

**Town of Onondaga
Town Board Meeting Minutes
February 2, 2026**

The Town Board of the Town of Onondaga met at a regular meeting at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, February 2, 2026, at the Town of Onondaga Town Hall, 5020 Ball Road, Syracuse, New York.

Present:	Supervisor	John P. Mahar
	Councilor	Kathy Fedrizzi
	Councilor	Ellen Magnarelli Terrien
	Councilor	John Wheatley
Excused:	Councilor	Lisa Goodwin
	Town Attorney	Nadine Bell
	Town Engineer	Bill Perrine
	Deputy Town Clerk	Theresa Allen

1. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Highway Superintendent's Report

Highway Superintendent John Smith reported that his staff has worked almost every day this month in order to keep up with all the snow we've had. He talked about the decision to "hard pack" the snow on some of the roads to create more traction, as salt in the extreme cold temperatures would not be effective. He pointed out that there is no shortage of salt, and that the decision was made as a safety measure which also happens to be cost effective. He also said the wind has created drifting and they've been trying to keep up with that but is difficult as he doesn't have a crew 24/7. Supervisor Mahar said they are doing a great job considering how bad this winter has been. Highway Superintendent Smith also requested a resolution for the **2026 Agreement to Spend Town Highway Funds** to be used for paving, repair and improvement of the Town's roads.

TOWN BOARD RESOLUTION

The following resolution was offered by **Councilor Wheatley** and seconded by **Councilor Ellen Magnarelli Terrien** to wit:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Onondaga Town Board approve the **2026 Agreement to Spend Town Highway Funds** in the amount of \$973,000 to be used for the repair and improvement of 103.2 miles of roads in the Town of Onondaga, pursuant to the provisions of Section 284 of the Highway Law.

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	-----	----
Councilor	Ellen Magnarelli Terrien	Voted	Yes
Councilor	John Wheatley	Voted	Yes
Supervisor	John P. Mahar	Voted	Yes

The foregoing resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

3. Codes Officer's Report

Codes Director Jeffrey Herrick reported that there have been seven new building permits and eight fire inspections since his last report. He said he has a lot of commercial properties and churches completed and that Sweetgrass Restaurant and a couple of fire stations were this week as well. Mr. Herrick also reported that Muncity training will be starting February 17th. He also reported that he is working with Paul Smyth of Costello Cooney & Fearon on property maintenance issues and is trying to streamline the process to get property issues resolved. Mr. Herrick said that ITologist has updated all the computers in his office, in anticipation of installing the Muncity software on them.

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4. Parks and Recreation Director’s Report

Parks and Recreation Director Charry Lawson began by thanking the Highway Department for helping out with snowplowing of the Parks and Senior Center parking lot last week, while a lot of her staff was out sick. Ms. Lawson also reported that outgoing Parks Crew Leader, Rich Lamphier, is back at work for his last two weeks before he retires. She said his last day is 2/13, and they are having a retirement party/open house at the Senior Center on Friday, February 6th from 3:30-5:30, and encourages all who are able to attend.

5. Fire and Safety Committee Report – New Members

Town Councilor John Wheatley requested the following resolution:

TOWN BOARD RESOLUTION

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Onondaga Town Board approve new member James Lambie of Beadle Drive, Jamesville, as an active member who was voted in as required by the Southwood Fire Department.

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	-----	----
Councilor	Ellen Magnarelli Terrien	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 Wheatley** and seconded by **Councilor Fedrizzi** to wit:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Onondaga Town Board approve new member Armando Diaz of Westbrook Hills Drive, as an active member who was voted in as required by the Onondaga Hill Fire Department

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	-----	----
Councilor	Ellen Magnarelli Terrien	Voted	Yes
Councilor	John Wheatley	Voted	Yes
Supervisor	John P. Mahar	Voted	Yes

The foregoing resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

6. CNY Stormwater Coalition Assistance Program

Supervisor Mahar introduced the CNY Stormwater Coalition Assistance Program Resolution, a program which the Town has participated with since 2008. **Town Engineer Bill Perrine** explained that annual cost is \$3,600 and has been for many years. Mr. Perrine said that the coalition assists the Town with meeting all of the MS4 reporting goals to the State, and that the coalition provides public outreach, networking, training, etc., which most municipalities don’t have time or staff to host themselves. The CNY Regional Planning helps to offset that and helps the Town meet its’ compliance requirements. The following resolution resulted:

Resolution Supporting Participation in the CNY Stormwater Coalition Staff Services and Education Compliance Assistance Program

Resolution authorizing the items listed below pursuant to requirements of the New York State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System General Permit.

