date from the previous year, a percentage comparison by town or village. He stated that it would be beneficial for the committee. It would be helpful for members to know what is going on inside of their districts and across the county geographically – telling us what is happening with real estate. The committee members agreed.

Mr. Mike Plochocki asked if the County Clerk's offices does the numbers. Mr. Chris Plochocki responded that they keep track of the basic tax that is collected; it is actually Don Weber, Real Property Tax Services, which generates the town breakdown. Chairman May asked the County Clerk's Office to speak to Mr. Weber about getting the comparison included in the report.

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

2. **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:** Daniel Wears, Commissioner

a. Authorizing an Intermunicipal Agreement with the County of Oswego, Pursuant to NYS General Municipal Law Section 119-0, to Provide Disaster Assistance (\$35,000)

- Renew IMA with Oswego Co. – going on for a couple of decades
- 5 year agreement; Oswego Co. reimburses Onondaga Co. \$35,000 annually to support emergency management program – anticipation if needed to support them if there were a nuclear incident
- Not new money; included in annual budget

Mr. Knapp asked if this specifically surrounds the nuclear plants. Mr. Wears agreed that it does and added that it also is for anything to support that effort – i.e. used to support EOC (Emergency Operations Center) and other things that would be done anyway, but they would also support Oswego Co.

Mr. Jordan said that at Public Safety Committee he asked for a copy of the IMA, which he received. He thanked Mr. Wears for it and said that the agreement is pretty straight forward.

Chairman May said for the record that Oswego County is an excellent partner, particularly in public safety related matters. They see the value in working together and the value in the investment that we have made. It enables them not to make them, and is a benefit to our county to support surrounding counties in this way. They also support Air 1.

*Mrs. Ervin arrived at the meeting.

Mr. Plochocki noted that Mr. Wears was a panel member at a presentation in Skaneateles recently regarding blue/green algae, and he did an excellent job.

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

3. WATER ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION: Tom Rhoads, Commissioner

a. Amending the 2018 County Budget to Make Funds Available to Pay Increased Costs Associated with Disposal of Biosolids (\$500,000)

- Budget transfer, \$500,000 from fund balance
- Account will be running out of money for disposal of biosolids
- Digest sludges, dewater sludges, make a biosolids cake
- Approximately 100 tons of biosolids cake disposed per day – roughly 5 tractor trailer loads
- Currently goes to landfills – there has been a considerable flux in landfill pricing in our area
- Largest driver of flux has been NYC
- NYC was transporting its biosolids to Alabama via train – train was delayed on tracks in Alabama for several weeks; there is no more train to Alabama and it now comes upstate
- Market based environment and they were willing to pay more for it, and our costs of disposal goes up
- Received a cut in budget for 2018 of approx. \$200k
- Hauling portion – fuel and transfer prices have gone up
- Fund balance is \$30,940,188 - money not used for this will go back to fund balance at end of the year

Mr. Knapp said that OCRRA is having similar issues with ash with increased costs. They are starting to take a lot of it to High Acres instead of Seneca Meadows. He asked if any other landfills around will take this, i.e. Cortland or Madison. Mr. Rhoads said that Madison is full – cannot take any additional materials. He has not talked to Cortland. He said that High Acres is going through an odor issue -- are not interested in biosolids. Current haulers are able to access the Ontario County landfill, where it is currently going, and Seneca Meadows, where it has gone in the past. It is a lot of material; when trying to move this much, the smaller landfills, like Cortland can't handle this type of flux.

Mr. Knapp asked if it can be used for cover. Mr. Rhoads said it gets difficult to use for daily cover.

Mr. Jordan asked if there is any secondary market for the biosolids. Mr. Rhoads said it is very difficult in NYS – everybody wants zero waste, but nobody wants it in their backyard. He said he recently attended a presentation where there is a big discussion about converting these biosolids into Class A biosolids. Mr. Rhoads said that our sludges are digested for 15+ days, which reduces the amount of material to dispose of by approximately 50% and reduces odor. However, even after digestion it is not disinfected – there are potential pathogenic bacteria or viruses. To go through a composting process, is a very intense, capitalized process. They are very expensive processes; also incineration has gone away. Several people are trying to endeavor public/private partnership investments; it's been problematic siting facilities that would manage these materials to convert them. Using it on farm fields is nice, but if we are creating 100 tons a day, 5 tractor trailers full, and it can only be put on farm fields in certain seasons, this is a pretty big manure lagoon. He said that this stuff needs to go away. Mr. Jordan said that if alternative operations can be used, not utilizing all of the waste coming out, but even if there is a small market for it and we could get rid of 10%, 15%, or 20% to a secondary market. Mr. Rhoads said that there isn't a secondary market right now because the cost of capitalization of this would be \$10's of millions to create a composting facility. The Village of Marcellus has one – they compost 73 tons/year. When it's 100 tons/day, that's a major capital investment and not currently in NYS. The Cornell Waste Management Institute

is strongly against the notion of applying biosolids. Because of the pathogenic bacteria, there is some deep discussion about whether or not this material is appropriate for land application. Mr. Knapp noted that a lot of the outbreaks of listeria are from vegetables from foreign countries that allow this.

Mr. Jordan asked for an explanation of why the cost goes up when there is wet weather. Mr. Rhoads said that there is seasonality in this component of waste. In portions of the community there are a lot of connected storm sewers, which bring all the grit and road dirt into the plant. If it is not captured in the front end of the plant, it is captured at the end. The biosolids then contain the inert materials which increases tonnage for disposal.

Mr. Rhoads said that they are forecasting that there will be an anticipated shortfall sometime in October and said that he needs the legislature's approval for this transfer.

Chairman May thanked Mr. Rhoads for all of the information provided at Environmental Protection and Ways & Means Committees. There has been discussion and concerns regarding the timing of the transfer. Like with most county budgets this early in the year, we don't know where we are going to land. He said that based on all of the information provided, there is no doubt in his mind that money is going to have to be transferred into this account to fulfill this requirement. The smart thing to do is to put this off for a month or two, and in that timeframe come back to the committee with a forecast of major account items as to where WEP is going to end up. That will determine where the money that has to be moved into this account come from. Chairman May said that there was a very successful approach with Public Safety, particularly the Sheriff's Dept., with taking this angle of attack with that situation. It worked out very well for the legislature and county in general.

Chairman May said that the committee will re-visit this in August, and by having this discussion now, this will be placed on the August Ways & Means agenda.

4. **TRANSPORTATION:** Marty Voss, Commissioner

a. **Amending Resolution No. 81-2017 to Increase the Authorization to Pay in the First Instance 100 Percent of the Federal and State Aid Eligible Costs by an Additional \$285,000 for the Construction Phase of the Oran Delphi Road Bridge Over Limestone Creek Project, PIN 3755.22, and Authorizing the Execution of Agreements (\$285,000)**

- Bridge in Pompey
- State DOT changed/increased requirements for bridge approaches, which changed the cost of the project a little bit
- Change in authorization is already included in contingency in the project, already approved in work plan
- Local share approx. \$15k

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

b. **Approving the Right-of-Way Acquisition Phase of the Onondaga County Canalways Trail Phase II Project, PIN 3756.29, Agreeing to Participate and Pay Up to 100% of the Non-Federal Share of the Project and Accepting Title to the Acquired Right of Way**

- Loop the Lake – authorize entering into ROWs with NYS and other interested agencies
- As part of federal aid project, easements have to be gained for access to the site, which will provide some resources to OCIDA
- Execute agreements with OCIDA, NYS, New York Central Line, Allied Chemical (Honeywell)

In answer to Mr. Knapp, Mr. Voss pointed out the area affected on the map.

Mr. Jordan said that he would like to see the agreements before he votes on it, which is his standard practice.

Chairman May asked if this allows us to pursue those agreements, or are they in hand. Mr. Voss said that they are in the process of being developed. The State DOT does the ROW for all county projects. They came up with preliminary numbers; went to the legislature to execute the preliminary piece - \$700,000, which is already programmed into the project through the work plan. The nitty-gritty of dollars and cents will be ironed out when the agreements are done, then the agreements will be executed through the Law Department. He said that the OCIDA piece is in the neighborhood of \$225,000. Chairman May said that to approve this, allows getting the agreements. Mr. Voss agreed.

