

Town Board Meeting Minutes
Town of Onondaga
December 15, 2025

The Town Board of the Town of Onondaga met at a regular meeting at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, December 15, 2025, at the Town of Onondaga Town Hall, 5020 Ball Road, Syracuse, New York.

Present:	Supervisor	John P. Mahar
	Councilor	Kathy Fedrizzi
	Councilor	Lisa M. Goodwin
	Councilor	Mary K. Ryan
	Councilor	John Wheatley
	Town Attorney	Nadine Bell
	Town Engineer	Bill Perrine
	Town Clerk	Janet Hillery

- 1. Pledge of Allegiance
- 2. Heer Farms – Request for Letter of Support for Grant Application

Town Attorney Nadine Bell reported that Raymond C. Heer of Heer Farms, a third-generation farmer in the Town of Onondaga, is applying for the NYS Farmland Protection Implementation Grant (FPIC) for the 2025-2026 grant cycle. Mr. Heer is advocating to sustain the land he and Toni Heer own that was previously owned by his grandfather, and father (Raymond P. Heer), for agricultural use only for future generations. Mr. Heer requested that the Town of Onondaga indicate their support by submitting a letter to the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets Farmland Protection Program.

TOWN BOARD RESOLUTION

The following resolution was offered by **Councilor Wheatley** and seconded by **Councilor Goodwin** to wit:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Onondaga Town Board authorizes the Town Supervisor to sign a letter of support for Raymond C. Heer and Toni Heer to apply for the 2025-2026 NYS Farmland Protection Implementation Grant (FPIG), with the goal being to sustain **Heer Farms** for agricultural purposes only for future generations.

The question of the enactment of the foregoing resolution was duly put to a vote, and upon roll call the vote was as follows:

Councilor	Kathy Fedrizzi	Voted	Yes
Councilor	Lisa M. Goodwin	Voted	Yes
Councilor	Mary K. Ryan	Voted	Yes
Councilor	John Wheatley	Voted	Yes
Supervisor	John P. Mahar	Voted	Yes

The foregoing resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

- 3. Personnel Committee – Kathy Fedrizzi

Town Councilor Kathy Fedrizzi requested the following resolution to hire a new Town Justice Clerk:

TOWN BOARD RESOLUTION

The following resolution was offered by **Councilor Fedrizzi** and seconded by **Councilor Ryan** to wit:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Onondaga Town Board approves the hiring of Christine Ciccarelli, for the position of Justice Clerk at an hourly rate of \$24.87 beginning 12/12/25, and on a full-time basis beginning 1/8/26 at an annual salary of \$48,500.

The question of the enactment of the foregoing resolution was duly put to a vote and upon roll call, the vote was as follows:

Councilor	Kathy Fedrizzi	Voted	Yes
Councilor	Lisa M. Goodwin	Voted	Yes
Councilor	Mary K. Ryan	Voted	Yes
Councilor	John Wheatley	Voted	Yes
Supervisor	John P. Mahar	Voted	Yes

The foregoing resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

4. Building and Codes Report

Codes Director Jeffrey Herrick reported that there have been four new permits issued and four new fire inspections since the last meeting. He requested the following resolutions:

TOWN BOARD RESOLUTION

The following resolution was offered by Supervisor Mahar and seconded by Councilor Ryan to wit:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Onondaga Town Board authorizes a refund to Smolen Homes in the amount of \$1,000 for a *Certificate of Occupancy* that was issued in error by a prior Town Codes Officer.

The question of the enactment of the foregoing resolution was duly put to a vote and upon roll call, the vote was as follows:

Councilor	Kathy Fedrizzi	Voted	Yes
Councilor	Lisa M. Goodwin	Voted	Yes
Councilor	Mary K. Ryan	Voted	Yes
Councilor	John Wheatley	Voted	Yes
Supervisor	John P. Mahar	Voted	Yes

The foregoing resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

TOWN BOARD RESOLUTION

The following resolution was offered by Councilor Goodwin and seconded by Councilor Wheatley to wit:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Onondaga Town Board authorizes payment to Advance Mechanical for the repair of the heating unit #3 fan in the court room, in the amount of \$10,071.57

The question of the enactment of the foregoing resolution was duly put to a vote and upon roll call, the vote was as follows:

Councilor	Kathy Fedrizzi	Voted	Yes
Councilor	Lisa M. Goodwin	Voted	Yes
Councilor	Mary K. Ryan	Voted	Yes
Councilor	John Wheatley	Voted	Yes
Supervisor	John P. Mahar	Voted	Yes

The foregoing resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

Codes Director Herrick added that if we were to replace the unit, it would have been over \$18,000. Mr. Herrick also reported that the bollards for the EV Charging Stations will be installed on Wednesday 12/17. He also reported that his evaluation on the prints for the Jon Diaz Community Center is complete and will be submitting a report to the Jon Diaz group next week. Mr. Herrick also reported that Muncity training will begin on 1/12/26. He concluded his report by thanking outgoing Town Councilor Mary Ryan for her support of him and the Codes Office, and that it has been a pleasure working with her.

Town Board Meeting Minutes

December 15, 2025

p. 3

5. Parks and Recreation Director's Report

Parks and Recreation Director Charry Lawson was present and reported that she is beginning the interview process for a new Custodian and Parks Crew Labor Leader this week.

6. Attorney's Report

Town Attorney Nadine Bell had nothing new to report but said that it has been a pleasure working with outgoing Town Councilor, Mary Ryan.

7. Engineer's Report

Town Engineer Bill Perrine asked Codes Officer Jeff Herrick to take photos during the installation of the bollards for the EV Charging Stations in order to ensure compliance. Mr. Perrine also reported that the report on the *Existing Conditions* section of the Town's *Comprehensive Plan* is final and that the meeting is being scheduled for January about what the next steps will be.

8. Town Councilor Mary K. Ryan Proclamation – Onondaga County

County Legislator Rich McCarron was present and presented the following proclamation to outgoing Town Councilor Mary Ryan, on behalf of **County Executive Ryan McMahon**.

MARY K. RYAN PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Throughout her 30 years of service, Onondaga Town Councilor Mary K. Ryan has been instrumental in shaping and preserving the quality of life in the Town of Onondaga; and

WHEREAS, For most of Mary's life, she lived in South Onondaga where she graduated from Onondaga Central Schools and has been an active community member her entire life; and

WHEREAS, As a chemistry teacher and businesswoman, Mary first ran for office three decades ago and has since dedicated her professional skills and passion to serving the Town; and

WHEREAS, Over the years, she played a notable role in legislation to expand the Onondaga Free Library and create the South Onondaga water district as well as overseeing the general fund and highway budgets, keeping town taxes low and much more; and

WHEREAS, Over the years, Mary chaired the Town Board's environmental, fire and safety, library, insurance, codes, zoning and personnel committee and was liaison to the Town Historical Society, volunteer fire departments and library; and

WHEREAS, On behalf of Onondaga County, it is my honor and privilege to honor Mary K. Ryan for her dedication to the Town of Onondaga.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, J. Ryan McMahon, II, County Executive of the County of Onondaga, do hereby proclaim the fifteenth day of December, two thousand and twenty-five to be

**Mary K. Ryan Recognition Day
in Onondaga County**

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hands and caused the Seal of the County of Onondaga to be imprinted, this fifteenth day of December, two thousand and twenty-five.

J. Ryan McMahon, II
County Executive

9. Town Councilor Mary Ryan – South Onondaga Flooding Grant Update

Town Councilor Mary Ryan reported that the West branch of Onondaga Creek has caused flooding issues in South Onondaga for years and has spent many years working on a solution. She said that the Town has applied for numerous grants for this issue, but they were surprised they did not get

Town Board Meeting Minutes

December 15, 2025

p. 4

the latest DEC grant they applied for, especially after their last zoom meeting. However, Councilor Ryan was happy to report that the County came through with a \$50,000 grant, of which County Legislator Rich McCarron was instrumental in securing. Councilor Ryan said that these funds will be used for the engineering design of the plan, as well as the DEC permit application fee. County Legislator McCarron said that this is about half of what the potential cost would be, and that hopefully next year funding will be available once the engineers have a plan in place. Mr. McCarron said that this is a good first step, and the timing aligns well with the culmination of Councilor Ryans efforts. Councilor Ryan thanked Legislator McCarron and said that this is truly a gift.