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

WHEREAS, The Town of Onondaga
(Legal Name of Municipality)

herein called the “Municipality”, after thorough consideration of the various aspects of the problem and consideration of available information, has hereby determined that certain work, as described in Attachment A, herein called the “Project”, is desirable, is in the public interest, and is required to implement the Project; and

WHEREAS, the Central New York Regional Planning & Development Board, herein called the “Board”, has provided program planning and implementation assistance pertaining to the requirements of the New York State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (SPDES) Stormwater Phase II General Permit for Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) operators since 2002, and

WHEREAS, the Board has proposed staff and education assistance services in support of sustaining the CNY Stormwater Coalition and to provide a regional public education, outreach and training compliance program to reduce municipal staff burdens, ensure consistency, provide widespread priority audience targeting the most efficient use of limited municipal funds by distributing total program costs over a number of entities within a twelve-month timeframe.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY the Town of Onondaga Town Board
(Governing Body of Municipality)

1. That John P. Mahar, Supervisor of the Town of Onondaga
(Name and Title of Chief Elected Official)

or such person’s successor in office is the representative authorized to act on behalf of the Municipality’s governing body in all matters related the Project;

2. That the Municipality agrees that it will fund its portion of the program cost in the amount of \$3,600, and that those funds will be made available to the Board upon receipt of invoice.

3. That one (1) certified copy of this Resolution will be prepared and sent to the Board upon adoption.

4. That this Resolution take effect immediately.

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	-----	----
Councilor	Ellen Magnarelli Terrien	Voted	Yes
Councilor	John Wheatley	Voted	Yes
Supervisor	John P. Mahar	Voted	Yes

The foregoing resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

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7. Attorney's Report

7a) Velasko Village Section 4

Town Attorney Nadine Bell reported that back in 2004, Local Law 3-2004 amended the Town of Onondaga zoning map to create a Planned Residential (PR) district, which became to be known as Velasko Village. Town Attorney Bell explained that when a planned development zoning district is created it has specific parameters. The creation of the planned district is tied to a specific plan for the property. Town Attorney Bell explained that since Local Law 3-2004 was enacted, the developer is proposing new exterior design elements and color choices, which requires an amendment to the enacting resolution. The following resolution amends the enactment resolution of Local Law 3-2004:

**TOWN OF ONONDAGA
TOWN BOARD RESOLUTION**

**AMENDING LOCAL LAW NO. 3 OF 2004 ENACTMENT RESOLUTION
VELASKO VILLAGE**

February 2, 2026

The following resolution was offered by **Supervisor Mahar**, who moved its adoption, seconded by **Councilor Fedrizzi**, to wit:

WHEREAS, pursuant to the provisions of the Municipal Home Rule Law, Local Law No. 3 of 2024, titled, "A Local Law Amending the Zoning Map of the Town of Onondaga to Designate Certain Property as Being Zoned Planned Residential," was enacted on August 16, 2004 (Enactment Resolution), thereby adopting a development plan for the development known as "Velasko Village;" and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 285-21 of the Town of Onondaga Zoning Law, the Town of Onondaga Town Board's enactment of Local Law No. 3 of 2004, was subject to certain enumerated conditions and referenced specific building elevations, materials and dimensions; and

WHEREAS, by correspondence dated December 30, 2025, Sciuga Custom Builders, the Owner/ Developer for Velasko Village Section No. 4, notified the Town Board of its interest in "updating" the exterior design elements for the residences to be constructed on the future extension of Jupiter Inlet Way; and

WHEREAS, as set forth in the building elevations presented, as proposed and incorporated herein, the siding will be horizontal clapboard style in the Prestige color "Smoky Steel," the roof color will be Landmark "Driftwood," the fascia, soffit and window trim will be white, windows and overhead garage doors will be white, and on the front elevations the vertical Board and Batten design will be either the dominant "Smoky Steel" color or an accent color of "Sterling Gray" or "Colonial White," and stone veneer on the front elevation will be a customer option; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Town Board to amend its prior approval of Local Law No. 3 of 2004, so as to permit the updated exterior design elements as proposed.