A motion was made by Mr. Plochocki, seconded by Mr. Knapp, to approve this item. AYES: 5; NOES: 0; ABSTENTIONS: 1 (Jordan). MOTION CARRIED.

- c. Amend Resolution No. 78-2017 Regarding the Right-of-Way Acquisition Phase of the Electronics Parkway 2R Paving Project, PIN 3755.71, Agreeing to Participate and Pay Up to 100% of the Additional Non-Federal Share of the Project and Accepting Title to the Acquired Right of Way**
- ROW acquisition, Electronics Parkway, adjustment to cost
 - Local share \$4,400; programmed in the budget; ROWs came back higher than expected
 - 2R project between Old Liverpool Road and Hopkins Road; will start Spring of 2019
 - Substantial project – complete rebuild, sidewalks

A motion was made by Mr. Knapp, seconded by Mr. Plochocki, to approve this item. Passed unanimously.

5. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT: Marty Skahen, Director

- a. Authorizing the Onondaga County Executive to File the 2018 Action Plan for the Community Development Block Grant, Home Grant and Emergency Solutions Grant Programs (\$3,143,640)**
- Capital projects approved as part of CDBG from federal government
 - When the President set his budget last fall, it zeroed out this entire program; deal was struck the beginning of the year – program stayed in existence, but also received a healthy increase
 - Near 10% increase in CDBG money; 42% increase in Home Grant, approx. 3% increase in Emergency Solutions
 - Steering Committee includes Legislators Knapp and May

Mr. Skahen distributed the following – projects approved by Steering Committee

**2018 Community Development
Approved Capital Projects**

No.	Municipality/Agency	Project	Approved
1	V-Baldwinsville	Downer & Tappan Streets Intersections Imp	\$ 36,100
2	Town of Camillus	Reed Webster Park Parking Lot Imp	\$ 50,000
3	Village of Camillus	South Street Drainage & Road Improvements	\$ 50,000
4	Town of Cicero	Gateway Community Park Imp	\$ 50,000
5	Town of Clay	Westminster Place Road Improvements	\$ 50,000
6	V-East Syracuse	Ellis Field Playground Surface Imp	\$ 46,000
7	Town of Geddes	Ardmore Hts-Westvale Acres Drainage Imp	\$ 50,000
8	Village of Jordan	Jordan Pool Handicap Ramp & Bathrooms	\$ 37,500
9	V-North Syracuse	Church Street Sidewalk Improvement	\$ 50,000
10	Town of Onondaga	Kelley Brothers Park Handicap Accessibility	\$ 27,500
11	Town of Onondaga	Senior Center Interior Improvements	\$ 22,500
12	Town of Salina	Richfield Park Playground Improvements	\$ 50,000
13	Town of Salina	Tyler Terrace Drainage and Road Imp	\$ 50,000
14	Village of Solvay	Boyd Park Improvements	\$ 50,000
15	Town of Van Buren	Snowdale Drive Drainage/Pavement, Ph 1	\$ 50,000
16	Cooperative Extension	Community Forests	\$ 28,100
Total:			\$ 697,700
Contingent Projects:			
1	Village of Solvay	Lower Gertrude Park Walkways	\$ 50,000
2	Town of Geddes	Lakeland Park Accessibility Imp	\$ 40,000
3	Town of Van Buren	Delwood Drive Drainage	\$ 26,000
Total:			\$ 116,000
Fair Housing			
1	ARISE, Inc	ARISE Housing Referral & Advocacy Program	\$ 5,000
2	CNY Fair Housing, Inc	Fair Housing Education & Enforcement	\$ 50,000
Total:			\$ 55,000

(SteeringRequests2018)

Mr. Jordan asked to be provided with a list of all the projects that were considered. Mr. Skahen agreed

to provide the list and said that every municipality who put in for a project, received a project. Some put in for more than one. Two projects funded in Salina, a Solvay project was funded and one is contingent; a Geddes project was funded and one is contingent; a Van Buren project was funded and one is contingent.

Replying to Chair May's comment regarding it not being true that every municipality that put in for a project received one, Mr. Skahen said that the only project that did not get funded, was not eligible in the Town of Lysander. In answer to Mr. Jordan, Chairman May said that with the exception of Lysander, which took a calculated risk on a single project, every municipality that applied got at least one – their prioritized project. Mr. Jordan said that not all submissions were approved. Chairman May agreed.

Mr. Jordan referred to the budget, noting that administration costs were pretty flat except from 2017- 2018, there was a considerable jump, almost \$60,000 in one year. Mr. Skahen said that the administration is a percentage of the grant money that we get – allowed to 7.5% for administration. This year there was a bump in the funding. Mr. Knapp said that it actually reduces the county contribution. Mr. Skahen said that the county contribution for salaries is about \$27,000.

Mr. Knapp said that the steering committee consists of towns supervisors, village mayors, Legislator May, himself and others – the goal is to take the money and spread it around as much as possible. The committee looks at what the local municipality is willing to put in towards the project. A good job was done this year in being able to get every town that applied something. He noted that the 12th district does not have any property that qualifies for this money.

Mr. Bush said that prior to Mr. Skahen being at Community Development, there was a major change for the eligible areas. He asked if there is an idea of when the whole process of eligibility will be reviewed, as the changes wiped whole towns out of eligibility. He asked if there is timeline of when that will be reviewed. Mr. Skahen said that there is not a timeline; usually they take a look when the census rolls around. This time they adjusted it mid-way through. They took the areas and divided the pie up differently so that a lot of suburban areas that are a little wealthier could combine with some of the villages that aren't, and it made them not eligible. Mr. Knapp added that the worst part about that was they did it in the middle of the process. The committee had already awarded projects and towns were in the planning phase. They had to be called and told that the rules changed; the county covered some of it, but not all.

Mr. Bush said that Congress has looked at trying to change it. He asked if at the local level, Mr. Skahen could ask for new data. Mr. Skahen said that he would make the request.

Mr. Bush said that the maximum amount of \$50,000 has been in place for a while, which doesn't go very far today. Basically a decision was made that little bits would be handed out to everybody, rather than a significant amount to a community/municipality so that they could do a major project. A municipality may not get an award for another 2 – 3 years; other communities are able to access large amounts of money, but they just don't get something every year. Chairman McMahon said that the Steering Committee handles this but doesn't know if the approach of taking 4 or 5 large projects every year makes sense. If there are 4 or 5 significant projects that a municipality is putting forward, he would be open for the Steering Committee to consider taking that approach instead of the smaller items. He noted that he represents the Village of Solvay – some of the projects are smaller in nature, and if there is a more of a significant project that is \$200,000 - \$300,000, then the Steering Committee should be open to that. When infrastructure is an issue, this is a way where this can be used to help some of those projects.

Chairman May said that since it is managed by a huge committee, he suggested a tiered application process. For example, tier 1 applications might have a higher award than a lower tier. To debate every dollar would be near impossible as there are 15 people on the steering committee. Mr. Knapp agreed, and said that years ago the standard for the award was \$100,000, but the county received more money at that time. Years ago, we were able to help the Whedon Road, which was public health issue. There was only one application this year, which was several hundred thousand dollar project – in Lysander – ended up not being eligible. Mr. Skahen said that the Salina Road project is a pretty big project. Mr. Knapp said that they put in a big local match for that project, which is why it got funded.

Mr. Jordan referred to the budget breakdown, noting that the Town of Clay gets a couple hundred thousand dollars every year and in 2018 they got \$0. Mr. Skahen said that the Town of Clay has to get funded. Chairman McMahon said that they are the biggest town so they automatically get it. Mr. Skahen explained that the process for the towns and villages is that a consortium is formed and all agree to be part of it together. The Town of Clay is big enough that it could be its own. They sign an agreement to be part of our consortium because then Community Development does all of the administrative work and they don't have to do it. The agreement is that the Town of Clay and North Syracuse projects are always awarded. Mr. Skahen explained that \$0 is shown the spreadsheet because in the past when the award is given HUD break it out with a county amount and a Clay amount. This year it was put all together.

Mr. Jordan asked about the 3 contingent projects. Mr. Skahen said that right now there is money out there from CDGB awarded money in 2015, 2016; the 2017 awards are happening during the 2018 season. There are different situations that occur wherein a municipality says they aren't going to do it, or they say that they already did it. In that situation, if the money is not going to be used, the money goes back into the pot and it is reallocated to a contingent project. The committee votes and ranks the contingent projects.