Councilor Ryan also announced that she was asked to be on the Otisco Lake Watershed Committee. She said that this is her passion and that the water quality has changed over the years.

10. Mary K. Ryan Proclamation – Town of Onondaga

Deputy Town Supervisor, Tom Andino, and Town Supervisor, John Mahar, shared in the presentation of the following proclamation:

PROCLAMATION **Onondaga Town Councilor Mary K. Ryan Day**

WHEREAS, There are few individuals who are as significant to the fabric of the Town of Onondaga as Town Councilor Mary K. Ryan; and

WHEREAS, Mary moved from Otisco to South Onondaga at just five years old and her family immediately became active members of the community, most notably with the South Onondaga Fire Department, setting the stage for Mary’s own lifelong involvement in the Town she loves; and

WHEREAS, A chemistry teacher, businesswoman and passionate environmentalist, Mary took office 30+ years ago and put her professional skill sets, heart, and soul into serving the Town; and

WHEREAS, During her tenure, she played a vital role in expansion of the Onondaga Free Library, creation of the South Onondaga water district, development of the Town’s cellular tower and wind power legislation, formulating town tax rates, reviewing property assessments, town workforce development, oversight of general fund and highway budgets, oversight of the new town hall and highway garage development and relocation projects, and much, much more; and

WHEREAS, Mary was also the founder and chair of the Town Board’s environmental committee; and chaired the fire and safety, library, insurance, codes, zoning, and personnel committees; and was liaison to the Town Historical Society, volunteer fire departments and library at various times over the years; and

WHEREAS, In keeping with her dedication to bettering her Town, she also volunteers with the Central New York Land Trust and sits on the Otisco Lake Watershed Management Plan Advisory Committee; and

WHEREAS, We cannot overstate our gratitude to Town Councilor Mary Ryan for giving tirelessly to ensure residents enjoy a high quality of life, her mentorship of Town employees, lending her beagle, Scout, as our unofficial Town mascot, and of course, her keeping us well-fed with her famous banana bread; now therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That Monday, December 15, 2025, be proclaimed as **TOWN COUNCILOR MARY K. RYAN DAY** in the Town of Onondaga; and, be it, further

RESOLVED, That Town Supervisor John Mahar, along with Town Councilors Kathy Fedrizzi, Lisa Goodwin and John Wheatley, extend our heartfelt gratitude for your leadership and offer best wishes for your next chapter on behalf of the residents of the Town of Onondaga.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and cause the Seal of the Town of Onondaga to be imprinted, this December 15, 2025.

John P. Mahar, Supervisor, Town of Onondaga

Town Board Meeting Minutes

December 15, 2025

p. 5

11. Town Councilor Mary Ryan Statement

Town Councilor Mary Ryan read the following statement to reflect on her time as a Town Councilor:

"History with Town:

I was a town employee before an elected official. I worked as a park counselor in South Onondaga while in college. Four summers, working with children in the area in which we all grew up. Parents knew one another, knew the children. It was challenging, but fun. I learned the parks around the town. I will say that today, our parks system has been developed into one of the best I have ever visited.

Town Council:

I was elected to serve my first term in 1994. Doc Malfitano was our "leader," the person who kept the candidates in line, where to campaign, literature, etc. I was learning how to be a candidate.

Congressman Jim Walsh administered my first oath of office. We were in the old town hall on West Seneca Turnpike and Velasko Roads, in the Court Room/Meeting Room. I didn't realize how much I would learn, the years I would spend in office.

The beginning:

The first Town Council I worked with was Thomas Andino, Supervisor. Tom became my friend, my mentor, my unofficial legal advisor. I sat next to him during our tenure together, and I learned about town government, the law, presentation, how to run a meeting. Most important, the budget process. Tom was a master as Supervisor. The town you see today is in a huge part, thanks to his vision and skills.

Suzanne Belle, who was my friend and mentor. We would speak for hours on the phone, just talking. Her advice helped me through some of the worst times in my life. She told me to always listen to our constituents, give them time to speak. Be open, and learn.

Charlie Petrie, the man who loved the Nedrow Fire Department, served on the Town Council as Supervisor and Councilor, and taught me about the town, as we campaigned door to door. His love of the town, his sense of humor, were legendary.