NOW, THEREFORE, it is

RESOLVED, that the Town of Onondaga Town Board does hereby ratify and reaffirm its prior negative declaration for purposes of its environmental review pursuant to the State Environmental Quality Review Act; be it further

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Onondaga does hereby revise its resolution enacting Local Law No. 3 of 2004, titled, "A Local Law Amending the Zoning Map of the Town of Onondaga to Designate Certain Property as Being Zoned Planned Residential," so as to update the exterior design elements for the residential structures on the future extension of Jupiter Inlet Way as set forth in correspondence from Sciuga Custom Builders, dated December 30, 2025; be it further

RESOLVED, that the conditions and remaining plans, as set forth and identified in the Enactment Resolution, shall continue to be in full force and affect, and are not eliminated, revised, or amended in any way by the Town Board's action herein.

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The question of the adoption 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	-----	----
Councilor	Ellen Magnarelli Terrien	Voted	Yes
Councilor	John Wheatley	Voted	Yes
Supervisor	John P. Mahar	Voted	Yes

The foregoing resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

7b) Autumn Ridge Subdivision

Town Attorney Nadine Bell said that in 1988 there was a subdivision plan filed which shows a possible future extension of *September Road*, which is off of November Lane in the Autumn Ridge Subdivision. The road was never created or dedicated to the Town. As recorded, the subdivision plan indicates there is one additional lot on the other side of a wetland known as Harbor Brook, with the possibility of a roadway extension. Town Attorney Bell said that John Brusa is in the process of purchasing this lot for the purpose of building a single-family home. Because of the difficulty of developing the property into multiple lots, it is understood that the need for the extension no longer exists. As a result, the Town has no interest in preserving any future roadway development rights in this piece of land. Under Town Law, whenever the Town conveys an interest in real property, the conveyance is subject to a *Permissive Referendum*. This means that the conveyance of the property interest *could* go to a vote if 5% of the qualified electors who voted in the last *Gubernatorial Election* file a petition with the Town Clerk demanding a referendum. Town Attorney Bell acknowledged that a referendum is rare. The last time there was a referendum in the Town for the conveyance of property was in 2017 relative to the Byrne Dairy easement. Town Attorney Bell circulated the Resolution, EAF and *Notice of Adoption Subject to Permissive Referendum*.

**TOWN OF ONONDAGA
TOWN BOARD RESOLUTION
February 2, 2026**

Authorizing the Conveyance of Real Property to John Brusa and Authorizing Town Supervisor to Execute Quitclaim Deed Extinguishing Any and All Interest Held by the Town

The following resolution was offered by **Councilor Wheatley**, who moved its adoption, seconded by **Councilor Magnarelli Terrien** to wit:

WHEREAS, the Town of Onondaga maintains an interest in that portion of September Road that is shown within the parcel designated as "Future Section" on the Subdivision Map of Autumn Ridge filed on July 18, 1988 in the Onondaga County Clerk's Office as Map #6883 and as amended by Subdivision Map #7160 filed September 22, 1989, as described in the Deed recorded March 6, 2019 and filed in the Onondaga County Clerk's Office as Instrument #2019-0008829, as more particularly described in the attached proposed Quitclaim Deed; and

WHEREAS, the subject property is vacant and although lands are identified on the Final Plan for Autumn Ridge, Section No. 1 Amended, dated November 2, 1988, as being the location of the future extension of September Road, such lands have neither been dedicated to nor accepted by the Town of Onondaga, nor have such lands been developed into either a public or private roadway; and

WHEREAS, the Town's interest in such lands, having been neither dedicated to nor accepted by the Town of Onondaga, nor developed for roadway use, is excess and such surplus property is not needed by the Town of Onondaga; accordingly, the Town of Onondaga Town Board does desire to declare such property excess and surplus; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Onondaga Town Board does further desire to execute a quitclaim deed to extinguish any and all future interest held by the Town of Onondaga in such property and convey the subject property to John F. Brusa Jr.; and

WHEREAS, the value of the future interest held by the Town of Onondaga in such lands that have been neither dedicated, accepted, nor improved, is *de minimis*; and

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WHEREAS, no other agency has the legal authority or jurisdiction to approve the conveyance of an interest by means of quitclaim deed in the Town of Onondaga, such that there are no other involved agencies within the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act with respect to issuance of the proposed permission.