Chairman May asked if the municipalities have a deadline through HUD. Mr. Skahen said that the money has a deadline. The goal is to, i.e.: award the projects in the summer 2018; HUD approves the plan in the fall of 2018, and then want the project done in the summer of 2019. The majority projects work in that timeframe, but if not they have to wait until the second session. Mr. Knapp said that there is timeline that the towns have to meet where they have to have a 5-year plan, and vote on the projects that they will submit in the spring.

A motion was made by Ms. Williams, seconded by Mrs. Ervin, to approve this item. AYES: 5; NOES: 0; ABSTENTIONS: 1 (Jordan). MOTION CARRIED.

6. MISC.

a. Authorizing the Execution of Agreements with the City of Syracuse Regarding Funding for Improvements to be Made Within Onondaga Park (Sponsored by Mr. McMahon)

Chairman McMahon:

- In the last two budget cycles there was money on the city/county abstract for infrastructure property at Onondaga Park – tax to city taxpayers directly
- Were waiting for an IMA from previous administration to release the funding, but never came forward with it
- Walsh administration has come forward -- eager and happy to accept these funds so project can be completed

Mr. Jordan said that this is calling for agreements to be entered into, but doesn't know what those agreements are. He is concerned with "to be negotiated". He questioned approving entering into an agreement when the terms haven't been finalized. He said that he will abstain until he can see what the terms of the agreements are.

In answer to Mr. Knapp, Chairman McMahon said that the money has been sitting there for two years. It was voted on and approved via the budget twice. It was sitting in an account waiting for an administration that wants to be collaborative.

A motion was made by Mr. Knapp, seconded by Mrs. Ervin, to approve this item. AYES: 5 (May, Knapp, Plochocki, Williams, Ervin); NOES: 0; ABSTENTIONS: 1 (Jordan). MOTION CARRIED.

7. LAW:

a. Local Law Regarding Lease of Space Within Harrison Street Garage to be Used for County Purposes

Chairman McMahon:

- Lease of Harrison Street Garage – parking for our Upstate tenant at the Galleries

Mr. Morgan referred to Chairman McMahon's comment about cooperation from the city administration, noting that previously they couldn't get a long-term lease for the Harrison Garage spots for the SUNY employees at the Galleries, but now have one. He said that we are required to provide these spaces. SUNY pays for them; they pay the county and then the county pays the vendor. It is \$35/spot for about 300 spots.

Chairman McMahon said that the city owns the garage and the previous administration would not sign a long-term lease. Now we can fulfill our obligations to our tenant in the Galleries.

Chairman May asked if the initial term and renewals align with the present lease. Chairman McMahon said that they do.

Mr. Jordan said that he needs to abstain, as his wife works for Upstate and parks in the Harrison Garage.

A motion was made by Ms. Williams, seconded by Mrs. Ervin, to approve this item. AYES: 5; NOES: 0; ABSTENTIONS: 1 (Jordan). MOTION CARRIED.

Chairman May took the agenda out of order.

10. ONONDAGA COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY:

a. Confirming Appointing of John Dougherty to the Onondaga County Water Authority (Sponsored by Mr. McMahon)

Chairman McMahon:

- OCWA has some term expirations
- Mr. Dougherty is a former legislator, an engineer that builds missile defense systems, an excellent pick to the OCWA
- Geographically quite a few board members live in southern towns, which do not all use OCWA's water
- Has been a push from Mr. Hooker to have OCWA users on the board

A motion was made by Ms. Williams, seconded by Mr. Plochocki, to approve this item. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.

9. OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENT: Travis Glazier, Director

a. Amending the 2018 County Budget to Provide Use of Funds in Connection with the Lighting Along the Loop the Lake Trail and Authorizing the Executive of Agreements (\$100,000)

Chairman May said "I think that everyone of us here can agree that absolutely nothing wastes taxpayers' and our time, county productivity, and legislative progress more than bad process. Things being rushed, not thoroughly vetting items, and then finding ourselves hung up on process versus the substantive things that we need to really debate and discuss through that legislative vetting process. The reason I have really tried to take a firm and consistent stand on our process here, and believe me I have, you guys don't see a quarter of it, let alone all of it that comes every month, the reason I did this memo, which I am actually going to submit for the minutes, at the beginning of this legislative session, was to ensure that our ducks are always lined up. As a result or benefit of our having our ducks lined up, and having good process, we end up focusing on the things that really, really matter."

Chairman May said that with that, and with this item, which was not voted on in committee, Mr. Glazier and the Office of Environment did everything right from a phone call to him, and working with Mr. Plochocki throughout the process. For some reason, the item wasn't voted on. Maybe it was confusion as to our own rules, but is making this part of the discussion today to make clear, with rare exception – i.e. public safety, public well-being, significant financial benefit, or gain to Onondaga County or avoiding financial waste. Those are the kinds of things that would be considered with rare exception. As part the second rule (second bullet highlighted on memo), which was part of our rules to begin with, we want a program committee vote before it tis taken up here. It makes the process so much more thorough and better. Confusion with the process, resulted in this item not being voted on, and in fairness to Mr. Glazier and company, they did a really good job of putting everything together and getting information out there. Chairman May said that this particular item is something that is part of a project that has been going on for generations. There was a problem with process that was resolved with the Chairman requesting that this item be on today's agenda for all the reasons mentioned

Chairman May stated that he is providing the Clerk with the following memo to be included in the record, so that everyone is clear on how to approach these things going forward.



Onondaga County Legislature

BRIAN F. MAY

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TO: William Fisher, Deputy County Executive
Ann Rooney, Deputy County Executive/Human Services
Mary Beth Primo, Deputy County Executive/Physical Services
Department Heads (Elected and Non-Elected)
Fiscal Officers

FROM: Brian F. May, Chairman
Ways & Means Committee

DATE: January 22, 2018

RE: **WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE AGENDA PROCEDURES**

As the new Chair of Ways & Means, I am looking forward to working with you over the next two years. In the interest of effectiveness for the benefit of taxpayers and County government, in general, the following Ways & Means procedures will be observed going forward:

- All requests for agenda items must be presented and discussed at the monthly agenda review meetings held with Debbie Maturo.
- Major expenditures (planned or unplanned) and policy decisions require two considerations at program committee before advancing to Ways & Means—once as informational, once for vote consideration. With rare exception, items must receive a vote in program committee before advancing to Ways & Means.
- It is advisable that departments wishing to have major expenditures and policy items considered by Ways & Means contact me (or designated Legislative staff on my behalf) to discuss the item. Items not reviewed in this manner risk omission from the agenda.
- All items, legislation, reports, support/detail materials, PowerPoint and slide presentations, etc., must be transmitted electronically to Debbie Maturo a **minimum of 5 business days** in advance of a scheduled Ways & Means meeting. Documents should be emailed to DebbieMaturo@ongov.net in proper format. The Legislature strives to be paperless; please call Debbie at x2070 to discuss presentation and distribution of any electronic media or voluminous support documentation.

Experience strongly indicates that thorough vetting at every stage of a properly-paced process almost always produces better results. For this reason, I fully intend to adhere to these procedures. Please feel free to share this information with your staff as needed.

Thank you for your anticipated cooperation and, as always, I look forward to working together.

cc: Chairman McMahon

Mr. Glazier:

- Acceptance of a grant, \$1 million, from NYS Dormitory Authority— two \$500,000 grants
- Reimbursement grant – state has a really good record of timeliness for reimbursement
- 2017 received DASNY grant for paving – award letter sent to the County in March 2017, County fully reimbursement by November
- Grants are in the grants disbursement process - requires a lot of leg work on the County (letters, documentation, etc.)
- Grant funding will cover lighting from box office on current trail western shore extension and future trail all the way to Honeywell's property
- Should be able to have construction done for the lighting in 2018
- Solar lights – no infrastructure that goes with them
- \$7,000/unit, installing 150 units (estimated)
- By going out for bid for the full 150 lights, hopefully will capture economies of scale with purchasing power – they have to be manufactured--about a 8 week turnaround

Mr. Glazier pointed out the details and locations on the map. Mr. Knapp said that it looks like the trail splits and asked if the dead end piece will be kept, and then build a new one. Mr. Glazier said that was correct; the orange lot includes the parking area, when the orange lot is completed there will be access from the orange lot to the trail.