Another legend, Don Hamilton. What can be said about the man who served the town with humor and honesty, never one to keep silent when another point of view was necessary.

Dorie Farrell was Town Clerk, holding the position for many years. She held the keys to "memory" of the town, and was important as the person who took the town minutes of meetings and ensured the town records were kept in order.

And Ron Ryan, non-elected Codes official. What can be said about the man who knew the town codes, processes, as thoroughly as Ron? I believe that he was the best of his job, and he taught me much about the codes and processes of the town when I sat on the Codes committee, and after.

Highlights of Town Council:

My first term in office was one of learning town business. I always tried to follow town laws and codes in my decisions. Learning about issues to this day.

The first major project the Town Board supported was the establishment of the South Onondaga Water District. Ron Ryan led the charge, his office setting up the district along New York State regulations, negotiating with Onondaga Central School district for number of units charged, and the churches in the district.

I learned so much about NYS law, town law, procedures, marketing the program to residents of the proposed district for their support. My father, first opposed, became a proponent of the district when he learned of the benefits to the South Onondaga Fire Department. I remember him walking Route 80 in South Onondaga, his own version of door to door, to speak with neighbors about the importance of municipal water.

Town Board Meeting Minutes

December 15, 2025

p. 6

This was the third time that municipal water district had been proposed for the area. After over 60% signatures, Ron told me we had enough votes to pass the district. And there were people who supported the district and didn't have time to sign the petition!

The district moved quickly. People were tired of hard water, sulfur and iron in their water, low water supplies, nitrites and nitrates in their well water. My own well had been hand dug by individuals from Onondaga Nation, and was filling with sediment. Water supply was low, and after testing the water, my husband and I found higher than acceptable percentages of nitrites and nitrates in the supply.

The 8 miles of water line was the largest project in the town. When we first turned on the faucet, to have clear, clean, water flow was a blessing. To this day, knowing that our water in the town comes from Otisco Lake, I am thankful to live in an area of abundant, clean water. We are truly blessed.

The water district was the first milestone of my career as Town Councilor. The district was paid off this year...after 25 years. The original debt for the district was 30 years, but over time, the debt was refinanced as the town's rating improved, and the interest rates the town had to pay decreased. Another benefit to the town board's leadership...financial excellence.

Town Buildings:

I cannot go any further without discussing the town buildings. One of Tom's fundamental beliefs was that the town should be operated without debt.

The new Town Hall and Highway Garage were built debt free. There is no debt attached to these buildings. The undisputed success of the Town Board under the leadership of Tom, Sue, Donnie, Charlie, and myself.

Our Town Hall won the building of the year award for Schoepfer architects, the owner of which is a resident of South Onondaga!

The work that went into the buildings, the meetings, the visits to choose furniture, ensuring the comfort of town employees.

The Parks and Recreation/Senior Center was also upgraded. I visit the building almost every week, and can say that it is being well used by our residents. The programs are run well, and the enjoyment of the people who attend the programs and activities is palpable. I enjoy Xi Kong myself, it is very much a communal experience.

My beagle, my boy, Scout, loves to visit the town buildings. I know he brings joy to employees as he runs around the buildings, visiting employees for treats!

I was the Onondaga Free Library liaison for years, at least 25 years. I attended most meetings, and truly believe we have one of the best libraries in Onondaga County. I was liaison when the library board decided to expand and update the library. The detail that went into the planning was incredible, similar to that of building the new town hall and highway garage.

John Elleman, followed by Paul Mullin, were the Presidents of the board throughout the rebuild process. The directors of the library brought in their expertise as to the best practices to instill in the new library. And yes, I helped develop the marketing campaign that went out to the residents who had to vote approval for the rebuild, as it was to be funded by the tax payers.

I worked with three directors of the library, all of whom brought different perspectives to their position. All with a belief that libraries are important in a free society, offering a wide range of reading materials and activities to reach a diverse audience.

I met many people during my years on the library board, and to this day, attend many functions in the library. You all should check out their website, you may just find an activity that will draw you into our beautiful and imaginative library!

I helped write the town's Windmill law, Solar Farms law, and Cellular Towers law, with the help of town attorney, Kevin Gilligan, and Charlie Petrie. I am still amazed at what I have learned, what I have done, as a town councilor.