NOW THEREFORE, be it

RESOLVED AND DETERMINED, that the Town of Onondaga Town Board does hereby declare the lands identified for the future expansion of September Road on the Subdivision Map of Autumn Ridge filed on July 18, 1988 in the Onondaga County Clerk’s Office as Map #6883 and as amended by Subdivision Map #7160 filed September 22, 1989, as described in the Deed recorded March 6, 2019 and filed in the Onondaga County Clerk's Office as Instrument #2019-0008829, to be excess property and surplus, and further that the conveyance of the subject property and extinguishing of any and all interest in the subject property is in the best interest of the Town; be it further

RESOLVED AND DETERMINED, that there are no other involved agencies, that the Town Board shall act as lead agency with regard to this proposed action, and that the conveyance of property interest and execution of the quitclaim deed is an Unlisted action, and does further render a negative declaration pursuant to the State Environmental Quality Review Act for this project; be it further

RESOLVED AND DETERMINED, that, **subject to permissive referendum as required by law**, this Board authorizes the execution of the quitclaim deed conveying the aforementioned property to John F. Brusa Jr. *as is*, for the nominal consideration of \$1.00, together with all costs and expenses of such transfer to be borne solely by John F. Brusa, Jr.; be it further

RESOLVED AND DETERMINED, that the Town of Onondaga Supervisor is hereby authorized to execute any and all documents to effectuate the conveyance as contemplated and take all actions to give full force and effect to this resolution.

The question of the adoption 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	-----	----
Councilor	Ellen Magnarelli Terrien	Voted	Yes
Councilor	John Wheatley	Voted	Yes
Supervisor	John P. Mahar	Voted	Yes

The foregoing resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

**TOWN OF ONONDAGA
NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF A RESOLUTION
SUBJECT TO PERMISSIVE REFERENDUM**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that at a regular meeting held on February 2, 2026, the Town Board of the Town of Onondaga duly adopted a resolution, an abstract of which follows, which is subject to permissive referendum pursuant to Article 7 of the New York State Town Law. The full text of said resolution is on file at the Town Clerk’s Office at the Town Offices located at 5020 Ball Road in the Town of Onondaga for inspection by all interested persons.

ABSTRACT

The Town of Onondaga Town Board has approved a resolution authorizing the conveyance of property to John F. Brusa Jr. and authorizing the Town Supervisor to execute a quitclaim deed extinguishing any and all interest held by the Town in a portion of September Road shown within the parcel designated as "Future Section" on the Subdivision Map of Autumn Ridge filed on July 18, 1988 in the Onondaga County Clerk's Office as Map #6883 and as amended by Subdivision Map #7160 filed September 22, 1989, as described in the Deed recorded March 6, 2019 and filed in the Onondaga County Clerk's Office as Instrument #2019-0008829.

DATED: February 2, 2026

**s/Janet Hillery, Town Clerk
Town of Onondaga**

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Town Engineer Perrine said that the applicant/owner will build a partial hammerhead for emergency vehicles, snowplows etc. as a turnaround as there is not one that exists currently. Mr. Perrine said that this will be built to Town specifications at the applicant’s expense and the applicant will be handling all the environmental permitting.

8. Budget Modification

8a) Consolidated Drainage

Town Supervisor John Mahar is requesting a budget modification to cover engineering expenses incurred reviewing the Kingsford Terrace temporary easement that was abandoned upon extension of a section in Brittany Hills, resulting in the following resolution:

TOWN BOARD RESOLUTION

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Onondaga Town Board approves the following 2025 Consolidated Drainage Budget Modification:

<u>FROM</u>	<u>TO</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
SD599 Appropriated Fund Balance	SD8540.4 CONTRACTUAL	\$300 Engineering

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	-----	----
Councilor	Ellen Magnarelli Terrien	Voted	Yes
Councilor	John Wheatley	Voted	Yes
Supervisor	John P. Mahar	Voted	Yes

The foregoing resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

8b) Credit Card Authorization – Parks Department

TOWN BOARD RESOLUTION

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

BE IT RESOLVED, the Onondaga Town Board authorizes the issuance of a Town of Onondaga credit card with a credit limit of \$5,000, to Joseph Czornij, Town of Onondaga Parks Crew Leader.