Mr. Jordan asked if the \$1 million is the total cost for all the lighting. Mr. Glazier said that it is just for the current trail and phase 1 of the trail extension. The remainder of the trail is fully funded for lighting all the way to Hiawatha Blvd. Mr. Jordan clarified, asking that in terms of what is being proposed for this resolution, only the cost of the lighting is being taken care of by the \$1 million. Mr. Glazier said “no”, there is \$40,000 for the construction footing. Mr. Jordan asked if there are any other costs that the county has to incur, or services provided, in lieu of county contribution. Mr. Glazier said “no.”

Chairman May referred to using solar, and asked how it balances out with downstream maintenance or forecasted costs associated versus whatever it would take to get power down there. Mr. Glazier said that getting power down there is definitely difficult. There is not a lot of infrastructure and would amount to a very high cost. The solar lights are the same units that are currently on the dock trail. They are intended to be very low maintenance units. He said that he can't speak from experience on them, but that is the intent.

Mr. May asked if the manufacturer provides an estimate life expectancy or warrantee. Mr. Glazier said that he will report back on the answer. Chairman Ryan said that most of them have warrantees of 10 years or greater. Mr. Trombley said that they will make sure they get the maximum warrantee; the ones on the trail now have an extended warrantee.

In answer to Mr. Plochocki, Mr. Glazier pointed out on the map the areas of the future phases of the trail, that which are funded by Honeywell, and that which are federally funded – covered within the budget. In answer to Mr. Plochocki, Mr. Glazier said that the other monies are already in motion and confirmed he would not need to come back to the legislature for them. He may be back for property acquisitions or actions.

Mrs. Ervin understands that some of the boaters are not happy because there is no power at the docks, and asked if something is going to be done about it. Mr. Glazier said that he would have to defer to Parks Dept. about that, but knows that it wasn't intended for people to stay overnight. Power at docks is generally for long-term stays, and the docks were intended to be short-term. For people that do want power, the Inner Harbor has power abilities, but access to it is a little limited. Mr. Trombley said that the marina has slips for rent.

A motion was made by Ms. Williams, seconded by Mr. Knapp. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.

8. FINANCE:

a. 1st Quarter Forecast – Steve Morgan, CFO

Mr. Morgan distributed the following:

ONONDAGA COUNTY

2018 First Quarter Indicators

Key Economic and Fiscal Indicators

Inside this issue:

Indicator	Period	2018	2017	Page
2018 First Quarter Budget Forecast	Q1			2
Fund Balance Analysis	January			3
Unemployment Rate: Onondaga County	March	5.0%	4.7%	4
Employed Persons by Month (in 000's): Onondaga County	March	206.2	211.2	4
Employed Persons yr-over-yr (in 000's): Onondaga County	March	(5.0)	(1.1)	4
Overall Consumer Confidence: New York State	March	87.1	94.1	5
Consumer Price Index (all items) - Inflation Rate	March	2.4%	2.4%	5
Weighted Average County Interest Rate	March	0.40%	0.26%	5
Reconciled Quarterly Sales Tax Collections % Chg CYTD	Q1	3.2%	1.4%	5
Auto Sales CYTD: Onondaga County	March	6,862	6,948	6
Gasoline Prices per gallon paid by Onondaga County	March	\$1.88	\$1.57	6
Retail Gasoline Prices per gallon in Upstate NY	March	\$2.62	\$2.31	6
Onondaga County Clerk Fees CYTD	Q1	\$0.53M	\$0.54M	7
Lis Pendens CYTD	Q1	527	336	7
Existing Home Sales CYTD: Onondaga County	Q1	693	868	7
Average Median Home Price YTD: Onondaga County	Q1	\$153,358	\$149,579	7
Onondaga County Filled Positions	January	3,054	3,065	8
Average Monthly Public Assistance Caseloads YTD	Q1	6,085	6,649	8
Average Monthly Medicaid Caseloads YTD	Q1	31,264	35,712	8

CYTD = Cumulative Year to Date (January - Period listed)

2018 First Quarter Budget Forecast

	2016 Actual	2017 Actual	2018 Adopted	2018 Modified	2018 Dpt_Projected
Revenues					
Property Tax Levy	139,780,005	141,180,532	141,690,731	141,690,731	141,690,731
Deferred/Uncollectible	(16,312,540)	(16,521,808)	(13,668,658)	(13,668,658)	(13,668,658)
Prior Year Collections	12,801,290	15,633,342	13,267,381	13,267,381	13,267,381
Pilots/Interest & Penalties	9,446,691	9,723,344	10,524,171	10,524,171	10,524,171
Room Occupancy Tax	3,964,061	3,819,554	4,110,508	4,110,508	4,110,508
Abstract Charges	12,679,594	13,633,657	13,493,854	13,493,854	13,493,854
Sales Tax - County Portion	249,172,808	254,876,085	258,781,385	258,781,385	260,013,374
Sales Tax - Municipalities/School Portion	83,604,986	85,490,917	86,573,101	86,573,101	87,174,741
State Aid	88,996,540	85,474,198	93,669,442	93,669,442	92,092,946
Federal Aid	90,088,545	85,354,099	87,252,007	87,252,007	86,127,974
Interdepartmentals	60,017,148	57,788,555	59,584,501	59,584,501	59,584,501
All Other	37,796,188	38,407,138	37,474,617	37,534,617	36,976,658
Total Revenues	772,035,316	774,859,613	792,753,040	792,813,040	791,388,181
Appropriations					
Mandated Programs	251,871,636	249,205,078	250,292,759	250,292,759	249,010,601
Wages	154,970,011	149,241,489	152,709,776	152,397,437	152,397,437
Benefits	83,010,281	89,086,961	86,366,723	86,220,735	86,206,714
Contracted Services (408/570)	64,844,090	64,427,457	69,882,368	72,102,760	69,284,780
Interfund Transfers	48,105,738	46,504,517	50,473,585	50,473,585	50,473,585
Debt Service	16,629,677	17,297,601	18,976,163	18,976,163	18,976,163
Sales Tax - Municipalities/School Portion	83,604,986	85,490,917	86,573,101	86,573,101	87,174,741
Interdepartmental	51,627,268	49,421,686	50,947,780	50,947,780	50,947,780
All Other	33,217,492	31,840,497	31,530,785	33,217,572	32,759,047
Total Expenses	787,881,179	782,516,204	797,753,040	801,201,892	797,230,848
Variance	15,845,864	7,656,590	5,000,000	8,388,852	5,842,667
Fund Balance					
Fund Balance	0	0	5,000,000	5,000,000	5,000,000
Carryover Fund Balance	0	0	0	3,388,852	3,388,852
Total Fund Balance	0	0	5,000,000	8,388,852	8,388,852
Budget Variance	15,845,864	7,656,590	0	0	(2,546,185)

Fund Balance Analysis

2017 Revenue	\$ 774,859,613
Less: Sales Tax Pass Through	(85,490,917)
Less: Interdepartmental Revenue	<u>(57,788,555)</u>
Total Revenue for Fund Balance Calculation	\$ 631,580,141
Current Fund Balance Goal 10%	<u>\$ 63,158,014</u>
Unreserved Fund Balance 12/31/16	\$ 74,664,852
Appropriated in 2017	
Adopted Budget	(8,883,357)
Additional Fund Balance in 2017	1,125,000
2017 Surplus/Deficit	<u>67,601</u>
Unreserved Fund Balance - 12/31/17	\$ 66,974,096
Less: Encumbrances	(3,388,852)
Appropriated in 2018 Budget	<u>(5,000,000)</u>
Unassigned Fund Balance - Estimated	\$ 58,585,244
Amount of Fund Balance as a %	9.3%
Amount of Fund Balance over (under) 10% Goal	\$ (4,572,771)

Unemployment Rate

March, 2008 - 2018(not seasonally adjusted)

Year	United States ¹	New York State	Syracuse MSA ²	Onondaga County
2008	5.1	5.0	5.6	5.0
2009	8.6	8.2	8.3	7.7
2010	9.8	9.1	9.3	8.6
2011	8.9	8.2	8.6	7.7
2012	8.2	8.7	9.0	8.2
2013	7.5	8.0	8.2	7.4
2014	6.6	7.1	6.8	6.1
2015	5.5	5.8	5.7	5.1
2016	5.0	5.1	5.2	4.7
2017	4.5	4.7	5.2	4.7
2018	4.1	4.8	5.6	5.0