Tom Andino has been very modest about the town's initiatives during his tenure as supervisor. When I was first on the board, we had many drainage issues. Many late night meetings. The drainage issues

Town Board Meeting Minutes

December 15, 2025

p. 7

have been minimized, and through creative solutions spearheaded by our engineers and town employees, most issues are solved within days of being discovered.

The town you see today is due in part to the Tom Andino's vision, excellent financial standing, and employees who are dedicated to serving the residents of the town to their highest good. The town board is dedicated to always making decisions that are for the highest good for the residents of the town.

My Personal Life Changes:

My life has changed tremendously since my tenure began on the town board.

When my husband fell on ice behind our home one February morning in 1997, our lives were changed, Carl never to go back to the Irish fun loving man I married. John Mahar, you and Carl would have enjoyed one another's company, as did Donnie and Carl. And Sue's husband, Lee.

Two weeks after the fall, Carl was hospitalized with a serious brain injury. His left side of his body was permanently affected, and he lost some of his analytic ability. For a man used to independence, a man who could calculate heating and cooling needs in buildings, this was devastating. Especially for his golf game.

Our marriage continued, Carl did heal some what, but never the man he was before the fall. Five years later, he fell again, hitting the front of his head. It was at this time he had to retire from his job, and a limited recovery began. Carl began to exhibit symptoms of a horrible illness, and was diagnosed with Vascular Parkinson Syndrome. He passed in November, 2004, after 7-1/2 year battle with brain injury.

Eleven months after Carl's death, my mom passed of lung cancer that moved to her brain and arm. Another loss in my family's life. Another passing of an important person in my life. My dad passed Christmas Eve, 2021. He joined my mom to celebrate a time they both considered holy and sacred. So, this time of year is emotional for me for many difference reasons.

During this time, I was employed by Agway, and the town as councilor. I decided sometime along the way to complete my teacher training, and find a program that would accept me for student teaching. I interviewed with Oswego, Cortland, and Syracuse. All wanted to place me in a program that would have taken me two years, full time, to complete. This was something I could not do, as I was the main wage earner in my small family. At the time, I think I was earning about \$35,000 per year from Agway, and about \$8,000 as town councilor. My husband no longer collected a salary, and we knew we had to find a way to collect Social Security Disability income.

LeMoyne College accepted me as their last participant under the old NYS teacher training. The program was to have me sit through classes, learn the craft of writing lesson plans, and then student teaching. I had to quit my job at Agway, and take the plunge.

The first night of classes, I came home to my husband, who had fallen that day for the second time, and caused brain injury. We had to go to the hospital, one of many visits to come. I was still working at Agway, served on the town council, taking classes after work. And now, serving as my husband's care taker. He stayed six weeks at the Upstate Brain Center, and I observed a huge change between how brain injured patients were taken care of five years earlier. Carl improved as much as he could, more recovery at home.

So, he came home. And we had no income except my town board salary and the money I took as a loan as part of my LeMoyne College financing.

After Carl was turned down for the Social Security Disability Insurance benefit, Tom gave me the name of an attorney who would prepare a program for Carl to appear before a judge who would determine if he was eligible for the SSD income. Carl was successful in his appearance, and he was awarded the benefit. I sat throughout the process, and my heart bled for him. I supported him the best I could, with compassion and sending love to him. The judge even told Carl I could not help him, as Carl would turn to me for answers.

So, now we had his income, also. All this while I was learning the teaching craft in the LeMoyne College program as a student teacher, first at Corcoran HS in Syracuse, then Auburn East Middle School in Auburn, NY.

Town Board Meeting Minutes

December 15, 2025

p. 8

Teaching:

I passed all four tests required by NYS to become a teacher. And wonder of wonders, I was certified to teach Biology, Chemistry, General Science and Business (my masters is in Business).

My first teaching position was as a summer school science teacher with the Sisters of St. Francis program, Pen and Pages. I taught three students regents prep for Earth Science, and one for Living Environment. I was hired by Sister Rose Garramone.

I was recommended for the program by a neighbor. Sister Rose told me that I was a "TEACHER" after I finished the program. I am certain her belief in me gave me the confidence I needed to continue my teaching career.