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	-----	----
Councilor	Ellen Magnarelli Terrien	Voted	Yes
Councilor	John Wheatley	Voted	Yes
Supervisor	John P. Mahar	Voted	Yes

The foregoing resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

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9. Minutes Approval – 2026 Organizational Meeting; 1/5/26 Regular Town Board Meeting

TOWN BOARD RESOLUTION

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Onondaga Town Board approves the meeting minutes of the **2026 Organizational Meeting** dated 1/5/26, 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	-----	----
Councilor	Ellen Magnarelli Terrien	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 Wheatley and seconded by Councilor Magnarelli Terrien to wit:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Onondaga Town Board approves the meeting minutes of the **1/5/26 Regular 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	-----	----
Councilor	Ellen Magnarelli Terrien	Voted	Yes
Councilor	John Wheatley	Voted	Yes
Supervisor	John P. Mahar	Voted	Yes

The foregoing resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

10. Public Hearing – 5:30 p.m. – Local Law A-2026 – Veterans Exemptions

TOWN BOARD RESOLUTION

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Onondaga Town Board open the Public Hearing pertaining to Local Law A-2026.

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	-----	----
Councilor	Ellen Magnarelli Terrien	Voted	Yes
Councilor	John Wheatley	Voted	Yes
Supervisor	John P. Mahar	Voted	Yes

The foregoing resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

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Proposed Local Law A-2026, is as follows:

**TOWN OF ONONDAGA
LOCAL LAW NO. A OF 2026
A LOCAL LAW AMENDING ARTICLE III OF CHAPTER 263 OF THE TOWN OF ONONDAGA CODE
PURSUANT TO REAL PROPERTY TAX LAW §458-a**

Be it enacted by the Town Board of the Town of Onondaga as follows:

SECTION 1. AUTHORITY

This local law is enacted pursuant to the New York State Constitution and New York Municipal Home Rule Law §10.

SECTION 2. PURPOSE & INTENT

The purpose of this Local Law is to amend Article III of Chapter 263 of the Town of Onondaga Code to reflect updates made to New York State Real Property Tax Law §458-a, establishing a full exemption from real property taxes for veterans who have a one hundred percent (100%) service-connected disability.

SECTION 3.

So that Section 263-10, titled "Legislative intent and purpose," shall be amended to read, in its entirety, as follows:

"§263-10. Legislative intent and purpose.

The purpose of this article is to adopt, for the Town of Onondaga, provisions contained in New York State Real Property Tax Law §458-a with respect to granting partial and full exemptions from real property taxes for veterans who meet the criteria set forth in §458-a."

SECTION 4.

A new Section 263-11.1, titled "Total Exemption," shall be added to Chapter 263, Article III, which shall read, in its entirety, as follows:

"§263-11.1. Total Exemptions.

The primary residence of a seriously disabled veteran who is rated one-hundred percent (100%) disabled by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs as a result of a service-connected disability and who meet all requirements set forth in Real Property Tax Law §458-a Subsection 11, shall be fully exempt from taxation, special district charges, assessments and special ad valorem levies."

SECTION 5. SEVERABILITY

If any clause, sentence, paragraph, section, article or part of this Local Law shall be adjudged by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such judgment shall not affect, impair, or invalidate the remainder thereof, but shall be confined in its operations to the clause, sentence, paragraph, section, article, or part thereof directly involved in the controversy in which such judgment shall have been rendered.

SECTION 6. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Local Law shall take effect immediately upon filing with the Secretary of State.

Public Comments:

Town resident Paul Hyrinio, Service Officer of American Legion Post 787, was present. Mr. Hyrinio thanked Town Councilor Lisa Goodwin and Town Supervisor John Mahar for taking the time to review the information he previously presented, and for scheduling this Public Hearing. Mr. Hyrinio is hoping to pass this proposed local law A-2026 to affect the 2027 Town property taxes for Veterans. Supervisor Mahar said that he and the Town Board have been briefed along with Counsel, and he said there are questions that remain unanswered, especially what the 100% disability requirement will look like.

Mr. Hyrinio said that in 1984 an Alternative Veterans Exemption Law was passed and has been revised several times including in 2005, 2006, 2013, and 2016. Mr. Hyrinio discussed qualifying conditions to be able to receive this exemption and said that no one would ever be able to get this exemption as is currently written. Assembly and Senators have made it worse, going back and forth amending the bill. The Assembly and Senators passed a bill on December 19th 2025 and on January 6th it

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was revised to make it mandatory to opt into the 100% disability. On Jan. 21st they took out the 100% and the benefit would go to TPIU people only.