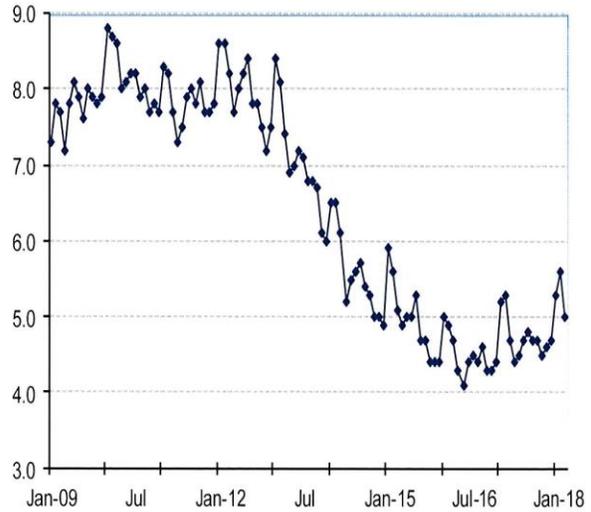
¹ U.S. unemployment rates are Seasonally Adjusted.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, New York State Department of Labor

NOTE: All employment data is preliminary and subject to revisions.

Unemployment Rate

Onondaga County, January 2009 - March 2018

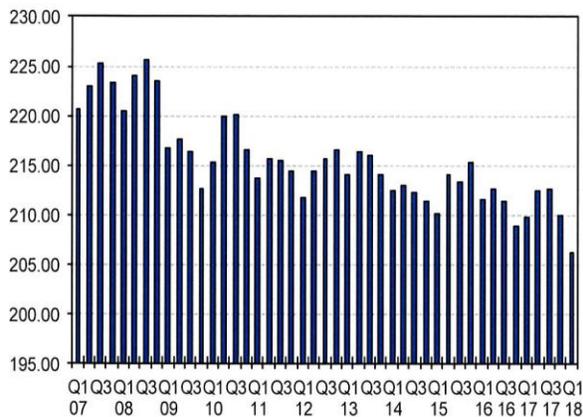


Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, New York State Department of Labor

The unemployment rate in Onondaga County stood at 5.0% in March 2018—up from 4.7% in March 2017.

Average Employed Persons by Quarter

Onondaga County, 2007 - First Quarter 2018 (in 000's)



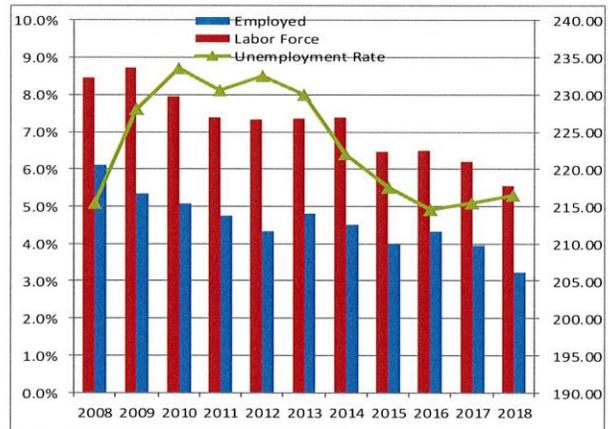
Employment accounts for Onondaga County residents only.

Source: New York State Department of Labor

The number of employed persons by quarter trend continues to follow the typical annual quarterly pattern.

Labor Force

Onondaga County, Q1, 2008- 2018 (in 000's)



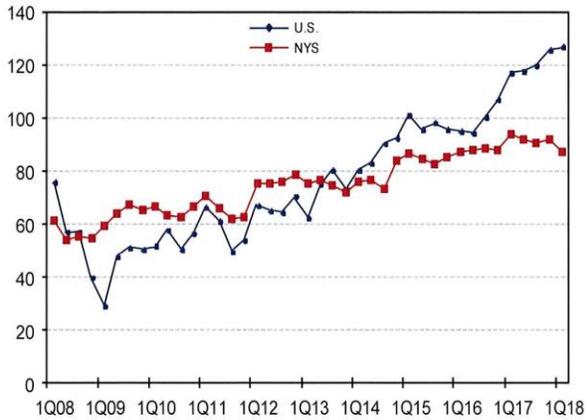
Employment accounts for Onondaga County residents only.

Source: New York State Department of Labor

The graph above shows the relationship between the employed persons, labor force and unemployment rate. Notice the effect on the unemployment rate as both the labor force and employed persons fluctuate.

Consumer Confidence

First Quarter 2008 - First Quarter 2018

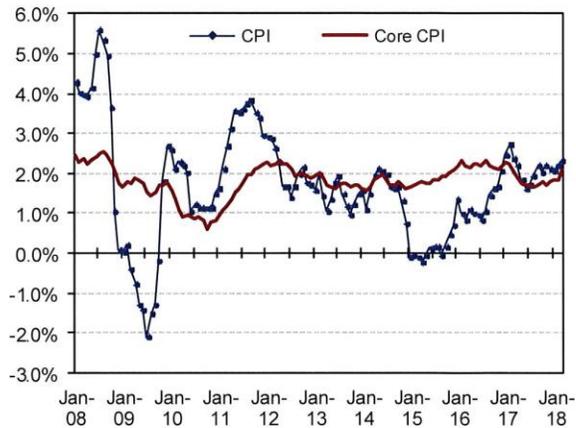


Source: The Conference Board, Siena College Research Institute

According to Lynn Franco, director of economic indicators at The Conference Board, "index levels remain historically high and suggest further strong growth in the months ahead."

Consumer Price Index

U.S. City Average Inflation, Jan 2008 - March 2018 (1982- 1984 = 100)

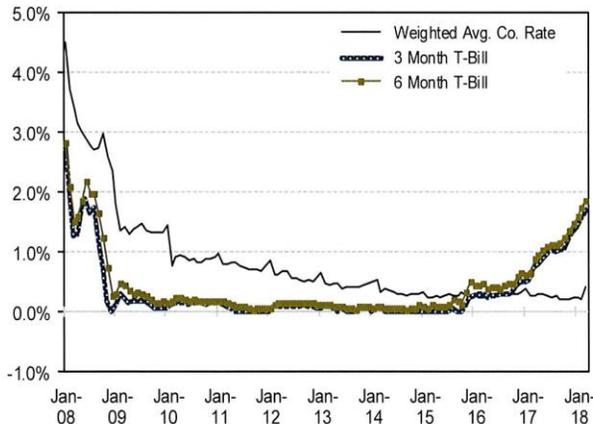


Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics (data not seasonally adjusted)

A line graph most clearly represents the extreme volatility of the nation's inflation rates. In March 2018, the inflation rate stood at 2.4%. The core CPI measures inflation excluding food and energy items, which the Fed aims to maintain around 2%. In March 2018, core CPI measured at 2.10%.

Weighted Average County Interest Rate

Onondaga County, January 2008 - March 2018

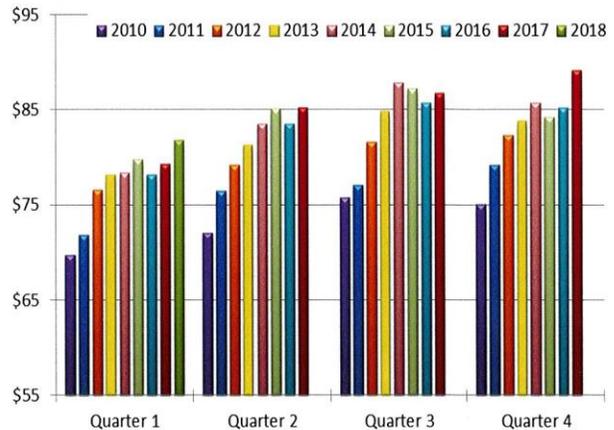


Source: Federal Reserve Board and O. C. Division of Management and Budget

The County's weighted average interest earnings rate stood at 0.40% in March 2018 versus 0.26% one year prior. The 3 and 6 month T-bills rates are at 1.70% and 1.87%, respectively, in March 2018.