The day I finished working for the sisters, I interviewed with David Cecile, principal of Shea Middle School in SCSD. He stopped my interview half way through, and offered me a position teaching science. I was shocked, but accepted. Dave told me recently that he knew I would reach the students of Shea, and that I would fit in with the teacher team.

He also told me that if I could teach at Shea, I could teach anywhere. And "anywhere" is where I taught. When the state closed down Shea, I was moved to Blodgett for four years to teach Middle School science; then Fowler for one year, where I learned to teach Chemistry. I moved onto Nottingham, where I taught in an old janitor's closet, but still had a passing rate of 85% on the LE regents exam, almost unheard of in SCSD.

I also taught non regents Chemistry at Nottingham, in addition to life skills classes.

From Nottingham, the district sent me to Henninger, where I taught Chemistry for seven years. The principal had heard of me from his wife, who was an art teacher at Nottingham. So, off I went to Henninger. I was totally intimidated by the thought of teaching regents Chemistry, but learned to love the science. The beautiful science, where everything is based on energy, and how energy really creates the world in which we live.

My classroom was 60 years old, had no fume hood, and only 6 of the gas jets worked. I had thirty students per class throughout my tenure as a SCSD teacher, but teaching regents Chemistry to that many students was a challenge. But I was successful once again, and had a 65% pass rate on the regents exam. A good result for the SCSD.

Don't misunderstand...I don't measure my success as a teacher by numbers, as NYS requires. No, I measure my success as how I reached my students, and their reaction to me as a person. My students called me Mom, Mommy, Grandma. Embarrassed, they would apologize. But I told them it was OK, I knew I made them comfortable. I knew I reached them when they told me...because of you, I am going to be a teacher; I am going to be a Biologist; or...I didn't know what I wanted to do with my life, but I am going to be a Chemist. And then they would come back after graduation, and tell me that they sit in an introductory Chemistry course, and understand the class. And watch other students struggle. And they would say to me, you were right about so much. And because of you, I understood college Chemistry when few other students did.

And finally, when I announced I was retiring, my students would say, who will we talk to after school? Who will be here for us? You are so different, you're like our aunt.

One of my first students at Shea MS was a young black woman, Breanna Grant. She stood up in front of class one day, and yelled at the students. Why are you so mean to Ms. Ryan, she loves us!!! She also told me that she was going to be a History teacher because of me.

I would often say to my students, why are you all here in class? Many of you don't like Chemistry! They would come in high after lunch, and I would tell them to sit in the back of the class. Don't disrupt class. Be quiet. They were comfortable with me, my style. Why would I send them out of class when they would just get in trouble? Straighten out, go to your next class, get your work done. There was no way they were going to pass Chemistry. They were learning other skills from me, more important than Chemistry.

That was when I realized my students just wanted to be with me. As one of my repeater students said to me the first day back at school when he was beginning his senior year...I just want to be near you. I looked at him, knew he was using hard drugs. I did what I was supposed to, went to Guidance. A few weeks later, I never saw him again.

Town Board Meeting Minutes

December 15, 2025

p. 9

I know my success as a teacher was a surprise to me, but I still am amazed at the strength I held during this time of my life. Sue Belle was concerned...I can hear her voice now, telling me the changes I was going to make in my life were so different from my life experiences. She was right...the culture shock of working with students from all over the world, the cultural differences, the language differences, the skill levels, were incredibly difficult to set up a safe learning environment, not only to learn to teach.

My main class rule was to be kind to one another, and work together to learn together. And this philosophy worked! And it has carried me through my town board experiences and personal life experiences, to this day.

When I look back, I know I gathered my strength from my family, the teachings of my mom and dad. The inherited strengths. The support of family and friends. And my friends here at the town.

Without the support of family and friends, it would have been easy for me to give up, take a different path than that which I chose.

But, I did not, and all of these experiences have made me a stronger, more compassionate woman.

Why I Ran for Reelection This Year.

Many of you who know me may wonder why I ran for reelection this year. I was 95% sure I was not going to run, and Tom was giving me advice as to how to handle my retirement from the town board.

A woman who has been teaching me energy work for years wanted me to quit the town board for several years. I told her I would run one last time (2021 election) to serve as a bridge between the old town board and the new. And I was ready to leave earlier this year.