In summary, Mr. Hyrinio is asking the Town to raise the limits to enable veterans to realize any savings. He asked that since this is a public hearing, we pass the local law tonight. Town Attorney Nadine Bell said that the Town Board cannot pass a local law, other than that which was published tonight, because legally the Town must post a local law under consideration for a minimum period of days specifying the exact increase. Attorney Bell said that the Town’s Code is specific, and the new Local Law would need to revise the current amounts. The proposed amendment would be to amend Article 3 of Ch. 263 specific to Real Property Tax Law § 458 A. There are many questions about this law, as enacted by the legislature.

Amber Road resident Matthew Brennan was present. Mr. Brennan is a former Marine and said he worked for the NYS Dept. of Labor and was a Veterans representative for them. He first wanted to thank the Town of Onondaga for the tax credits currently offered to Veterans already and feels they are very generous. He referenced the discussion saying that the Veterans being referred to would be 100% unemployable. Town Attorney Bell said that this is the eligibility criteria, and even though it is set at an impossible standard, we can’t change that because of minor wording of the law affecting its meaning such as “and” and “or”.

Mr. Brennan said that it currently takes about a year for a decision on a claim to be made. Mr. Brennan offered the suggestion of the Town putting together a scale of criteria. For example, if you are above 50% disabled, you would be eligible commensurate with whatever the disability is. It alleviates the Town Board and Attorney from needing to be an expert and simplifies the process. If someone shows up with a letter saying they are 70% disabled, then they would get a 70% rating. He also proposed that if someone dies from a 100% disability, the widower becomes “other eligible” and would receive every benefit their spouse received. He also suggested that if residents are not using the public school district, opting for the parochial route instead, to not get taxed on that. He asked if the Town Board could mention that to the schools within the Town.

TOWN BOARD RESOLUTION

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that having given everyone in attendance the opportunity to speak, the Onondaga Town Board close the Public Hearing pertaining to Local Law A-2026.

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	-----	----
Councilor	Ellen Magnarelli Terrien	Voted	Yes
Councilor	John Wheatley	Voted	Yes
Supervisor	John P. Mahar	Voted	Yes

The foregoing resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

The determination was made to table proposed Local Law A-2026 since there were so many questions and unknowns.

11. Abstract Approval - 1/16/26 and 2/2/26

The following Abstracts were audited and approved for payment on 1/16/2026:

- All General Fund Account on Abstract No 1, numbers 1 through 60 inclusive, totaling \$68,916.41.
- All Highway Fund Accounts on Abstract No. 1 numbers 1 through 28 inclusive, totaling \$15,462.62.
- All Parks Fund Accounts on Abstract No. 1 numbers 1 through 8 inclusive, totaling \$2,853.24.
- All Sewer Accounts on Abstract No 1, numbers 1 through 2 inclusive, totaling \$63,235.54.
- All Consolidated Drainage Accounts on Abstract No. 1, numbers 1 through 2, totaling \$847.27.
- All Trust & Agency Accounts on Abstract No. 1, numbers 1 through 3, totaling \$41,968.46.

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- All Water Accounts on Abstract No. 1, totaling \$43.80.
- All Fire Protection Districts on Abstract No. 1, numbers 1 through 9, totaling \$1,541,216.00.
- All Consolidated Library Accounts on Abstract No. 1, number 1, totaling \$700,000.

The following Abstracts were audited and approved for payment on 2/2/2026:

- All General Fund Account on Abstract No 2, numbers 61 through 87 inclusive, totaling \$125,976.49.
- All Highway Fund Accounts on Abstract No. 2 numbers 29 through 45 inclusive, totaling \$208,338.68.
- All Parks Fund Accounts on Abstract No. 2 numbers 9 through 11 inclusive, totaling \$283.96.
- All Trust & Agency Accounts on Abstract No. 2, numbers 4 through 5, totaling \$2,642.61.

TOWN BOARD RESOLUTION

The following resolution was offered by **Supervisor Mahar** and seconded by **Councilor Magnarelli Terrien** 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 closed.

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	-----	----
Councilor	Ellen Magnarelli Terrien	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 6:02 p.m.

Janet J. Hillery
Town Clerk