NYS Reconciled Sales Tax Collections

Onondaga County, 2010 - First Quarter 2018 (in millions)

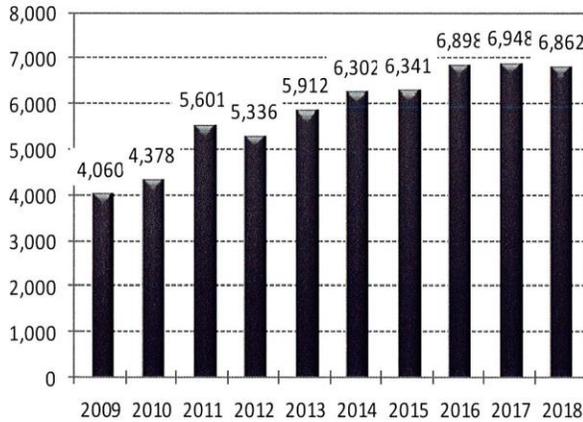


Compiled by Onondaga County Division of Management and Budget

The first quarter New York State Reconciled Sales Tax Collections was \$81.8M in 2018. Compared to the same period in 2017, the reconciled collection rate is up 3.2% this year.

Auto Sales

Onondaga County, March 2009 - 2018 (in 000's)

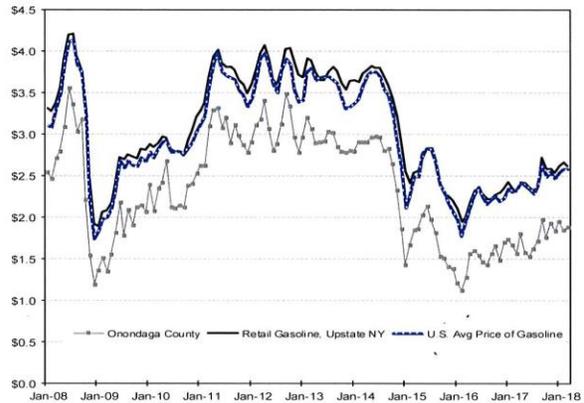


Source: R.L. Polk

Year-to-date, cumulative auto sales through March totaled 6,862 or 1.24% lower than the same time period last year. The graph above depicts the cumulative total auto sales through March by year.

Gasoline Prices

Jan 2008 - March 2018 (NOTE: County prices are tax exempt)

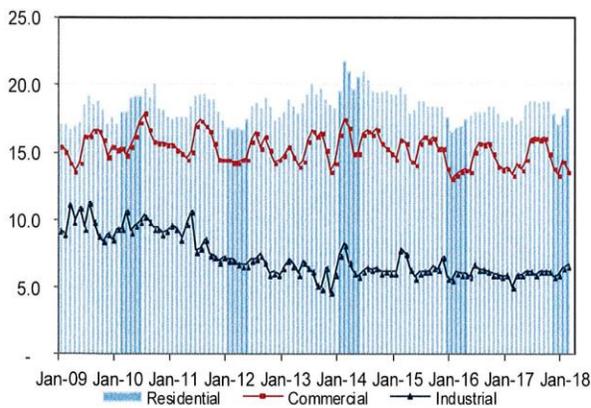


Source: NYSERDA and Bureau of Labor Statistics

In July 2008, gasoline prices peaked at over \$4.00/gallon after which prices rapidly descended to just over \$1.50/gallon by the end of 2008. Again regional and national prices skyrocketed to nearly \$4.00/gallon in April/May 2012. At the same time, the County paid a relative increase in fuel prices. In March 2018, county prices stood at \$1.88/gallon with a 12-month average price of \$1.79/gallon.

Average Electric Rates

Statewide (NYS), January 2009 - January 2018 (cents per kWh)

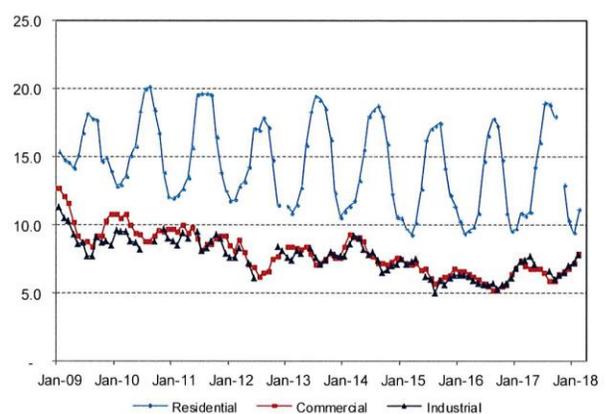


Source: NYSERDA and Energy Information Administration

The chart above represents monthly electric rates statewide for residential, commercial and industrial users.

Average Price of Natural Gas

Statewide (NYS), January 2009 - January 2018 (\$/MCF)

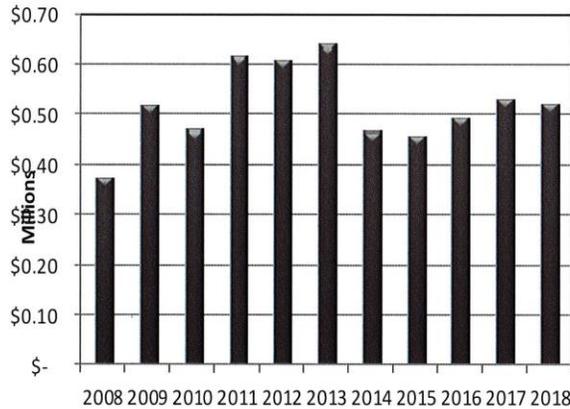


Source: NYSERDA and Energy Information Administration

The chart above represents monthly natural gas prices for residential, commercial and industrial users. The average price of natural gas fluctuates, seasonally, for all users. Prices tend to increase towards the mid-year and fall again towards year end. (Note: The months of June & July are unavailable for Industrial prices, and the month of October is unavailable for Residential.)

Onondaga County Clerk Fees

Onondaga County, First Quarter YTD, 2008 - 2018 (in millions)

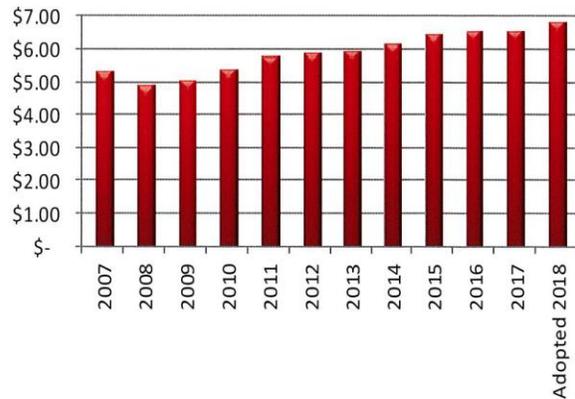


Compiled by the Onondaga County Division of Management and Budget

Clerk Fees include all fees collected by the County Clerk's Office. The majority of these collections are fees associated with mortgages (recorded deeds, recorded mortgages, mortgage discharges and assignments). The chart above represents cumulative fees collected through first quarter by year.

Room Occupancy Tax Collections

Onondaga County, 2007 Actual - 2018 Adopted (in millions)



Compiled by the Onondaga County Division of Management and Budget

Room Occupancy Tax collections include room occupancy tax collections and interest and penalties on room occupancy tax collections for all funds.

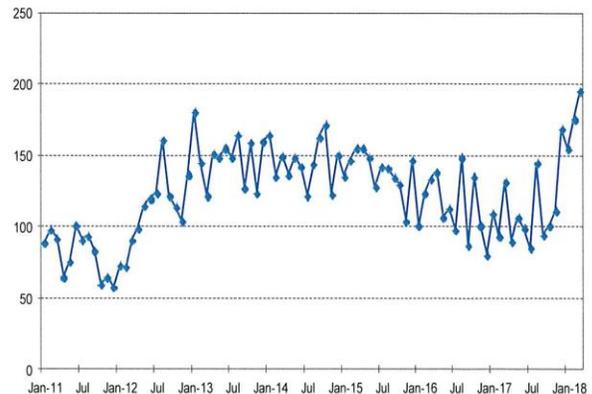
Residential Real Estate Activity

Onondaga County 2017—2018 YTD Quarterly Totals

	2017 - 2018 YTD Quarterly Totals			
	2017 Q2	2017 Q3	2017 Q4	2018 Q1
Total Permits	485	639	767	93
%Change Year Ago	124.5%	-2.3%	3.2%	50.0%
Single Family Housing Permits	121	197	249	43
%Change Year Ago	-18.8%	-19.3%	-17.5%	-8.5%
Multi Family Housing Permits	364	432	518	50
%Change Year Ago	420.0%	6.1%	17.5%	233.3%
Existing Home Sales	2,098	3,509	4,749	693
%Change Year Ago	5.6%	2.2%	2.6%	-20.2%
Median Single Family Home Price	\$159,527	\$165,680	\$166,871	\$153,358
%Change Year Ago	21.6%	16.7%	13.2%	2.5%
Mortgage Rates YTD	4.08	4.02	3.99	4.27
%Change Year Ago	11.17%	11.98%	9.32%	2.40%