However, she advised me late last year, earlier this year, that I had to stay on the town board, run for reelection. That there were important issues I had to be on the town board to deal with. So, I told Tom I would run one last time, with some reluctance. I told Rich McCarron. The rest is history.

But during the year, the opportunity to serve on the Otisco Lake Watershed committee was offered to me. The lake I swam and fished in, the lake that serves southern Onondaga County water districts, the lake that I knew and loved. I jumped at the opportunity.

But the real reason I stayed on the board, was to help South Onondaga. I understood the issues along the west branch of Onondaga Creek. And my neighbors needed help.

And help has arrived in the form of a grant from the Onondaga County legislature. It's a start, and we still have to get permits from NYS DEC and the US Army Corps of Engineers (because of the dam on Onondaga Nation), but I have a team of people who believe the same as I do. To me, it's always been about the environment, and always will be. My passion, my love.

I want to thank the present town board for their friendship and support. And the members of the previous town board for their friendship and support. This town has been in excellent hands for years, the results of which are evident to anyone when you drive through the town. I am thankful to have had the opportunity to serve on the board for 32 years, the confidence the residents had in my knowledge and skills.

Having had time to look at my past experiences as a life review, I realize that everything I have done in my life, my life lessons, have prepared me for my new path. Times change, and it is my time now to follow my true love, my true path. That of helping to protect the health of mother Earth for the next seven generations. I look at my nephews and nieces, and their children, the loves of my life. The children of our world is the reason for my new path.

You know, I almost forgot. Charlie Petrie called me 'the Tree Hugger.' I guess he knew me better than I knew myself. He was right, I am 'the Tree Hugger,' a name I accept with pride. An Haudenosaunee seer has called me 'Tree Spirit.'

My love for this town, the people of the town, especially South Onondaga, and CNY, is palpable. We live in one of the most beautiful places on Earth. My ask is that you all consider how delicate life is, how interconnected all is. I love you all, thank you for being my friends, my teachers and guides. "

12. Minutes Approval – 12/1/25 Town Board Meeting

TOWN BOARD RESOLUTION

The following resolution was offered by Councilor Goodwin and seconded by Councilor Fedrizzi to wit:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Onondaga Town Board approves the meeting minutes of the 12/1/25 Town Board meeting, as prepared by the Town Clerk.

The question of the enactment of the foregoing resolution was duly put to a vote and upon roll call, the vote was as follows:

Councilor	Kathy Fedrizzi	Voted	Yes
Councilor	Lisa M. Goodwin	Voted	Yes
Councilor	Mary K. Ryan	Voted	Yes
Councilor	John Wheatley	Voted	Yes
Supervisor	John P. Mahar	Voted	Yes

The foregoing resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

13. Abstract Approval

The following Abstracts were audited and approved for payment on 12/15/2025:

- All General Fund Account on Abstract No 24, numbers 1136 through 1205 inclusive, totaling \$80,213.63.
- All Highway Fund Accounts on Abstract No. 24 numbers 484 through 512 inclusive, totaling \$65,038.46.
- All Parks Fund Accounts on Abstract No. 24 numbers 188 through 194 inclusive, totaling \$2,272.88
- All Sewer Accounts on Abstract No 20, number 33, totaling 1,186.68.
- All Consolidated Drainage Accounts on Abstract No. 18, numbers 37 through 38 inclusive, totaling \$1,755.01
- All Consolidated Lighting Accounts on Abstract No. 7, number 7, totaling \$45,782.50.

TOWN BOARD RESOLUTION

The following resolution was offered by Councilor Wheatley and seconded by Councilor Goodwin to wit:

BE IT RESOLVED, that there being no further business to come before the regular meeting of the Town of Onondaga Town Board, the Town Board meeting be adjourned.

The question of the enactment of the foregoing resolution was duly put to a vote and upon roll call, the vote was as follows:

Councilor	Kathy Fedrizzi	Voted	Yes
Councilor	Lisa M. Goodwin	Voted	Yes
Councilor	Mary K. Ryan	Voted	Yes
Councilor	John Wheatley	Voted	Yes
Supervisor	John P. Mahar	Voted	Yes

The foregoing resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

The Regular Meeting of the Town of Onondaga Town Board adjourned at 5:51 p.m.

Janet J. Hillery