Lis Pendens

Onondaga County, January 2011 - March 2018

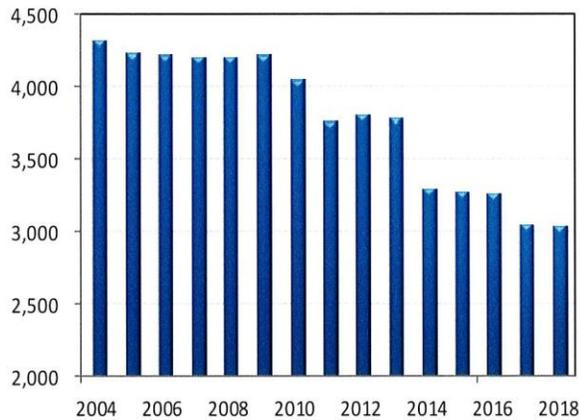


Source: Onondaga County Clerk's Office

Lis pendens is the first step in the procedure to file for foreclosure. It is a clear indication of housing market sentiment and consumer well-being. Through March 2018, lis pendens counts in Onondaga County totaled 527, 56.8% more than the number filed in first quarter in 2017.

Filled Positions

Onondaga County, January 2004 - 2018 (in 000's)

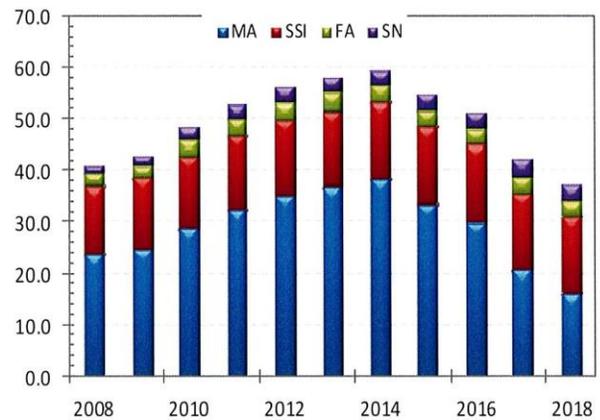


Compiled by the Onondaga County Division of Management and Budget

Onondaga County filled positions were fairly stable until 2009. In 2010 there was a 4% drop in filled positions over the prior year. In 2011, there was a 7.1% decrease in filled positions over 2010, a majority of which is attributable to the over 300 employees who took part in the 2010 Early Retirement Incentive offered by the NYS Retirement System. The sale of Van Duyn Home & Hospital resulted in a 12.9% decrease in employees in 2014. The 6.1% decrease in employees in 2017 is largely due to the Early Retirement Incentive offered by the NYS Retirement System in 2016.

Medicaid Caseloads

Onondaga County, Ave. First Quarter 2008 - 2018 (in 000's)



Compiled by the Onondaga County Division of Management and Budget

All information has been compiled by :

Onondaga County
 Division of Management and Budget
 John H. Mulroy Civic Center, 14th Floor
 421 Montgomery Street
 Syracuse, NY 13202
 Phone: 315.435.3346
 Fax: 315.435.3439
 Website: www.ongov.net

Last Modified Date: June 15,2018

Mr. Morgan highlighted the following:

Economic & Fiscal Indicators (pg. 1):

- Reconciled Quarter Sale Tax Collection - this year 3.2%; last year 1.4%
- On cash basis from state, not how county records it, but how reported in the quarterly reports

2018 First Quarter Forecast (pg .2):

- Most major revenues and expenditures projecting to be at budget
- Main variance is sales tax – surplus of approx. \$1.8 million between county share and non-county share
 - Majority related to how 2017 ended – 2018 budget assumed growth of 1.6% in 2017 over 2016 and another 2% in 2018 over 2017 of 2.3%
 - 2% growth projected for 2018
 - Rest of state is recovering nicely with sales tax – gas prices have something to do with it
- State & federal aid is down because mandates and contractual services are down
- All Other Expenses - utilities trended down - \$500,000 surplus
- Overall \$2.5 million surplus at end of 2018

Fund Balance Analysis (pg. 3)

- Ended 2017 using the amount of fund balance that was anticipated using
- Ended the year with a balanced budget
- 12/31/17 Unreserved Fund Balance was \$67 million less carry over encumbrances and \$5 million appropriation in 2018 budget
- \$58.6 million unassigned fund balance, 9.3% of general fund revenue; \$4.6 million under 10% goal

Chairman May said that it is great to see sales tax trend upwards, but it is nothing to get excited about. Mr. Morgan referred to 2015 and 2016 when sales tax was flat, and there was budget growth in each of those years. The 2018 budget cycle was right sizing sales tax. Hopefully as things improve, there will be more stability in regard to using reserves. Chairman May said that the 2017 shore up hurt.

Mr. Morgan said that from an expenditure perspective, the things that we can control are being controlled. There are items in the budget that are out of control. From an expenditures perspective, he is comfortable that we are on a stable path. The revenue is the variable that challenges us. Mr. Knapp said that some short term decisions were made. Mr. Morgan said that there was the early retirement, where 200 employees were unloaded; trying to keep departments at bay – they are stretched thin. Mr. Knapp said that no plow trucks were bought this year. Mr. Morgan said that we have to get back to looking at shoring up some capital assets and looking to use cash instead of borrowing.

Mr. Knapp noted that there was a big ruling from Supreme Court yesterday. Mr. Morgan said that hopefully with the ruling it can get some tracking. Chairman McMahon said it is worth \$7 million to us. It will be a huge problem moving forward because Amazon isn't going away and the pressure on our local retailers is going to be even more significant.

Mr. Maturo pointed out the fact that Van Duyn is pretty much dead fund at this point in time with a \$2.5 million deficit. Between now and the end of the year, we will have to send over about \$2.5 million from the general fund to balance that fund. Mr. Morgan said he as spoke to it in the past, but it is not reflected in his report today. Mr. Morgan said that if he were to factor that in, we would be at a balanced budget. The hope is that we will be in a position to fill that hole. In 2018 we budgeted general fund dollars to fund Van Duyn so there won't be an additional issue going forward, but we do have to fix that fund. For 2019 we will roll Van Duyn into the general fund. Chairman May asked if we have to do all of it in 2018 or part of it. Mr. Maturo said that you really should do it because there is no other revenue that can fund it. Mr. Morgan said that it wasn't dealt with at the end of 2017; the goal is to do it in 2018. In answer to Mr. Knapp, Mr. Morgan agreed that it is legacy costs and will continue to have it - it is workers comp, retiree health and a little bit of debt. He said that there is actually still a little bit of debt that has to be issued for taking down S-1. The remainder of the Van Duyn capital projects will be included when they go out for issuing debt soon.

Chairman May asked if the comp is just ongoing liability. Mr. Morgan agreed, noting that Mr. Stanczyk has done a great job of settling claims where it makes sense. It is now one here and there. The cost between comp and

retiree health is about \$2 – \$3 million per year. Mr. Maturo said that it hasn't come down; we will see where the expenses come up this year in relation to what we have already budgeted to send in.

Mr. Morgan said that they are going out to market in July; will be issuing roughly \$52 million in bonds. A good amount of that is catching up on projects that have already been initiated and have more expenses than revenues. Some are projects that will get completed soon, i.e. the War Memorial. Hopefully the county can hold on to its strong bond ratings. Mr. Morgan said that 2017 did not end as well as he would have liked, but at least it was balanced from his perspective. The growth in sales tax is positive, and believes the right thing has been done from a county expenditure perspective.

Chairman McMahon said that what we can control, we have done a good job at it, but at this point we need to do a great job. He referred to his experience on the City Council when he was the Finance Chair, noting that there was no money. Every year a \$20 million structural deficit was issued for a \$15 million hole. It has consequences, but the service delivery in the county is different than in the city when it comes to where the money is. In the City the money is in public safety. He said that vacancies were held for a minimum of 6 months every year. By holding those vacancies, \$3 - \$6 million was made up. He said the county has a much larger workforce. He implored the administration – there is a real opportunity on the 101 line do do better. Mr. Morgan said that some of that is factored into the budget to begin with. Chairman McMahon said that 9.3% of the fund balance goal isn't bad, but it would be nice to get ahead of the game. He noted that the county hasn't had real issues over the last 3 years because there was a larger fund balance to spend down. Mr. Morgan said that his office is working in that direction and recognizes that holding vacancies arbitrarily is not helping departments. He referred to the Onward initiative, which is picking up some steam and every program that a department operates is being looked at. He said they are starting to put metrics and expectations around those programs. When it comes time to adjust the budget, the legislature and the executive have the information they need to make an informed decision, “and not saying that we just need \$5 million and whack everybody across the board.” He said that we are at the point that we can't do that anymore. It continues to weaken the services that are provided. Mr. Morgan said that Onward is still in its infancy and he can't use it to craft a budget. He said that he hears what Chairman McMahon is saying. Chairman McMahon said “fund the programs that work and get rid of the ones that don't.”

Chairman McMahon said that in the revenue lines is the \$1.8 million payment from Honeywell, and asked if it is incorporated in this report or it coming in Q2. Mr. Morgan said that it actually hit and was included in 2017. Chairman McMahon said that was recently wired. Mr. Maturo said that it doesn't matter when the actual cash comes in; \$1.2 million went to the general fund, which helped us come in on budget. The remainder went to the Loop the Lake Project.

Chairman McMahon referred to shared service counsels and the saving that we would get from them. He asked if a check has been received from NYS for that yet. Mr. Morgan said that we hadn't and didn't know if there was even a process in place yet to actually claim reimbursement for it. Mr. Morgan said that seven villages just went live with Mr. Weber's tax collection software system; they will only be charged a \$1/tax bill as opposed to \$2. As the process is more defined on how to chase after those funds, we will look at that too.

Chairman McMahon said that there was a large item with Medicare Advantage with the City of Syracuse and the school district. Through his experience with NYSAC, in meeting with executives, administrators, chairs of board of supervisors, it was promised that the money is going to be there. Mr. Morgan said that the money is in the budget. Chairman McMahon said that part of the frustration as he speaks to peers in local governments, is that some of it makes sense – easy, it is common sense, and some of it takes away from a lot of time from our villages and towns. If there no carrot, or the carrot is a far distance of 48 months away, before this process gets set, people aren't going to want to participate and they are not going to get the money. He said that we are the leader of this as the county and need to be aggressive in going after these funds. Mr. Morgan agreed; he said that Mr. Donnelly is the point person on that and last he knew, he did not have direction. Chairman McMahon said that the money is there; and if there hasn't been a way get this from the State, then we have to get out and explain this to our peers that we are working with on shared service counsel. It is a lot of time that municipalities put in for part time positions, and they don't have the staff that the county does to work on this.

Mr. Knapp referred to the property tax software and asked if most towns have signed onto it. Mr. Morgan said that Mr. Weber is still working with the towns; since they won't start collecting our taxes until next year, he has time. Mr. Knapp said that LaFayette, Tully, Fabius, and Pompey all did, but was not sure about Dewitt. Mr. Morgan said that they are happy that seven have agreed to come on board; Mr. Weber has been working tirelessly with his staff to get out there and train the villages and receivers on how to use the system. He said they are working towards getting all the towns, villages, and school districts on the system. Also, want to add the City, as they "are a mess" in their tax collection system. They use one system to collect current taxes and one to collect delinquent taxes. Mr. Knapp said that a lot of the little towns don't take credit cards, and in the new system they can. Mr. Morgan said that now delinquent taxes can be paid on line using a credit or debit card – have received over \$400,000 in delinquent tax payments on line. Mr. Weber is re-engineering his website; once that is done, there will be some kind of release/announcement about the new website and paying taxes on-line. With the towns, villages, school districts using the system, they will be able to pay their taxes in the first instance on line.

Chairman McMahon referred to the retirement incentive that was done – some folks were moved to the 103 line, for basic expertise. He asked if those folks are still on the 103 line. Mr. Morgan said that there are few here and there, but most of them, we have taken the departments to task that it can't be the long term plan. He said that there were still people around from the early retirement incentive in 2011. It was meant to be a transition, not a seven-year employment. Chairman McMahon asked "when are we cutting the cord." Mr. Morgan said that he is comfortable that a good job was done in reducing that; there are some places where it makes sense to use seasonal people, i.e. HEAP, libraries. It has been cleaned up, but it is difficult, as departments get used to that. Chairman McMahon said that he understands the workflow changes; the numbers will change hopefully by Q2, and the GDP is expected to be in the 4% range. However, when comparing headcount, we are down a little from last year, but our public assistant cases are down and Medicaid caseloads are down over 4,000. One would think on the positive side that there are people that are finding work and no longer utilizing some of those services, yet our headcount is not reflective, and we are still using the 103 line to help supplement some of the work loads. He said it looks like there is more room for improvement there. Mr. Morgan said that the gradual decline in Medicaid and public assistance has been happening; all along, the last few years we have been losing people. DSS, specifically, lost quite a few people in the last couple of years. Mr. Morgan said that Medicaid is a little misleading because a lot of those cases now are handled by the state – in the process of when we lose work, not refilling those positions. He said that he knows Ms. Merrick is not any less busy than she has been in the last couple of years. He said every vacancy is reviewed.

Mr. Bush questioned when someone uses a credit card to pay a county fee, who assumes that processing fee. Mr. Morgan said that the person who is paying – if they use a credit card to pay delinquent taxes, they pay a fee on top of their taxes. Mr. Bush said that he didn't think it was done that way in Vital Records--he believes the county assumes that charge. Mr. Morgan said "no"; it is set up so that if someone pays, the county gets made whole 100%. Mr. Maturo said that it is on the tax end of things, but in other areas of the county where a credit card is taken, the county pays the charge. Mr. Morgan said that he was unaware of that and will try to go to a consistent platform because the county shouldn't be paying. He said they will be looking at a holistic platform that will allow any constituent to pay for any type of fee that comes to the county – go to one place, i.e. Parks, Vital Statistics, pay taxes, etc. The same company that provided the tax collection software will be providing a demo.

Mr. Jordan referred to the unemployment rate, which appears to have been tracking even or below the national rate with the exception of the last few years. It is going up in Onondaga County, and asked Mr. Morgan if he knew why. Mr. Morgan said it is a combination of a lot of things – upstate New York and rust belt states struggle the most. Manufacturing jobs going by the wayside and being replaced by service jobs is the environment we live by. Mr. Jordan said that has always been the case, but the county tracked equal to or below the national average the last 10 years. Mr. Knapp said that this week on Syracuse.com there was an article about how it was down closer to 4%. Chairman May referred to the theory of elasticity of demand, this region has almost a more relaxed rubber band between progress and even downfall. He said that we always lag in this region. Mr. Knapp said during the recession, of nearly 10 years ago, it was noted that our region is more of a wave instead of the highs and lows. The highs aren't as high, but the lows aren't as low.

Mr. Knapp asked was Lis Pendens is. Mr. Jordan said that it is notice of a claim against real property.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah L. Maturo

DEBORAH L. MATURO, Clerk
Onondaga County Legislature

ATTENDANCE

COMMITTEE: *Ways and Means*

DATE: *6/22/18*

NAME	DEPARTMENT/AGENCY
PLEASE PRINT	
<i>MARCY VOSS</i>	<i>OCDO</i>
<i>T. RHODES</i>	<i>WET</i>
<i>Chris Plochacki</i>	<i>County Clerk</i>
<i>Dan Weare</i>	<i>EM</i>
<i>Sue Stanczyk</i>	<i>Leg</i>
<i>Steve Morgan</i>	<i>CFO</i>
<i>Jim Maturo</i>	<i>Comptroller</i>
<i>BILL KINNE</i>	<i>LEG</i>
<i>Marty Skahan</i>	<i>Community Development</i>
<i>Andy Tumbly</i>	<i>Purchasing</i>
<i>Emily Lopez</i>	<i>Purchasing</i>
<i>John Smith</i>	<i>WATER NEWS</i>